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BOMBAY BRANCH
OF THE
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY
TOWN HALL, BOMBAY.

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EAST INDIA.

PART I.

COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

THE THREATENED FAMINE IN WESTERN AND SOUTHERN INDIA.

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	ENCLOSURES.		
1	Under Secretary to Government of India.	Jan. 22, 1876 -	*Telegram*, calling for full information from Madras Government as to sudden change in prospects.
1	Secretary to Government of Madras.	Jan. 24, 1876 -	In reply to telegram, forwards enclosures from,—
1	Collector of Bellary -	Oct. 26, 1875 -	Relief works to be undertaken should distress continue (with enclosures).
2	Ditto - -	Nov. 10, 1875 -	Distress alleviated for present (with enclosure).
3	Ditto - -	Dec. 14, 1875 -	Personal inspection of distressed districts.
3	Ditto Cuddapah -	Dec. 11, 1875 -	Season has been a bad one, but does not apprehend distress; pasture sufficient; prices rising; advocates more liberal treatment of wet wells.
4	Ditto South Arcot	Jan. 6, 1876 -	Prospects of harvest bad.
4	Ditto North Arcot	Jan. 10, 1876 -	Season disastrous. Fears remissions of revenue will be necessary.
5	Secretary to Government of India.	Feb. 5, 1876 -	Calls for statement of views of Government of Madras as to prospects of affected districts.
5	Secretary to Government of Madras.	July 4, 1876 -	In reply to preceding Letter:—*Bellary.* Prices not excessively high. Condition of labouring classes does not call for interference of State.—*Cuddapah.* Prices steady. Condition of labouring classes good. Remissions, Rs. 177,100.—*North Arcot.* Prospects on the whole not yet unfavourable. Estimated remissions, Rs. 150,000.—*South Arcot.* Drinking water scarce, and want of pasturage for cattle. Markets well supplied. Estimated remissions, Rs. 280,000. Nothing certain can yet be predicted. Every precaution being taken.
6	SECRETARY OF STATE	Oct. 5, 1876, No. 28.	REPLYING TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DESPATCH OF JULY 31, DESIRES TO BE INFORMED OF PROGRESS OF EVENTS.
R V 7	GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	Oct. 19, 1876, No. 21.	REPORT SCARCITY IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY. HAVE SANCTIONED LOCAL RELIEF WORKS BEING STARTED, BUT AVERSE TO BEING COMMITTED TO LARGE SCHEMES OF EXPENDITURE WHICH MAY INVOLVE OUTLAY FAR IN EXCESS OF REQUIREMENTS OF SCARCITY.
	ENCLOSURES.		
R V 7	Acting Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Sept. 13, 1876 -	Forwards papers relative to insufficient rain in Poona district. Feels confident Government of India will sanction necessary expenditure for relief operations if required.
8	Acting Second Assistant Collector, Poona.	Aug. 28, 1876 -	Condition of Bhimthadi and Indápur talukas, and consideration of measures to meet probable scarcity.
9	Acting Collector, Poona.	Sept. 4, 1876 -	*Memorandum*, enumerating works to be first commenced in Bhimthadi and Indápur.
10	RevenueCommissioner, Southern Division.	Sept. 6, 1876 -	*Memorandum*, reviewing the two preceding papers.
1 V 10	Officiating Secretary to Government of India.	Sept. 29, 1876 -	Government of India not prepared at present to bear necessary expenditure. Should scarcity be circumscribed, relief should properly be met by provincial funds. Should situation become graver, Government of India should be informed in time to form decision as to incidence of relief expenditure.
R V 10	Governor, Bombay -	Oct. 3, 1876 -	*Telegram*, requesting instant answer respecting Dhond and Munmar Railway. Distress severe. Local funds exhausted,

Page.	From.	Date.	Subject.
11	Secretary to Government of India.	Oct. 4, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Grounds submitted not sufficient to justify immediate commencement of Dhond and Munmar Railway. Local relief works may be started. Incidence of expenditure to be considered hereafter.
11	Governor, Bombay -	Oct. 12, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Reports exceedingly bad. Council unanimously of opinion that Dhond and Munmar Railway must be commenced.
11	Secretary to Government of India.	Oct. 16, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Government of India do not think it right to embark on large project involving continuance of expenditure after emergency has ceased. Local works should be organised, Government of Bombay providing necessary funds.
11	Governor, Bombay -	Oct. 17, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Will endeavour to give effect to instructions.
11	GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	Oct. 26, 1876, No. 22.	AREA OF DISTRESS IN BOMBAY PRESIDENCY MORE EXTENDED THAN AT FIRST SUPPOSED. NINE DISTRICTS (53,000 SQUARE MILES, POPULATION ABOUT 8 MILLIONS, LAND REVENUE, RS. 1,39,40,000) MORE OR LESS AFFECTED. EVIDENT THAT PROVINCIAL RESOURCES MUST BE SUPPLEMENTED BY IMPERIAL EXPENDITURE. THOSE RELIEF WORKS TO BE PREFERRED WHICH CAN BE COMPLETED WITHIN OUTLAY NECESSARY FOR RELIEF. DESIRE OF BOMBAY GOVERNMENT TO INVITE TENDERS FOR SUPPLY OF GRAIN, AND TO ABSTAIN FROM MAKING PURCHASES IN THE GENERAL MARKET ON ITS OWN BEHALF APPROVED: ALSO INCREASE OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. SATISFIED WITH CONDUCT OF BOMBAY GOVERNMENT. THE SCARCITY IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.
	ENCLOSURES.		
12	President in Council -	Oct. 25, 1876 -	*Telegram* to Secretary of State, summarising preceding Despatch.
12	Secretary, Government of Bombay.	Oct. 9, 1876 -	Whole of eastern parts of Deccan and southern Mahratta country threatened with famine. Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, directed to proceed to affected districts. To avert extreme distress, relief on a larger scale must be commenced. Bombay Government may be trusted to avoid extravagance and ultimate waste.
13	Acting Collector, Sholapur.	Oct. 4, 1876 -	Almost total failure of crops throughout collectorate. Necessity for fresh relief works on larger scale.
14	RevenueCommissioner, Southern Division.	Oct. 5, 1876 -	Recommending sanction to certain works.
15	Under Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Oct. 13, 1876 -	Publishing resolutions by Government of Bombay.
15	Government of Bombay.	Oct. 4, 1876 -	Resolutions by the Government of Bombay.
15	Ditto - -	Oct. 5, 1876 -	
16	Ditto - -	Aug. 29, 1876 -	
16	Ditto - -	Sept. 22, 1876 -	
17	Ditto - -	Oct. 3, 1876 -	
18	Ditto - -	Oct. 3, 1876 -	
19	Ditto - -	Oct. 3, 1876 -	
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20	Ditto - -	Oct. 3, 1876 -	
20	Ditto - -	Oct. 6, 1876 -	
21	Ditto - -	Oct. 9, 1876 -	
22	Ditto - -	Oct. 11, 1876 -	
23	Ditto - -	Oct. 12, 1876 -	
24	Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Oct. 16, 1876 -	Requesting views of Government of India on proposals for relief of Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur districts.
24	Collector of Poona -	Oct. 10, 1876 -	*Demi-official,* reporting bad condition of Dhond, and need of prompt assistance.
24	RevenueCommissioner, Southern Division, and Superintending Engineer, Central Division.	Oct. 10, 1876 -	Report of visit to Poona and Ahmednagar collectorates. Estimated cost of earthwork on Dhond and Munmar Railway (133 miles), 15 lakhs. Recommend immediate commencement of surveyed portion, 47 miles. Suggestions as to grain supply.

Page.	From.	Date.	Subject.
26	Acting Collector of Poona.	Oct. 10, 1876 -	Population likely to be affected. Best organisation for a large work. In favour of small works. Opposed to collection of large numbers of people. Minor works. Grain stores.
27	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Oct. 9, 1876 -	Forwards papers, and states whole of eastern parts of Deccan and Southern Mahratta country are threatened with serious famine.
28	Government of Bombay.	Oct. 16, 1876 -	Resolution, estimating population affected, cost of relief, duration of famine, and measures to be adopted.
30	Chief Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Oct. 19, 1876 -	Forwards papers regarding Satara and Dharwar collectorates.
30	Subordinate Judge, Tasgaon.	Oct. 3, 1876 -	Bad condition of Tasgaon taluka. Cultivators have no grain in store, their surplus going to the Soncars, and no money. Willing to work, but no employment.
31	Ditto - -	Oct. 8, 1876 -	Fears that riots may occur.
31	Acting Collector, Satara.	Oct. 10, 1876 -	To prevent riots, is of opinion that those who have granaries should be compelled to open them, if persuasion fails.
32	Ditto - -	Oct. 10, 1876 -	Asks approval of measures to prevent riots. Suggests Rs. 5,000 grain should be sent from Bombay. Traders disposed to sell at fair rates.
33	RevenueCommissioner, Southern Division.	Oct. 13, 1876 -	*Memorandum*, disapproving of measures reported in preceding letter. Grain asked for appears insufficient.
34	Government of Bombay.	Oct. 17, 1876 -	*Resolution*, granting Rs. 25,000 for grain to Satara. No reason to suppose scarcity of grain. Most averse to interfere with free action of traders.
34	Collector, Dharwar -	Oct. 7, 1876 -	Relief works. Insufficient establishment.
34	Ditto - -	Oct. 6, 1876 -	Dambal road making rapid progress. New works must be provided.
35	Executive Engineer, Dharwar.	Oct. 6, 1876 -	Report for whole district, in reply to preceding.
35	RevenueCommissioner, Southern Division.	Oct. 13, 1876 -	*Memorandum*, forwarding the preceding for orders of Government.
35	Government of Bombay.	Oct. 17, 1876 -	*Resolution.* Dambal tank to be commenced at once. Buying grain in general market to be avoided.
36	Ditto - -	Oct. 12, 1876 -	*Resolution.* Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, competent to sanction local works submitted by him.
37	Ditto - -	Oct. 16, 1876 -	*Resolution.* If necessary to undertake relief works on large scale, it may be advisable to invite tenders for supply of grain.
37	Memorandum - -	Oct. 21, 1876 -	On the condition and resources of the districts in the Bombay Presidency which are threatened with scarcity.
41	Secretary to Government of India.	Oct. 22, 1876 -	*Telegram*, requesting preparation of statements as to Bombay affected districts.
41	Secretary to Government of India, Public Works Department.	Oct. 23, 1876 -	*Telegram*, informing Bombay Government initiation of measures to rest with Department of Agriculture and Commerce. Public Works Department confined to professional details after sanction.
41	Ditto - -	Oct. 23, 1876 -	Letter to same effect.
41	Governor, Bombay -	Oct. 24, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Statements being prepared. Population to be relieved likely to be larger than calculated.
41	Secretary to Government of India.	Oct. 25, 1876 -	Communicating to Bombay Government views of Government of India on measures already taken, and on policy to be observed generally.
45	Ditto - -	Oct. 25, 1876 -	*Telegram*, giving summary of preceding letter.
45	Secretary to Government of Madras.	Oct. 24, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Grave condition of Kurnool, Kuddapah, and Bellary districts.
45	Secretary to Government of India.	Oct. 25, 1876 -	Measures of Madras Government approved. Statements to be prepared as to affected districts.
46	SECRETARY OF STATE	Dec. 7, 1876, No. 44.	REPLYING TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DESPATCH, OCT. 26. BOMBAY AND MADRAS TO SEND WEEKLY REPORTS.

Page.	Form.	Date.	Subject.
46	GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	Nov. 2, 1876, No. 24.	FORWARDS CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING SCARCITY IN BOMBAY AND MADRAS, THE NIZAM'S TERRITORIES, AND MYSORE. OCCUPANCY RIGHTS OF RYOTS REDUCED BY UNFAVOURABLE SEASON NOT TO BE SOLD IN DEFAULT OF PAYMENT OF LAND REVENUE, AND EXEMPTIONS GRANTED IN CASES OF INDISPENSABLE SALES OF MOVABLE PROPERTY. BOMBAY SCHEME OF RELIEF WORKS, AMOUNTING TO 62 LAKHS, UNDER CONSIDERATION: ALSO SUGGESTION OF RESIDENT, HYDERABAD, TO REDUCE RAILWAY FREIGHT ON GRAIN. FEAR THAT SCARCITY WILL ENTAIL CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF LAND REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF IMPERIAL FUNDS.
	ENCLOSURES.		
47	President in Council	Nov. 2, 1876 -	*Telegram*, summarising preceding Despatch.
47	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Oct. 21, 1876 -	Forwarding to Government of India.
48	Collector, Násik -	Oct. 15, 1876 -	Condition and prospects of Násik collectorate. Scarcity, not famine. Not anxious about grain supplies.
51	Government of Bombay.	Oct. 21, 1876 -	*Resolution* as to remissions in Násik collectorate.
51	Government of Bombay.	Oct. 27, 1876 -	*Resolution*, sanctioning scheme of relief works amounting to Rs. 61,84,790 for nine districts. Difficulty arising from uncertainty as to ultimate demands for relief. Suggested transfer of population. Instructions to officers.
52	President in Council, Madras.	Oct. 27, 1876 -	*Telegram*, asking sanction to embankment work of Bellary Guddak Railway.
52	Secretary to Government of India.	Oct. 27, 1876 -	*Telegram*. Cannot sanction. Local works should be organised.
53	Madras Government	Oct. 27, 1876 -	*Telegram*. Relief works already aggregate Rs. 3,77,770.
53	Secretary to Government of India.	Oct. 31, 1876 -	*Telegram*, in reply to preceding, calls for report already asked for.
53	Resident, Hyderabad	Oct. 30, 1876 -	*Telegram*. Merchants offer to import grain if railway transport be lowered.
53	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 1, 1876 -	*Telegram*. Question affects other provinces.
53	Chief Commissioner, Mysore.	Oct. 3, 1876 -	Condition of Mysore. Grant of 10 lakhs requested.
54	Ditto - -	Oct. 25, 1876 -	*Telegram*. Prospects worse.
54	Under Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department.	Oct. 30, 1876 -	*Telegram*, calling for statements as to affected districts.
54	GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.	Nov. 9, 1876, No. 27.	NO CHANGE FOR BETTER. BOMBAY SCHEME OF RELIEF WORKS MODIFIED. REDUCTION OF FREIGHT OF GRAIN BY RAILWAY UNDECIDED.
	ENCLOSURES.		
55	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 3, 1876 -	Approving suggestions of Bombay Government as to occupancy rights of ryots (p. 47).
55 to 59	Ditto - -	Nov. 3, 1876 -	Weekly reports of rainfall and state of crops in Bombay distressed districts.
59	Collector, Khandesh -	Oct. 12, 1876 -	Report of visit to central and eastern talukas of Khandesh collectorate.
61	Chief Commissioner, Mysore.	Nov. 1, 1876 -	Condition worse. Proposes to supplement local subscriptions by equivalent Government grant.
61	Under Secretary to Government of India, Foreign Department.	Nov. 2, 1876 -	Proposal contained in preceding telegram approved.
61 to 69	- - - -	- - -	Statements of proposed expenditure in Bombay distressed districts.
69	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 9, 1876 -	Instructions of Government of India as to Bombay scheme of relief works.
69	Ditto - -	Nov. 4, 1876 -	Is statement regarding increased grain traffic on Great Indian Peninsula Railway correct?
69	Ditto - -	Nov. 7, 1876 -	Is reduction in railway freight of grain needed also in Madras and Bombay?
69	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 7, 1876 -	Statement regarding increased grain traffic generally correct.
70	SECRETARY OF STATE	Dec. 21, 1876, No. 46.	REPLY TO DESPATCHES OF NOVEMBER 2 AND 9.

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70	GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	Nov. 17, 1876, No. 28.	ASPECT OF AFFAIRS STILL EXTREMELY SERIOUS. BOMBAY GOVERNMENT REMONSTRATE AGAINST MODIFIED PROGRAMME OF RELIEF WORKS. MEASURES FOR PRESERVATION OF CATTLE. RECOMMENDATION OF RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD TO REDUCE GRAIN FREIGHT NOT ACCEDED TO. IN BOMBAY AND MADRAS PRIVATE TRADE ACTIVE. PURCHASE OF GRAIN BY MADRAS GOVERNMENT.
	ENCLOSURES.		
72	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 9, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Reduction of railway rates not called for.
72	Ditto - -	Nov. 10, 1876 -	*Telegram.* No deaths from starvation in Sholapur district.
72	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 9, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Reduction railway freight of grain unnecessary.
72	Resident, Hyderabad	Nov. 11, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Again urges reduction railway charge.
72	Sir A. Arbuthnot -	Nov. 11, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Madras and Bombay object. Reduction not advisable.
72	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 8, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Collectors of five Districts authorised each to spend Rs. 25,000, to keep alive infirm and poor.
72	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 9, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Asks for further information as to preceding telegram.
72	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 10, 1876 -	Enormous grain traffic over Great Indian Peninsula Railway. Prices falling. Grain coming from Persian Gulf, Sind, and Guzarat.
73	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 13, 1876 -	*Telegram* in explanation of gratuitous relief to incapable and destitute.
73	Secretary to Government of Madras.	Nov. 4, 1876 -	*Telegram,* reporting purchase of 15,000 tons of rice at cost of 32 lakhs, as reserve.
73	Sir A. Arbuthnot, Simla.	Nov. 11, 1876 -	*Telegram,* forbidding further purchases without previous reference to Government of India. Proceeding reported calculated to cause serious embarrassment.
73	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 6, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Will attend to suggestions in letter of 25th ult., and keep Government of India informed of course of events.
73	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 10, 1876 -	*Telegram* for full information about Bombay irrigation relief works.
73	Ditto - - -	Nov. 9, 1876 -	Reviews Bombay programme of relief works; disallows certain works, and calls for explanations.
75	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 11, 1876 -	*Telegram,* remonstrating against orders contained in the preceding letter.
75	Revenue Secretary, Calcutta.	Nov. 17, 1876 -	No objection to Bombay throwing open forest reserves as free grazing grounds.
75	Secretary to Government of Madras.	Nov. 7, 1876 -	Reviewing condition of distressed districts.
78	GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	Nov. 24, 1876, No. 30.	PROCEEDINGS OF MADRAS GOVERNMENT OPEN TO QUESTION.
79	Resident, Hyderabad	Nov. 11, 1876 -	Forwards letter from Nizam's Government, asking reduction of railway charges on grain freight. Supports the same.
80	Nizam's Government	Nov. 9, 1876 -	Request alluded to in preceding letter. Copy of instructions for organisation of relief in Hyderabad State.
81	Resident, Hyderabad	Nov. 11, 1876 -	Summarising letter of same date.
81	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 19, 1876 -	Decision of Government of India accepted by Nizam's minister.
81	Revenue Secretary, Calcutta.	Nov. 15, 1876 -	*Telegram* for names of works commenced which would be suspended under telegram of 9th.
82	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 17, 1876 -	*Telegram* in reply to preceding.
82	Revenue Secretary, Calcutta.	Nov. 18, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Information in preceding not sufficient. Government of India await letter.
82	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 11, 1876 -	Increase to staff. Concentration of correspondence in one department, that of Public Works.
82	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 24, 1876 -	In reply to preceding letter, selection of Public Works Department for concentration open to grave objections.
83	Secretary to Government of Madras.	Nov. 13, 1876 -	In explanation of purchase of grain.
84	Revenue Secretary, Calcutta.	Nov. 20, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Preceding letter does not explain necessity for action without reference to Government of India.
84	Secretary to Madras Government.	Nov. 23, 1876 -	*Telegram* in reply to preceding.
85	Revenue Secretary, Calcutta.	Nov. 24, 1876 -	*Telegram,* requesting full explanation by post. Further contemplated purchase must be postponed.
85	Agent to Governor-General, Central India.	Oct. 14, 1876 -	*Diary.* Loss of cattle. Corndealers declined proffered aid of Maharaja. Proceedings of Maharaja.

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85	SECRETARY OF STATE	Jan. 5, 1877, No. 3.	IN REPLY TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA LETTER OF NOVEMBER 24.
86	GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	Dec. 1, 1876, No. 31.	PROCEEDINGS OF MADRAS GOVERNMENT. RELIEF MEASURES IN MYSORE. PROTECTION OF RYOTS IN CASES OF DEFAULT ATTRIBUTABLE TO DROUGHT. STATISTICAL STATEMENTS FROM BOMBAY, AND INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED UPON RECEIPT OF THEM. SITUATION SUCH AS TO CAUSE VERY SERIOUS ANXIETY FROM FINANCIAL POINT OF VIEW.
	ENCLOSURES.		
87	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 25, 1876 -	Instructions to Madras as to relief expenditure and necessity for full information.
88	Secretary to Government of Madras.	Nov. 19, 1876 -	Sir A. Arbuthnot's telegram "en clair" has rendered futile efforts to keep grain transactions secret.
88	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 29, 1876 -	In reply to preceding.
88	Chief Commissioner, Mysore.	Nov. 8, 1876 -	Condition of Mysore and Coorg, and measures of relief.
89	Commissioner, Nundydroog Division.	Oct. 26, 1876 -	Condition of respective districts, and measures of relief.
90	Deputy Commissioner, Bungalore District.	Oct. 24, 1876 -	
91	Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District.	Oct. 24, 1876 -	
92	Chief Commissioner, Mysore.	Oct. 27, 1876 -	*Orders* issued on recommendations contained in the foregoing.
94	Commissioner, Nundydroog.	Oct. 27, 1876 -	Bad condition of Tumkur district.
94	Chief Commissioner, Mysore.	Oct. 31, 1876 -	*Order* thereon.
95	Ditto - -	Nov. 2, 1876 -	*Order* granting in respect of remissions or suspensions of land revenue.
95	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 27, 1876 -	In reply to letter of November 8, calling for fortnightly narrative.
95	Revenue Secretary, Calcutta.	Nov. 27, 1876 -	Asking Commissioner of Mysore if statement is correct as to his purchasing grain at Madras.
95	Chief Commissioner, Mysore.	Nov. 28, 1876 -	Statement devoid of foundation.
95	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 18, 1876 -	Forwarding resolution regulating remissions.
96	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 30, 1876 -	The foregoing instructions do not seem to provide for sale of land for default, and exemption of necessary movable in case of indispensable sale.
96	Revenue Secretary, Calcutta.	Nov. 25, 1876 -	*Telegram* for truth of statement as to block of grain on railway.
96	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 25, 1876 -	Statement exaggerated, but block on Great Indian Peninsula Railway owing to deficient waggon stock, &c.
97 to 101	- - - -	- - -	Statements regarding the famine districts in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta country called for by Government of India.
102	Secretary to Government of India.	Nov. 30, 1876 -	Reviewing statements furnished by Bombay, and calling for further information on certain points.
103	Public Works Secretary, Bombay.	Nov. 30, 1876 -	Outlay up to 31st March probably 54 lakhs; from 1st April to 31st October 86 lakhs.
103	SECRETARY OF STATE	Jan. 5, 1877, No. 4.	IN REPLY TO DESPATCH OF DEC. 1, 1876.
104	GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	Dec. 8, 1876, No. 32.	ESTIMATES OF LOSS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE: MADRAS, 2 CRORES 32 LAKHS; BOMBAY, 2 CRORES 6 LAKHS; TOTAL, 4,380,000*l.* ON MADRAS RAILWAY FOOD GRAINS TO HAVE PREFERENCE OVER OTHER GOODS. INFLUX OF PEOPLE FROM NIZAM'S TERRITORIES.
105	Secretary to Government of Madras.	Nov. 24, 1876 -	Estimate of loss of revenue from famine.
105	Board of Revenue, Madras.	Dec. 1, 1876 -	Revised estimate, showing loss and expenditure.
105	Accountant General, Bombay.	Nov. 28, 1876 -	Revised estimate, showing loss of revenue for Bombay.
107	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 30, 1876 -	Estimate of expenditure for Bombay.
108	Governor, Madras -	Dec. 1, 1876 -	*Telegram.* Railway being unequal to grain traffic, grain to have preference over other goods.
108	President in Council, Calcutta.	Dec. 2, 1876 -	*Telegram*, approving foregoing.

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108	Secretary to Government of Madras.	Dec. 5, 1876	*Telegram.* Influx of people from Nizam's territories.
108	Secretary to Government of India.	Dec. 8, 1876 -	Referring to estimate of loss to State (p. 105); calls for further explanations.
109	GOVERNMENT OF INDIA	Dec. 15, 1876, No. 33.	VIEWS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON EXCEPTION TAKEN BY BOMBAY GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERENCE WITH SCHEME OF RELIEF WORKS. REASONS OF MADRAS GOVERNMENT FOR PURCHASE OF GRAIN APPEAR UNSATISFACTORY.
110	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Nov. 27, 1876 -	Defends original programme of relief works, and states that if Government of India withdraw their confidence in Bombay Government, the latter will do their best not to exceed any specified outlay which the Government of India may name.
115	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	Dec. 8, 1876 -	Explanation.
116	Secretary to Government of India.	Dec. 15, 1876 -	Replying to letters of Bombay Government (pp. 110, 115) on subject of scheme of relief works.
119	Secretary to Government of Madras.	Nov. 30, 1876 -	Stating reasons for purchase of grain.
120	Governor, Madras -	Dec. 12, 1876 -	*Telegram*, urgently requesting permission to make further purchase of grain.
120	Sir A. Arbuthnot -	Dec. 13, 1876 -	Cannot sanction foregoing request. Better run risk of high payment in local markets than occur immediate heavy penalty.
120	Secretary to Government of India.	Dec. 15, 1876 -	Requesting fuller information from Madras as to distressed districts.
121	SECRETARY OF STATE	Jan. 12, 1877, No. 6.	REVIEWING CONDITIONS AND PROSPECTS OF DISTRESSED DISTRICTS, AND MEASURES TAKEN TO AFFORD RELIEF. WIDEST DISCRETION IN ALL ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS LEFT TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. MISSION OF SIR R. TEMPLE TO MADRAS APPROVED. RESERVES OPINION ON DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS OF INDIA AND BOMBAY AS TO EXPENDITURE ON RELIEF WORKS. THE PURCHASE OF GRAIN BY MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

CORRESPONDENCE.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY'S LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH ON THE

No. 13 of 1876.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, 31st July.

1. We have the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of the correspondence with the Government of Madras noted on the margin, on the subject of the agricultural prospects in the Bellary, Cuddapah, South Arcot and North Arcot Districts, consequent on the failure of rain in those districts.

Telegram to the Government of Madras, dated the 22nd January 1876.
From the Government of Madras, No. 95, dated the 24th January 1876, and enclosures.
To ditto, ditto, No. 89, dated the 5th February 1876.
From ditto, ditto, No. 900, dated the 4th July 1876.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON, &c.

Telegram No. 52, Calcutta, 22nd January 1876.

From the UNDER SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Your weekly telegram of state of season for week ending 20th January implies a very sudden change in prospects. Please report facts fully by letter, stating probable amount of remissions, localities affected, and any other important points.

No. 95. From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

24th January 1876.

With reference to your telegram of 22nd instant, I am directed to forward the Proceedings of Government embodying the reports which have reached them from the Collectors of the Bellary, Cuddapah, South Arcot, and North Arcot districts on the agricultural prospects in those districts consequent on the failure of rain.

I have, &c.

No. 117. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th October 1875, No. 3,010.

From the COLLECTOR OF BELLARY to the ACTING SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th October 1875, No. 432.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 2,828, dated 9th instant, and to the Order of Government, No. 1,496, dated the 13th instant, I have the honour to state that the scheme of works to be undertaken in the event the distress continues are—

Opening out a road from Humpasagar to Hollal *viâ* Huvinhadgally.
Do. do. Oojinny *viâ* Kottur and Ittigy to Soovainhully on the Toongabhadra.

2. I was of opinion that it would be better to mass the labour upon one or two main lines of communication than to commence petty relief works in many localities.

3. The District Engineer agreed with me, but the Deputy Collector thinks otherwise, and there is no doubt that his remarks are deserving of consideration.

4. I request, therefore, that I may be allowed discretion, if the necessity arises, of commencing work in villages in the repair of roads, tanks, &c., independently of the Department of Public Works. I will keep the Board informed of all that is being done.

5. At present the District Engineer estimates that Rs. 12,000, in addition to the Rs. 3,000 already given by the Circle Board, will be required, and I request that that sum may be immediately granted. I request that intimation of the grant may be given by telegraph.

6. I enclose copies of correspondence which has passed on the subject. I am glad to be able to report a fall of rain in the west on the 22nd instant. I hope we may have more.

Enclosure No. 1.

2. The Collector of Bellary has selected two roads on which expenditure should be incurred in order to afford relief to the distressed population in the west of the district, and requests that Rs. 12,000 may at once be placed at his disposal. The lines of road apparently include those for which Rs. 3,000 have already been allotted by the Local Fund Board.

3. The Board believe that heavy rain has fallen in the tract in question, and trust that no special measures will be necessary, but they have not yet received report from the Collector, and they recommend that he be authorised by telegraph to spend the sum asked for if necessary.

4. The Board do not agree with the Collector in his opinion that it is better to concentrate labour. For relief works to be efficient for this purpose, it is necessary that they should be selected near the homes of the distressed population, so that men, women, and children may receive employment and be enabled to earn subsistence. Much, however, must be left to the discretion of the local officers.

No. 118. Order thereon, 9th November 1875, No. 1,607.

RECORDED. It is observed that a telegram from collector, Bellary, dated 29th ultimo, states that rain has fallen generally, and that the ryots in the western taluqs have commenced to cultivate.

No. 251. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th November 1875, No. 3,125.

LETTER from the COLLECTOR OF BELLARY to the ACTING SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 10th November 1875, No. 464.

I have the honour, with reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 2,967, dated the 26th ultimo, to state that I have called upon the District Engineer to state what works are actually in hand.

2. I am myself about to visit the western part of the district, so I shall be able to report more fully after personal inspection.

3. In the meantime it is evident from the letter from the Deputy Collector of the division (copy of which is herewith enclosed) that distress is alleviated for the present, but, as no wet cultivation is in progress or expected to be undertaken in those taluqs, I am afraid that, eventually, work will have to be found for the poorer classes till the next cultivation season comes round.

Enclosure No. 1.

From the DEPUTY COLLECTOR to the COLLECTOR OF BELLARY, dated Hospett, 6th November 1875, No. 272.

With reference to my letter of the 20th August last, No. 204, reporting on the insufficiency of rain and cultivation in the taluqs of my division, I have the honour to report the present state of the taluqs, as some rain has fallen since my first report.

2. I beg to annex a memorandum showing the cultivation of the land in the taluqs to the end of October 1875:—

Taluqs.	Area cultivated up to the end of October 1874.	Area cultivated up to the end of October 1875.	Decrease.	Rainfall in July, August, September, and October 1874.	Rainfall in July, August, September, and October 1875.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	in. oz.	in. oz.
Hurpanhally - -	129,845	121,216	8,629	22 $2\frac{1}{4}$	9 $2\frac{1}{2}$
Hudgally - -	172,995	165,150	7,845	26 3	11 $1\frac{1}{2}$
Kudlighi - -	121,148	83,076	38,072	24 $8\frac{1}{2}$	15 $1\frac{1}{2}$

	Sep.	Oct.
Hurpanhally -	2 $9\frac{3}{4}$	1 4
Hudgally -	4 1	2 $6\frac{3}{4}$
Kudlighi -	7 6	1 $9\frac{1}{2}$

3. The marginal memorandum shows the rain that has fallen in the Cusbah stations of the taluqs during the last two months.

4. I beg to annex a memorandum showing the rate at which Jonna (Cholum) was sold at the end of October last year and this year:—

	1874. Seers.	1875. Seers.
Hurpanhally - - - - - -	48 0	18 0
Hudgally - - - - - - -	35 0	19 20
Kudlighi - - - - - - -	33 3	19 0

5. As rain has fallen at the end of October, when the Jonna crop was ready to die for want of rain, several fields of Jonna produced the grain, which has been the cause for grain being brought to the fairs, while it was difficult to get grain in the middle of the month. The fact of the rain of this year being one half of that of last year shows that Jonna crop cannot be abundant for this year.

6. As tanks have received no water I think that there will be no wet crop in this year.

7. It is my humble opinion that poor coolies and poor ryots will have cultivation work, such as cutting Jonna produce, &c., for one month more, and that they will have no work afterwards, as there is no paddy harvest this year, and that measures will have then to be taken to provide work for the poor men.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The collector should make arrangements for opening the works of relief as soon as ever the want of employment is clearly shown to exist.

No. 252. Order thereon, 22nd November 1875, No. 1,672.

RECORDED.

2. The Collector will be directed to keep the Board and Government regularly and fully informed of the state of the district.

No. 227. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th December 1875, No. 3,385:—

Letter from the Collector of Bellary, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Daroji, 14 December 1875, No. 503.

In continuation of my letter, No. 464, dated the 10th ultimo, embodied in the Proceedings of the Board, No. 3,125, dated the 16th idem, and in G.O., Revenue Department, No. 1,672, dated the 22nd idem, I have the honour to report that during the month of November I traversed a great portion of the taluq of Hadgally and part of Harpanhally, those in which distress had been reported by the Deputy Collector as most severe.

2. In the first-named taluq the villages mentioned in the margin were said to be the worst off, but I found that almost all the lands, even in them, had been cultivated and sown for the cold weather crop. The crops will be poor, no doubt, but still there will be some produce. The first or wet-weather crop, consisting chiefly of yellow cholum, was, generally speaking, a failure. The coming crop consists of white cholum, cotton, &c. The tanks were very generally dry, or else very low; there will, therefore, be hardly any wet cultivation. Many of the above-mentioned villages, however, produce only dry crop.

Hirrey Hadgally.	Belaganur.
Tumbinakerra.	Basavanhal.
Magalam.	Gowripuram.
Allabur.	Gajapuram.
Honhally.	

3. In Harpanhally the villages as named in the margin are reported to be the worst off, but here again the lands are nearly all sown for the second or cold-weather crop, which may be expected to produce something.

Doogawaty.	Wadasanhal.
Tumbigiry.	Gwanhal.
Nichawanahally.	Hagganur.
Bennyhally.	

4. In the Kudlighi Taluq alone is there any great decrease in the area cultivated as compared with last year (*vide* extract annexed), but I have no reason to believe that the condition of this taluq is worse than that of the other two.

5. The truth is that, when the rain held off so long, a panic arose in the market, and for a week or two grain was sold at really famine prices; a rupee bought only twelve seers of cholum.

6. The fall of rain in October, slight though it was, sufficed to allay this panic, and now cholum, the food of the masses, is to be had everywhere, though at a heavy price compared to those usually obtaining.

7. I annex a memorandum showing the price as compared with that of last year.

8. No rain is expected now, and if it did fall it would hardly benefit the standing crops.

9. As regards relief works, two have been put in hand; viz., the road from Oojinny *viâ* Kottoor and Ittigay to Soovainhally on the Dharwar Road, near the Toongabhadra, and that from Hampasagar to Hollal *viâ* Hadgally.

10. The range officer, however, reports that he cannot get as many coolies as he wants for the work at present. The greatest number at any one time employed in one taluq was 652; this was in Harpanhally. The range officer is anxious to get the roads marked out. He would then be able, upon emergency, to employ any number of men upon earthwork or digging gravel in particular places.

11. The small allotment made by the Local Fund Board of the Bellary Circle, Rs. 3,000, will soon be expended, and moreover it is not available for Harpanhally, where the greatest number of labourers presented themselves.

12. I request, therefore, that the sum asked for by me in my letter, No. 432, dated the 26th October last, and which the Board, in their Proceedings, No. 3,010, of the 29th idem, requested the Government to sanction, may be placed at my disposal, as there is no doubt that in the course of a month or so, when the crops have been cut ("the prices continuing high"), the means of obtaining subsistence will be difficult. Labour should then be provided to enable the people to earn wages.

Enclosure No. 1.—Memorandum of Cultivated Area.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. With reference to the papers recorded in G.O., dated 9th November 1875, No. 1,607, the Board request that the sum asked for by the collector; viz., Rs. 12,000, may be placed at his disposal by telegraph.

No. 228. Order thereon, 21st December 1875, No. 1,833.

Sanctioned Rs. 12,000, by telegram.

No. 66. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st December 1875, No. 3,391.

Letter from the Collector of Cuddapah to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddapah, 11th December 1875, No. 263:

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Board, on the agricultural prospects in this district.

2. The north-east monsoon, upon which this district is mainly dependent for water, promised at first to give the usual supply, but eventually the rain ceased and tanks throughout the district received little or no water. Wet cultivation is almost everywhere at a standstill, except where wells can supplement the supply. Wet crops are to be seen growing, but at present their prospects are very poor. Wet ayacuts under river channels are not as badly off, except in the Sidhout Taluq, as the lands under tanks. In the Pullampett Taluq alone, where wet cultivation under tanks and channels is very extensive, the Tahsildar has estimated that remissions amounting to Rs. 30,000 will be necessary this year. In the sub-division the sub-collector fears the remission will amount to a lakh of rupees, that is in four taluqs comprising the division.

3. Dry crops are not as they should be by any means, but they are not so badly off as the wet crops. The early dry crops, such as sudza and oil-seeds had rain to assist them, but not as

much as they required. Jonna and horse-gram sown later in the season will entirely be lost unless some rain falls hereafter. This does not apply to the black cotton taluqs, where cotton and jonna seem to be in very fair condition.

4. I do not in the least apprehend any distress. The season has been so far a bad one, and there will be a loss of revenue if rain does not fall. As I write I am glad to say that there are some indications of rain.

5. Pasture is sufficient. Prices are everywhere steadily rising. Health is good, except as regards fever, which is rather severe. Cholera has almost disappeared.

6. Floods apparently have less effect on this district than a drought. If Government would treat wet wells more liberally the effects of a dry season would not be so severely felt by the ryot. I have written before on this subject, but I regret to say that my views did not meet with the approval of the Board.

7. To relieve the ryots I have directed that kists of wet lands are to be collected according to the extent of cultivation, and not according to the demand of the past year. Dry kists will, of course, be collected as usual. I trust that the Board will approve of this arrangement.

The Board approve the Collector's proposal in the last paragraph of his letter.

2. They request that a weekly report may be furnished showing the condition of prices of food grains in the principal markets as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

No. 67. ORDER thereon, 10th January 1876, No. 32.

RECORDED. The Government desire to have the views of the Collector, the Director of Revenue Settlements, and the Board of Revenue, placed before them in greater detail regarding the question raised by the Collector (paragraph 6).

2. The previous correspondence was not specially communicated to Government, but is found in Board's Proceedings, No. 2,355, dated 22nd August 1874.

No. 111. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th January 1876, No. 68.

LETTER from the COLLECTOR OF SOUTH ARCOT, to the ACTING SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated Cuddalore, 6th January 1876, No. 1.

I regret to report that, owing to the want of rain, the prospects of the harvest are bad.

2. For the most part, so far as dry crops are concerned, I do not think there will be any need for remissions; but in the northern and eastern parts of Tindivanam Taluq there seems to be a probability that, unless timely rain falls, such remissions may be needed. Mr. Gibson writes to me demi-officially from Tindivanam:—

"*January 5th.*—The season here is turning out worse than my hopes. The change for the worse since the day I left for Christmas is most marked. 'Wet' crops, except where kept alive by pecotahs, are withering. No dew worth mentioning, and dry crops suffering, having been late sown. I fear very large remissions will be necessary on almost the whole irrigated ayacut of the northern and eastern parts of *this* taluq at least; and, I fear, we may have to apply for remissions on punjah also. It seems, in this *corner* at any rate, to be a worse season than that of 1873–74, when such remissions were freely granted."

3. I have asked him to report officially, and to estimate to what extent he thinks punjah remissions may be required.

4. As to wet crops, I fear that over a great part of the district, except where there is anicut-channel or river-channel irrigation, punjah remissions may have to be given. Applications are pouring in in great numbers daily.

5. I will report further at the end of a week or ten days.

Submitted for the information of Government. The Board await Mr. Garstin's further report.

No. 112. ORDER thereon, 13th January 1876, No. 55.

The Government infer from the Collector's silence on the point that there is no reason to anticipate actual distress, but they desire that the earliest intimation of probable distress be submitted.

No. 171. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th January 1876.

LETTER from the COLLECTOR OF NORTH ARCOT, to ACTING SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 10th January 1876, No. 10.

I regret to have to report, for the information of the Board of Revenue, the disastrous state of the season of the current revenue-year. The north-east monsoon has proved a complete failure, while the south-west monsoon was by no means encouraging.

2. The average rain-fall throughout the district from April to December last is returned to be 23 inches, whereas that during the corresponding period of the preceding year was no less than 50 inches, or more than double the former quantity.

3. The Palar and other rivers received no freshes whatever during the past season, and almost all the tanks in the district are now completely dry. There is not a drop of water in the Cauveripauk tank, which is directly fed from the Palar Anicut, a fact unknown for the last 30 years. The spring channels everywhere are fast losing their supply.

4. In consequence a large extent of land, both dry and wet, has been left waste, and where any cultivation has been made the standing crops are perishing for want of water. The Cultivation

Return up to end of November last shows that there has been under the heads wet and dry a decrease of acres 23,055, assessed at Rs. 85,760, as shown below :—

Description of Land.	1874–75.		1875–76.		Decrease.	
	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.	Extent.	Assessment.
	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.	Acres.	Rs.
Dry - -	345,693	520,985	335,112	504,532	10,581	16,453
Wet - -	168,872	993,712	156,398	924,405	12,474	69,307
Total -	514,565	1,514,697	491,510	1,428,937	23,055	85,760

5. The out-turn of the early dry crops has been tolerable, and horse-gram is expected to yield a good harvest. The result of the harvest of the early wet crops has been much below the average.

6. I expect that a large amount of remissions, especially on account of wet *Shavi*, will have to be granted at the approaching annual settlement. A very large number of applications for remission has been received, and the fields are now being inspected and reported on by the taluq officers. I fear that in consequence, the beriz of the current fasli (1285) will show a decrease of about three lakhs of rupees under land revenue as compared with that of the past fasli.

7. I purposely delayed the submission of this unpleasant report, in the hope that there might, even at the eleventh hour, be a fall of rain, and being unwilling needlessly to raise the alarm. Having, however, been disappointed in my hopes, I now regret to have to apprise the Board of the disastrous state of the present season, and the consequent evil effect it will eventually have on the Government revenue, as well as on the prices of food-grains of every description. The stocks of such grain are, I have reason to believe, considerable; so that I do not anticipate at present more than inconvenience to the poorer classes, owing to the prevalence of high prices of grain. I shall narrowly watch the progress of events, and will keep the Board fully informed; and, if need be, suggest the commencement of relief works. The misfortune that we can most certainly predict is a water famine, whereby cattle throughout the district will perish in large numbers. Already I have heard that the inhabitants of villages close to the Cauveripauk tank (which ought now to have a year's supply of water in it) are sending several miles to fetch water for drinking purposes.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Collector should at once, in communication with the District Engineer, prepare a scheme of works to be undertaken in the event of its being necessary to provide employment for the poorer classes. He should report how far the ordinary imperial local fund works will meet this object, and whether there is any balance of local funds in hand available for more extended works.

No. 172. ORDER thereon, 22nd January 1876, No. 86.

Communicated to the Accountant-General. The Board's instruction, are approved. Should relief works prove necessary, the Collector should consider whether improvements to wells cannot beneficially be undertaken as was done in Bellary in 1868.

2. The Collector will be careful to warn Government of the earliest indication of distress.

No. 89, 5th February 1876.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 95, dated the 24th ultimo, forwarding the Proceedings of the Government of Madras, embodying the reports from the Collectors of Bellary, Cuddapah, South Arcot, and North Arcot on the agricultural prospects in those districts consequent on the failure of rain, and to request that the Government of India may be favoured with a condensed statement of the views of the Government of Madras as to the prospects of the districts in question as soon as they are in a position to form definite conclusions on the subject.

No. 900, 4th July 1876.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

With reference to your letter, dated 5th February 1876, No. 89, calling for a condensed statement of the views of this Government as to the prospects of the districts named in the margin, as soon as definite conclusions might be formed on the subject, I am directed to report as follows :—

Bellary.
Cuddapah.
North Arcot.
South Arcot.

2. *Bellary.*—The distress arising from the failure of rain was confined to the southern and a part of the western portion of the district and parts of the Gooty and Raidrug Taluks. The decrease in the cultivated area was 127,008 acres, and the out-turn of crops raised in the affected taluks ranged from one-fourth to three-fourths of the usual quantity. The "dry" cultivation suffered most severely; seed sown in a considerable tract not having

germinated; and where it did germinate, the crops withered away soon after. A large extent of "dry" land was also left waste, and it was found necessary to grant remissions of assessment to the extent of Rs. 103,799. The absence of fodder is particularly felt in the Southern Division; scarcity of water is confined to a few villages.

The prices ruling are not excessively high in the affected localities, and the condition of the labouring classes is not such as to call for the interference of the State. Some public works are, however, taken in hand, and being proceeded with in the Southern and Western Divisions.

3. *Cuddapah.*—The area under "dry" cultivation has not fallen below the usual standard; but that under "wet" shows a diminution of 76,888 acres as compared with the extent cultivated in an ordinary year. The yield of the crops has not fallen below the average of former years, and remissions of assessment were found necessary only in the case of lands left waste for want of water. These amounted to Rs. 177,100*. Pasture is getting scarce, but want of drinking water is not yet felt, and the condition of the labouring classes is described as good. The prices are steady, except in the subdivision where they show an upward tendency owing to large exports of grain into Mysore.

	Rs.
*Pulivendla	2,000
Royachoty	32,000
Budwail	12,000
Cuddapah	4,000
Sidhout	12,000
Jammalmadagoo	1,000
Tullampett	27,000
Prodatur	2,100
Vailpand	35,000
Madanapully	30,000
Kadiri	20,000
	177,100

4. *North Arcot.*—The decrease in the area of cultivation was 49,634 acres, and the estimated out-turn of the crops is from between 30 to 60 per cent. of the ordinary yield. The amount of the remissions is expected to aggregate Rs. 150,000; a general want of pasturage and scarcity of drinking water appear to have been felt for some time; but the Collector now reports a good fall of rain in various parts of the district, and the prospects seem, on the whole, to be not yet unfavourable.

5. *South Arcot.*—The worst feature of the past adverse season in this district is stated to be scarcity of drinking water, which was much felt, and the want of pasturage for the cattle. The recent fall of rain would, however, appear to have to some extent mitigated these evils, and the Local Fund Boards have been laying out funds in sinking wells where they are chiefly wanted.

There has been a decrease of 63,665 acres in the area cultivated; and about 87 per cent. of this area is estimated to have yielded a harvest. The average yield of the "wet" crops range from 50 to 75 per cent. of an ordinary harvest, and that of "dry" was about one half. The total remissions are estimated to amount to Rs. 280,000, of which a lakh and twelve thousand appertain to the single taluk of Tindivanam, which is the worst in the district, both as regards poverty of soil and absence of permanent sources of irrigation. The markets are well supplied, and exports of grain from Porto Novo and Cuddalore are reported to have exceeded those of last year by 3,000 cwts. In regard to the future prospects of the district, it is alleged that a great deal depends on the expected rains proving favourable for the kambu, which forms the staple dry crop, and on which a large portion of the population of the district subsists.

6. In conclusion, I am to state that further slight falls of rain have been reported from all these districts; but that as yet nothing certain can be predicted of the future of the coming season. Every precaution is being taken for guarding against the serious effects which a famine may produce if the current official year prove indifferent likewise, and relief works have been proposed and sanctioned for execution in the event of the necessity for providing labour to the poorer classes becoming imminent.

Despatch from the Secretary of State for India to the Government of India.

No. 28, 5th October 1876.

1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 31st July, No. 13 of 1876, forwarding copies of a correspondence with the Government of Madras on the subject of the agricultural prospects in the Bellary, Cuddapah, South Arcot, and North Arcot Districts, consequent on the failure of rain in those divisions, has been considered by me in Council.

2. There has been in all the four districts a large diminution in the area of cultivation, and a necessity has consequently arisen for the grant of considerable remissions. In the Districts of Bellary, Cuddapah, and North Arcot the condition of the people forms the subject of favourable report, while in South Arcot the markets are stated to be well supplied, and the prospects of the district to be in a great measure dependent on the effect of the expected rains on the "Kambu," the staple dry crop on which a large portion of the population subsists.

3. The Government of Madras would appear to be regarding the condition of the districts with vigilant attention, and to be prepared to establish relief works should necessity arise for the provision of labour for the poorer classes.

4. I desire that I may be kept carefully informed of the progress of events in these districts.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 21 of 1876.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, 19th October.

1. In continuation of our telegram of this date on the subject of the scarcity which has arisen in certain parts of the Bombay Presidency, we beg to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies (as per margin) of the communications which have passed between the Governments of India and Bombay.

Letter from Government of Bombay, No. 5,243, dated the 13th September 1876, with accompaniments.
Letter to ditto, No. 350, dated the 29th September 1876.
Telegram from Governor of Bombay, dated the 3rd October 1876.
Ditto to ditto, dated the 4th October 1876.
Ditto from ditto, dated the 12th October 1876.
Ditto to ditto, dated the 16th October 1876.
Ditto from ditto, dated the 17th October 1876.

2. The communication from Bombay, dated the 13th ultimo, was the first official intimation which we received that the want of rain, which the weekly reports has indicated as being considerable in some parts of that Presidency, was likely to lead to serious distress. As only two talukas were named as requiring relief, we did not consider it necessary, in view of your Lordship's instructions regarding the localization of famine charges, to do more than refer the Bombay Government to the provision made in the provincial assignments for such emergencies, adding, however, that should the situation assume a graver aspect, we looked for timely representation of the facts, with a view to a decision as to the incidence of any further relief expenditure which might be required.

3. The telegram from Bombay of October 3rd, which pressed for a decision on a request, which had been intermediately received in the Department of Public Works, for sanction to the immediate commencement of the chord line to connect the south-east branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Dhond with the north-east branch at Munmar, was considered by us in Council. We were of opinion that we should adhere in this case to the principle which was acted on in regard to the scarcity in Behar at the end of last year, that it is not advisable that the Government should hastily commit itself to large schemes of expenditure under the pressure of an apprehended scarcity, which schemes may involve an outlay far in excess of the requirements of the scarcity, and for an object which, in a financial point of view, may not be the most useful object to which State funds might be applied. While intimating this decision to the Bombay Government, we at the same time suggested that local relief works and relief operations might be started, and indicated that the incidence of whatever expenditure might be necessary would be subsequently considered.

4. On the 13th instant we received a further telegram from the Government of Bombay, in which sanction for the commencement of the railway was again urgently solicited, and from which it further appeared that our previous communications had not been understood as conveying the permission which we intended for expenditure in excess of the resources of provincial funds, in the event of such being found to be indispensable. Our reply of the 16th instant has made the matter plain, as we are glad to learn from the further telegram from Bombay of the following day.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN, &c.

No. 5,243, 13th September 1876.

From the ACTING CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to forward the accompanying copies of the papers noted in the margin, relative to the insufficiency of rain in the Poona District, and to express the confidence of his Excellency the Governor in Council that the Government of India will be prepared to sanction a sufficient expenditure, if it be required, for carrying out relief operations.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 2971, dated 6th September 1876, forwarding one from the Acting Collector of Poona, No. 2,016, dated 4th idem, and its accompaniment.

2. This Government do not forget that the Secretary of State desires to localize the cost of such relief; but, bearing in mind both the absence of any scheme for giving effect to that view, as well as the enormous outlay lately incurred in Bengal, they feel confident that the comparatively trifling demand which will be made by this Presidency will be readily granted by the Government of India.

No. 74, 28th August 1876.

From the ACTING SECOND ASSISTANT COLLECTOR, POONA, to the ACTING COLLECTOR OF POONA.

I have the honour to report that, in consequence of the very slight fall of rain in the eastern talukas of the district, I made a tour through Bhimthadi and a portion of Indápur.

2. The rainfall up to date is five inches at Pátas, six at Baramatti, and four at Indápur ; it has come in two falls, but the interval between was so great that the crops sown at the first fall were withered before the second.

3. The result is that throughout both talukas all the oodeed, mut, moog, and cootly are irretrievably lost, about half the bajree sown is also lost, and the remainder, consisting of that which was sown at the second fall of rain in July, will be gone too unless there is rain within the next week or 10 days.

4. This, of course, does not apply to garden lands, but even these are affected, as the small rainfall both this year and last has very much diminished the quantity of water in the wells, and consequently the motes of many wells can be worked only for half their usual time.

5. The cattle are, of course, suffering much from the want of fodder and are looking very thin.

6. Between Poona and Loni Kalbhur the crops are good, thence on to Oorulee they are fair, they are tolerable up to Yewut, where the Bhimthadi taluka commences, and from Yewut onwards through Bhimthadi and Indápur, and from Pátas through Soopa and Baramati up to Dixal, they may almost be said to be non-existent, there being nothing but a few patches of the latter sown bajree, which at the outside may hold out another 10 days without rain.

7. Unless, therefore, we have rain in Bhimthadi and Indápur within the next 10 days the entire kharif crop, excepting in garden lands, will be lost, and about three fourths of it are lost already.

8. Matters are, however, not quite so serious as this fact might lead one to suppose. In Bhimthadi and Indápur they never do have both a good kharif and rabi crop, so that if the rabi is good the people will be no worse off than usual.

9. Of course if rain does not fall by the middle of September, the prospects of the rabi crop will be very doubtful, and matters will then become very serious indeed.

10. On Saturday the 26th there was a slight drizzle at Pátas and a smart shower at Soopa, and on Saturday a little rain (a few drops) fell at Baramatti and Indápur, the weather looked rainy, and I think there is ground for hoping that heavy rain will fall in the two talukas during this week.

11. I have told the Bhimthadi Mamlatdar to commence his local fund works on September 1st if rain has not fallen, and I have advised the Indápur Mamlatdar, Indápur not being in my charge, to do the same.

12. The amount which can be expended by the Bhimthadi Mamlatdar out of local funds during September is about Rs. 3,000. The executive engineer has also about Rs. 3,000 of local fund money to spend on works, and there is also the repairing of the Sholapur road.

13. I would propose, therefore, that the executive engineer be requested to commence his local fund works early in September if rain does not fall by the 1st.

14. These works will give employment to the ordinary labouring population, and carry them through September ; but if rain does not fall by the 15th or 20th it will be absolutely necessary for Government to do something.

15. I have ascertained that there is, at the least, a months supply of grain in Bhimthadi, and three months in Indápur, probably much more in both talukas, but in any case it will never be necessary for Government to send grain there, provided the people have money to buy it. The railroad passes through both talukas, and there are good roads from the stations to most of the market towns.

16. At present grain is at 16 seers the rupee as compared with 24 seers last June. If, unhappily, there should be no rain in September, nearly the whole population of the talukas will be dependent for employment on Government, and there is not the slightest difficulty about finding the work, provided funds are available.

17. The population of Bhimthadi is 100,000, and that of Indápur 68,000, and in case of a regular famine I estimate that it will be necessary for Government to find employment for 15,000 men and 10,000 women in Bhimthadi, and 10,000 men and 7,000 women in Indápur. The wages would have to be about two annas a day per man and one anna a woman. This is, of course, an extreme case, as it is exceedingly improbable that the rabi crops in the whole of both talukas will fail.

18. As regards suitable works in case of a famine, there are 90 villages in Bhimthadi and 60 in Indápur which will be very much benefited by being cleared of prickly pear, and the average cost of clearing will be about Rs. 500 a village. Then, in Bhimthadi, a road is much wanted from Baramatti to Sangwi, the cost of which would be about Rs. 4,000. A road from Baramatti to Nimboot and one from Baramatti to Soopa would also prove very useful, and would cost about Rs. 10,000 each if done well. Most of the roads too in the taluka are susceptible of improvements, especially the road from Pátas to Soopa, and that from Pátas to Baramatti, near Rotee and Wassoondi. Then, again, there are tanks at Wudanee and Bori Byal which might be cleared out with advantage, and at Pátas there is a nulla, across which if a dam be thrown, at a cost of about Rs. 3,000, an abundant supply of good water will be obtained close to the town.

19. In Indápur, a road from the town of Indápur through Bhewreh to the Neera, costing about Rs. 10,000, would be of very great value, and has been thought of for a long time by the Local Funds Committee ; a road too is required from the town of Indápur to Soogaon, and would cost about Rs. 2,000.

20. In all cases I have estimated for good roads at about Rs. 500 a mile, as half-finished roads would become in the future a very heavy burden on the local funds.

21. Very little help is to be expected from the Inamdars, the greater number of whom are involved in debt; but there are three departments which could render assistance,—the railway, the forest, and the canal.

22. It is probable that the railway authorities could find a good deal of occupation for labourers along the line in the shape of lopping trees, cutting down prickly pear, repairing walls, &c., &c., and the Forest Department might do a good deal in the way of felling trees, fencing plantations, and clearing them of prickly pear.

23. But the Irrigation Department is the one which can give us most help. The line of the canal is, I believe, finally settled as far as Yewut, and the department might be requested to push on the work as rapidly as possible; this will employ a large number of heads, and the department will gain from the fact of wages being much cheaper than they are likely to be again. At present they are two-thirds the usual rates, and will, of course, fall still further if there is no rain. Probably the line of the canal from Yewut to Wurund could be finally determined by December.

24. To summarise this long report I consider that in Bhimthadi and Indápur two thirds of the kharif crop are gone, and the remainder stands a fair chance of being lost. Should this prove to be the case, the local fund and provincial works, together with any aid the Railway, Forest, and Irrigation Departments may be able to give us, will keep the labouring class from starving through September, and if heavy rain falls during that month the rabi crop will probably be secure, and no special steps need be taken. If, however, there is little or no rain in September, it will be necessary to obtain funds from Government, and also to urge the three departments named above to help us to the best of their ability.

25. If there is no rain by the first week in September, it will, I think, be prudent to obtain provisional sanction for the expenditure of a lakh of rupees.

26. Should matters not improve, I propose going out into the districts for good at the end of September.

No. 2,016, 4th September 1876.

MEMORANDUM by the ACTING COLLECTOR OF POONA.

Forwarded to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division. Up to the end of last month the total rainfall registered was 5·44 at Pátas. 6·21 at Baramatti, and 4·32 at Indápur.

2. It is therefore evident that the rain which fell at Poona last week did not extend beyond the Haveli taluka, and that in Bhimthadi and Indápur the prospects are not more favourable than they were at the date of Mr. Macpherson's report.

3. From information I have received from the Mamlatdar of Indápur and the Chief Constable of Bhimthadi, I have no doubt that the poorer classes have difficulty in procuring food, and that in some cases they have been compelled to part with their cooking-pots and other articles in order to procure the necessaries of life. There is, however, plenty of grain in the country, and if there should be an absolute failure of crops in the eastern districts, I do not think it would be necessary for Government to import grain.

4. As I write there is every appearance of rain, and if we should be blessed with a good fall before the 20th of this month we may still anticipate a fair rabi harvest, so that as yet I do not consider matters are by any means hopeless.

5. The local fund works in Bhimthadi and Indápur have already been started, and will give some relief. The sums available are, however, small, and the relief thus afforded will be temporary.

6. I agree with Mr. Macpherson that unless there is a sufficient fall of rain before the end of this month, it will be absolutely necessary to commence works on a much larger scale than the Local Fund Department can undertake.

7. Of the works enumerated by Mr. Macpherson, I would recommend that the following be first commenced:—

Bhimthadi Taluka.

Road from Soopa to Baramatti, probable cost Rs. 10,000. This road passes through the very centre of taluka, and would be within easy reach of most of the distressed villages.

The roads from Pátas to Supa and Pátas to Barámatti both require improvement, and Rs. 5,000 might be expended on these two works.

Many of the villages are surrounded by prickly pear, and Rs. 5,000 expended in the villages where the distress is greatest would do much good.

Indápur Taluka.

Road from Indápur to the Neera passing through Bhoweeh Rs. 10,000. This would be a most useful road, and passes through the worst part of the taluka.

Road from the ferry at Chandgáon to the Sholapur Road at Loni, distance about five miles, Rs. 3,000.

Road from Indápur to Sujáon as recommended by Mr. Macpherson Rs. 2,000.

Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 might also be expended on prickly pear clearances.

The tanks mentioned by Mr. Macpherson might be cleared out if there is not too much water, but these are works which should be left for the hot weather, if, unfortunately, it should be found necessary to continue the famine works for so long a period.

8. I agree with Mr. Macpherson that the Irrigation Department should be urged to press on the works in connexion with the canal, so as to give employment to as many hands as possible. I doubt if either the Railway or the Forest Department can afford much assistance.

9. Finally, I am of opinion that provisional sanction for the expenditure of at least Rs. 40,000 should be obtained, to be available in case rain does not fall within the next ten days.

No. 2,971, the 6th September 1876.

MEMORANDUM by W. H. HAVELOCK, ESQ., REVENUE COMMISSIONER, Southern Division.

With reference to Government memorandum, No. 4,980, dated 31st ultimo, the Revenue Commissioner begs to submit letter, No. 2,016, dated 4th instant, from the Acting Collector of Poona.

2. Mr. Macpherson's report is dated 28th ultimo, and there is no improvement in the position since then; on the contrary, as so many days have elapsed without rain, the probability of any appreciable proportion of the kharif crop in the Bhimthadi and Indápur talukas being saved has become even more remote. It is almost unnecessary to state that the most recent intelligence from Pátas of yesterday's date, which has been furnished by the Collector to the undersigned, announces no rain, and marked restriction of the grain market from anticipation of failure of crops and scarcity of money. This is in accordance with the extreme poverty in some cases mentioned in the Collector's 3rd paragraph.

3. The works recommended by the Collector appear to be judiciously selected to supplement the local fund expenditure already commenced, but which will not go very far. The aggregate amount of Imperial expenditure, for which the Collector requests conditional sanction, is about Rs. 40,000, to be divided in equal proportions between the two talukas of Bhimthadi and Indápur. The Revenue Commissioner begs to support the Collector's recommendation.

4. It will be seen that Mr. Macpherson calculates that, in the event of there being famine of a serious character, the support of the poorest part of the working population in Bhimthadi will require for—

	Per mensem. Rs.
15,000 males - - - - -	60,000
10,000 females - - - - -	20,000
	80,000
in the Indápur taluka—	
10,000 males - - - - -	40,000
7,000 females - - - - -	14,000
	54,000

or an aggregate of Rs. 134,000 per mensem.

5. It is premature to do more as yet than to take a rough estimate of what expenditure might devolve on Government in case of complete failure of the rabi or second crop; but should the prospect of this very serious contingency supervene, evidently work on a large scale must be provided. The extension of the canal from the Khara Kwásla dam is suggested by the Collector, and the Revenue Commissioner has no doubt that this suggestion will be favourably considered by Government in the Irrigation Department.

6. It is understood that the line of the projected railway from Dhond to meet the North-eastern Branch Extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has been surveyed. The line starts in the Bhimthadi taluka, and skirts for some distance the Sirur taluka of Poona, traversing the Shrigonda, Nagar, and Kopargaon talukas of Ahmednagar. Such a calamity as failure of the rabi, if it does take place, is not likely to be confined to the Poona Collectorate, and expenditure on the projected line in the way of cutting and embankments would, if permissible, be of great service to the inhabitants of Ahmednagar, Poona, and Sholapur.

No. 350, dated Simla, the 29th September 1876.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 5,243, dated the 13th instant, forwarding copies of certain papers relating to the scanty fall of rain in the Poona District, and expressing a hope that the Government of India will be prepared to sanction a sufficient expenditure, if it be required, for carrying out relief operations.

2. In reply, I am to state that the Government of India are not prepared at present to pledge themselves to bear the expenditure which may be necessary. Should the pressure which is apprehended be, as it is hoped it will be, only of a local character and circumscribed in extent, any measures of relief which may be required will properly be a charge on provincial funds, in the assignments for which provision has been made for this class of expenditure under the head "Miscellaneous and unforeseen charges." Should the situation unfortunately assume a graver aspect, and actual famine threaten any considerable tract, his Excellency the Governor in Council will doubtless represent matters in time for a decision as to the incidence of relief expenditure to be arrived at by the Government of India.

Telegram, dated the 3rd October 1876.

From GOVERNOR, Bombay, to WORKS, Simla.

I must beg for an instant answer respecting the Dhond and Munmar Railway. The distress is very severe in those districts, and the people are becoming disorderly. Local funds are, it may be said, already exhausted. Government must help, and there is no better work on which employment can be given.

Telegram No. 352, dated the 4th October 1876.

From COMMERCE, Simla, to GOVERNOR, Bombay.

Your telegram of 3rd to Works. Governor-General in Council considers that grounds submitted do not appear sufficient to justify immediate commencement of Dhond and Munmar Railway as a relief work. Local relief works and other relief operations may be started, selecting such works as can be found near the homes of the people, in preference to committing Government to commencement of large projects. Incidence of expenditure will be considered hereafter on principles laid down in this department letter No. 350 of 29th ultimo.

Telegram, dated 12th October 1876.

From GOVERNOR, Bombay, to COMMERCE, Simla.

There has been a long discussion to-day in Council on the measures to be adopted for the relief of the distressed population. The reports are exceedingly bad. All will be forwarded immediately. The small works spoken of in your letter of the 29th have been sanctioned and are nearly done. We are unanimously of opinion that the works on the Dhond and Munmar Railway must be commenced at once. If there is not heavy rain in the course of a few days, the state of affairs will be most serious, and we must be free to deal with them at once. Local resources are virtually exhausted, and we have been compelled to-day, as a temporary expedient, to authorise each of the Collectors of Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur to expend Rs. 25,000 for preserving the lives of those who may be too infirm to work and too poor to buy, as well as for payment of any employed on trifling local works.

Telegram, dated 16th October 1876.

From COMMERCE, Simla, to GOVERNOR, Bombay.

The Government of India regret to learn that the distress in three of your districts is so great, but do not think it right to authorise the commencement of so expensive a work as the railway in question, the expediency of constructing which in preference to other important lines has not yet been determined, merely to meet a temporary, though serious, emergency. Local works of a character to give employment for some months should be organised, the Government providing the necessary funds and leaving the final incidence of the charges to be settled hereafter. The district officers ought to have no great difficulty in organising such works. Your Government are authorised to incur such expenditure in providing work and relief in the distressed localities as you may consider necessary to meet the emergency, but it is not deemed advisable to embark on any large project which will involve the continuance of heavy expenditure after the emergency has ceased. The railway question must be decided on its merits from a financial and political point of view, and is not yet ripe for decision.

Telegram, dated 17th October 1876.

From GOVERNOR, Bombay, to COMMERCE, Simla.

Your telegram of yesterday received. We will do our best to give effect to instructions contained.

No. 22 of 1876.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, 26th October.

1. In continuation of our Despatch No. 21, dated the 19th instant, and of our telegram of the 25th, of which copy is annexed, we beg to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies (as per margin) of the communications which have since passed between the Governments of India and Bombay on the subject of the scarcity which has arisen in the latter Presidency.

Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 142, C.W. 718, dated the 9th October 1876, with accompaniments.
Bombay Government memorandum, dated the 13th October 1876, with accompaniments.
Letter from the Bombay Government, No. 5,891, dated the 16th October 1876, with accompaniments.
Letter from ditto, No. 5,953, dated the 19th October 1876, with accompaniments.
Memorandum by the Hon. T. C. Hope, dated the 21st October 1876.
Telegram to the Bombay Government, dated the 22nd October 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 23rd October 1876.
Letter to ditto, No. 923, dated the 23rd October 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 24th October 1876.
Letter to ditto, No. 365, dated the 25th October 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 25th October 1876.

2. Since we last addressed your Lordship we have received more detailed accounts from Bombay, which disclose, we regret to say, a much more extended area of distress than had at first been supposed. The whole of the nine districts of the Bombay Deccan, containing an area of 54,203 square miles, and a population of about eight millions, and yielding to Government in 1874–75 a realisable land revenue of Rs. 1,39,40,000, and an abkari revenue of about 10 lakhs, may be considered as more or less affected, the eastern talukas and districts, however, being more distressed than the western.

3. The Government of Bombay have, in accordance with the instructions received, been fully utilising all local and provincial resources, but it is now evident that these must be supplemented by considerable Imperial expenditure for both providing work and supplying food to those who cannot work.

4. In selecting works to be started for purposes of relief, we have impressed upon the Local Government the importance of preferring those which can be to a considerable degree completed within the outlay necessary for relief alone, and which will not draw large bodies of men to a distance from their homes.

5. We have approved of the desire of the Bombay Government to invite tenders for the supply of grain for relief purposes, and to abstain from making purchases in the general market on its own behalf, except in the last resort.

6. The importance in a time of famine of strengthening from the first the administrative establishments was markedly recorded in paragraph 11 of the final orders of the Government of India on the Bengal famine, dated 18th February 1875. We have consequently intimated to the Bombay Government our readiness to admit certain increases to the ordinary staff of the affected districts, and to sanction, as a temporary measure, the appointment of an additional Revenue and Police Commissioner on Rs. 3,000 per mensem. The latter measure will relieve the present Commissioner of the Southern Division, whose charge comprises 43,923 square miles, with a population of above seven millions and a half, and a revenue, including excise, of Rs. 155,95,000, by the temporary creation of a new division in the Southern Mahratta country, where the presence of a separate controlling officer appears to be indispensable.

7. We may here express our sense of the promptitude and care with which the Government of Bombay and its officers are dealing with the emergency, and the excellent spirit evinced by the more wealthy or influential members of the Native community. We have every confidence that the Bombay Government will exercise the discretion vested in them so as to prevent loss of life of Her Majesty's subjects, and without wasteful expenditure of public money.

8. In conclusion, we would invite your Lordship's attention to the accompanying telegram* from the Madras Government, informing us of the distress in Kurnool, Cuddapah, and Bellary, and other districts, and our reply† thereto. We may add that we have reason to believe that the scarcity extends to Mysore.

* Dated the 24th October 1876.
† Dated the 25th October 1876.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN, &c.

Telegram, dated 25th October 1876.

From PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, Simla, to the SECRETARY OF STATE, London.

Detailed accounts from Bombays how severe distress over large portion of Khandeish and eight districts of the Deccan. Local and provincial resources being insufficient to provide work and supply food, we have again authorised such further expenditure from Imperial funds as the local Government deem indispensable for relief. We have approved of non-interference with grain trade. In order to afford due supervision for the Southern Mahratta country, we have sanctioned, as a temporary measure, the appointment of a third Revenue Commissioner. The Bombay Government is acting with promptitude and care, and the disposition of wealthy and intelligent classes in support of Government is excellent. Accounts from Madras of the condition of the Kurnool, Cuddapah, and Bellary districts most unfavourable. Local relief works have been started. It is understood that the scarcity extends to Mysore and to some other Madras districts.

No. 142 C.W. 718, dated 9th October 1876.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department.

With reference to the telegrams noted in the margin,* regarding the distress now prevailing in some of the eastern districts of the Presidency in consequence of the failure of the monsoon, I am directed to forward, for the information and consideration of the Government of India, a copy of a letter received from the Collector of Sholapur, which describes the very serious state of matters with which this Government have now to deal in the Sholapur district.

*Telegram—Works, Bombay, to Works, Simla, dated 29th September.
Ditto, Governor, Bombay, to Works, Simla, dated 3rd October.
Ditto, Works, Simla, to Works, Bombay, dated 3rd October.
Ditto, Commerce, Simla, to Works, Bombay, dated 4th October.

2. Returns, similar in tenor, have been and are being received from the districts of Násik, Khandeish, Ahmednagar, Poona, Kaládgi, and Dharwar, and it may be said that the whole of the eastern parts of the Deccan and the Southern Mahratta

country are threatened with a serious famine. In the parts affected nearly the whole of the monsoon crops have perished; and there have been no later rains to admit of sowing of the rabi.

3. His Excellency in Council has directed the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, and the Superintending Engineer, Central Division, at once to proceed to the affected districts to obtain the most reliable and the most recent information as to the condition of the country, and to be in a position to suggest to Government the best measures available for meeting the emergency which has arisen. On the receipt of the report of these officers, a copy of it will be immediately placed before the Government of India; in the meantime, in all the districts affected, this Government have authorised the immediate commencement of the works which are best calculated to afford relief, and for which projects superintendence and funds are available.

4. These works have hitherto afforded some measures of relief, and may do so for a short time longer; but it is apparent that efforts on a larger and more extended scale must very shortly be made if extreme distress and even disaster is to be averted.

5. His Excellency in Council, I am desired to say, is awaiting the receipt of a letter from the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, dated 29th September, of the despatch of which he has been advised in the telegram last quoted above, in which he understands he is to receive instructions as regards the provision of funds for famine relief works, and in respect to the incidence of the charge for such works. Some considerable outlay of Imperial money will, no doubt, be necessary; but his Excellency in Council, I am desired to say, believes that if confidence be placed in this Government all that is needed may be done without extravagant or lavish expenditure of public money, and without any great ultimate loss or waste.

No. 2,321, the 4th October 1876.

From the Acting Collector of Sholapur to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, Poona.

In my letter of 25th August last, to the address of the Chief Secretary to Government, in which I pointed out the necessity of starting famine relief works for the benefit of the people of the Kurmala Taluka of this Collectorate, I anticipated that the distress which was then beginning to be felt severely in only one taluka would soon extend to others. It has, as I have already informed you, now done so, and to such an extent that there is now no part of the district in which the condition of the mass of the people is not most deplorable; and as there is no prospect of any crop whatever throughout by far the greater portion of the Collectorate, there can be no doubt that a scarcity amounting to famine must be the result.

2. On bringing the state of affairs to the notice of Government about six weeks ago, I was, as far as aware, permitted to commence relief works in the talukas in which they were urgently required, and directed to appropriate for that purpose the local funds balance, which otherwise would have been budgetted against the expenditure in 1877–78. I was thus enabled to provide employments for some thousands of persons, who otherwise would have been reduced to the greatest extremity. The local funds balance, including the re-appropriations from local fund works, amounted to Rs. 25,000. This amount has now been expended, and I have received the permission of Government, through the Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department, to carry out, at the expense of Government, other local works that may be absolutely necessary for the relief of the people. This is now being done, and I submit herewith a list of those works for the information and sanction of Government.

3. So far all that had to be or could be done has been done, and if the rain which was pretty confidently looked for until quite recently had come to our assistance, the scarcity and distress would have been merely temporary, and we should by the present time have got over it; but unfortunately the rain held off, and if it should come now, which is not at all probable, it will be of little or no use, except in portions of one or two talukas, where the soil is exceptionally good. The result is that there has been an almost total failure of the crops throughout the Collectorate, and the cultivating classes and others, such as the Mahors, Mhangs, and Ramosees, will be without food or provision for themselves, their families, and cattle for the next 12 months, and unable to procure the barest necessaries of life without the assistance of Government.

4. I believe it is in contemplation to start the Dhond and Munmar Railroad for the relief of the surrounding districts as soon as Government are fully convinced of the necessity for doing so. I would respectfully submit that the time has now come for the adoption of whatever measure Government intend to adopt for the alleviation of the distress which is now prevalent throughout the Deccan. The Dhond and Munmar Railway would, no doubt, provide employment for severa thousands of people, but as it will pass through three other Collectorates in which the people will shortly be almost as badly off as the people are here, I would suggest that some other relief works should be started in this Collectorate.

5. The works now in progress, and upon which about 20,000 persons are employed, will all be completed in the course of a week or 10 days, and it is absolutely necessary that other works on a very much larger scale should take their place. The Executive Engineer is of opinion that the most suitable works would be the Barsi and Yedshi Road and the Pandharpur and Janoni Road. Both these roads would be very useful hereafter, for when they are completed there would be a first-class road from the border of the Nizam's territory on the north to the border of this Collectorate on the south, leading to the Jutt and Jamkhandi States, and thence to Satara. The plans and estimate of the Barsi Yedshi Road have been prepared and sanctioned, and there is no reason why the work should not be commenced at once if sanctioned. The greater portion of the other road has also been lined out, and the work can be commenced by the Public Works Department immediately on receipt of orders.

6. I have no hesitation in declaring that the state of this district is in every way most unsatisfactory at the present time, and it stands to reason that it must rapidly become worse. A feeling of insecurity is becoming very prevalent, and the lower classes, who naturally are the first to suffer from the effects of the general scarcity, are becoming restless and reckless. If Government would purchase grain in a cheap market and supply it at a moderate price to labourers and others, it would have a highly beneficial effect, for prices have risen considerably of late, although there is as yet no scarcity of former years grain in the district.

No. 3,340, dated Poona, the 5th October 1876.

MEMORANDUM by the REVENUE COMMISSIONER, Southern Division.

Submitted to Government for consideration and orders.

2. It is recommended that sanction be accorded as solicited to the works included in the accompanying list from the Collector, for the carrying out of which permission has been accorded by Government through the Secretary in the Public Works Department. It is presumed that the requisite plans and estimates have been or will be furnished.

3. No specific arrangement regarding the Pandharpur Janoni Road has as yet been made by the Collector.

4. The Revenue Commissioner has consulted the Superintending Engineer with reference to the Barsi and Yedshi Ghât Road recommended by the Collector and the Executive Engineer, and Colonel Finch approves of the proposal. An estimate for this work—Rs. 1,27,655, Government Resolution No. 620 C.W. 1,544, of 26th August 1875—was submitted for sanction for bridging and metalling; but of this sum Colonel Finch considers that Rs. 30,000 could be spent on road works at the present time. It is strongly urged that this grant should be made at once; it is suited to give employment to people in the northern part of the Sholapur Collectorate.

5. The Revenue Commissioner considers that, whenever any large work is to be constructed within easy reach of a station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, good grain should be imported from the Central Provinces or Guzerat, where it is cheap. By this means Government will be able to apply the famine test of paying a portion of wages in grain bought at a moderate rate, and the labourers will be to a great extent saved from the danger of eating grain damaged by age, which is always produced by the storers for sale in a season of scarcity. It is, of course, of great importance to protect men assembled in large numbers from the risk of those diseases which unwholesome food is likely to engender, and which the assemblage of crowds has a tendency to propagate and render epidemic.

ADDITIONAL LIST OF RELIEF WORKS IN THE SHOLAPUR COLLECTORATE.

	Rs.	
Pandharpur Taluka.		
Tank at Rahatewari	1,200	
Pandharpur Poona Road, miles 14, up to Kuroli	2,500	
Pandharpur Satara Road *viâ* Bhalaoni up to the limit of the Taluka, miles 12	2,400	
Pandharpur Karar Road, up to the limit of Tisangi Souke, miles 9	1,800	
Pandharpur Mungalvedha Road up to the Man, miles 8	1,600	
Repairs to the road from Toongat to Pandharpur	2,400	
		11,900
Taluka Malsiras.		
Repairs to the Tank at Natepute	2,500	
		2,500
Taluka Madha.		
Additional grant for the repairs to the Madha Shetphal and Madha Kurduwari Road, Rs. 500 each	1,000	
Mohol and Madha Road, 18 miles	2,500	
Mohol and Penur Road (additional)	600	
		4,100
Karmala Taluka.		
Tank at Karmala	2,500	
Road from Karmala to Niluz	1,200	
Road from Karmala to Nimbgaon, 12 miles	2,400	
Nagar Road from Karmala to Jategaon (additional)	700	
		6,800
Sholapur Taluka.		
Tooljapur Road, 17 miles	2,500	
Ahirwari Road, 16 miles	2,500	
Dadpur Tank clearance	2,000	
Nandni Tank (additional)	2,500	
		9,500
Grand Total		34,800

Sholapur, 4 Oct. 1876.

MEMORANDUM by the UNDER SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, 13th October 1876.

'Government having received reports from several districts of the Presidency that the partial failure of the monsoon and the very general absence of the latter rains has very seriously affected the harvest, and consequently has given rise to distress amongst the agricultural population of those parts, orders have been issued for the prosecution of relief works, and copies of these orders are now made public.

The distress still continues, and is likely to be greatly aggravated, especially if sufficient rain does not soon fall in the eastern districts. Government are now engaged in organising such further measures of relief as may be suitable and practicable, and information in respect to such measures will, from time to time, be placed before the public.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, in the Public Works Department, dated 4th October 1876.

RESOLUTION.—In consequence of the unfavourable reports of the season in the eastern districts of this Presidency, particularly in the Sholapur, Ahmednagar, and Poona Collectorates, it appears to be inevitable that famine relief works on a considerable scale must be immediately undertaken.

2. The local funds of these districts, under orders already issued, have been appropriated, and, should distress continue, nothing now remains but to provide for the relief of the people by the expenditure of Imperial funds.

3. Government have been kept informed of the state of the districts above referred to by the reports of the local officers, but having in view the increasing gravity of the situation, Government consider they should now have the benefit of the advice of their higher officers of the Revenue and Public Works Departments after these officers have personally visited the locality. Government are pleased, therefore, to direct that the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, and the Superintending Engineer, Central Division, should proceed at once into the affected districts, and should, after personal inquiry and consultation with the local officers, advise the Government whether it is absolutely necessary to commence any, and what, relief works on a large scale.

4. This report is required with the least practicable delay.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, in the Public Works Department, dated 5th October 1876.

READ again—

Government Resolution No. 138 C.W.—709, dated 3rd October 1876, paragraphs 1 to 4, laying down the principles to be adopted in respect to relief works as follows:—

The principle to be adopted in respect to relief works is as follows:—

1st.—All possible re-appropriations to be made from the current year's Local Funds Budget items, irrespective of the talukwar restriction; this on the principle that the district is bound to help its own suffering people to the full extent of its ability, before indenting on the resources of other districts or parts of India.

2nd.—All balances of local funds not yet appropriated, *i.e.*, not yet budgetted against, to be made available.

3rd.—When the current year's Budget credits and the balances not yet budgetted against have been exhausted, Government will provide such other funds as may be clearly required to afford the necessary relief.

2. The necessary re-appropriation returns as regards transfers of budget credits, and appropriation returns as regards unbudgetted balances, for works undertaken under these orders, should be submitted as soon as possible, and if it is absolutely necessary to undertake any works for which there are no sanctioned estimates, estimates should be submitted to competent authority for sanction as soon as it can be done.

3. In starting relief works it should be borne in mind that the most useful works, as well as those best suited for relief, are road works and tank clearances.

4. In order, as regards road works, that the greatest ultimate benefit may be secured from the measures now to be undertaken, it should also be borne in mind that what are required are railway feeders, branch lines to existing through communication, and roads connecting market towns and centres of producing districts with other market towns, and with distant markets. The local officers should keep in view the necessity of laying out works, as far as may be, so that they may form portions of an efficient system or net-work of roads, that will enable the cultivators to convey their produce with facility to railway lines or trunk roads, and to obtain access to near or distant markets.

RESOLUTION.—As regards orders issued in reference to relief works in different districts, the following points require early attention:—

1st.—Re-appropriation statements as regards transfers of sanctioned budget credits, *i.e.*, of funds from one item to another of the sanctioned Local Funds Budget, should be prepared and submitted.

2nd.—Appropriation statements of outlay against local funds balances, *i.e.*, of the balances of local funds on the 1st of April 1876.

3rd.—Statements of relief works it is proposed to undertake from the current year's local funds revenue, in anticipation of the Local Funds Budget for the ensuing year, showing the amount required for each work.

4th.—Estimates for all works to be undertaken as relief works, for which there are no sanctions, to be sanctioned by competent authority. The estimates for such relief works, which will necessarily be of a simple character, may be rough and approximate, but it is essential that they should be sanctioned with as little delay as possible.

2. Payment to labourers on relief works may be made at such short intervals as the local officers may determine to be expedient. If advisable, it may be arranged that such payments may be made by the Civil officers on muster rolls and pay sheets kept and prepared by the Public Works officers; money to be obtained as usual on credits granted to the Public Works officers, so that the transactions may be recorded in the accounts of the Public Works Department.

3. If deemed necessary or desirable by the local officers, payments may be made partly in money and partly in grain.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, in the Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, 29th August 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Department, No. 4,788, dated 22nd August 1876.—Transfers, for immediate consideration, a memorandum from the Collector of Dharwar, forwarding copy of a letter addressed by him to the Executive Engineer, Dharwar, requesting that officer to take early steps to commence the construction of the road between Dambal and Hesrur, for which Rs. 30,000 have been sanctioned, so as to afford immediate relief to the people in Mundargi Peta, who are suffering, not being able to gain a livelihood, want of rain having deprived them of their field labour; also a memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, stating that the proceedings of the Collector seem judicious.

RESOLUTION.—A sum of Rs. 30,000 is allotted under item 48 of the Provincial Budget for the road from Gadag *viâ* Dambal to Hesrur, and the Superintending Engineer, Southern Division, should take steps for the immediate prosecution of the work.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, in the Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, 22nd September 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Department, No. 5,242, dated 13th September 1876.—Transfers a letter from the Acting 2nd Assistant Collector of Poona, reporting the very slight fall of rain in the eastern talukas of the district; also a memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, submitting, with his opinion, a report from the Acting Collector of Poona, recommending that the following works be first commenced, to give relief to the people of Bhimthadi and Indapur Talukas :—

Bhimthadi Taluka.

	Rs.
Road from Supa to Baramathe - - - -	10,000
Improvements on the roads from Patus to Supa, and Patus to Baramathe - - - - - -	5,000
Clearing prickly pear around certain villages - -	5,000

Indapur Taluka.

Road from Indapur to the Neera passing through Bhoweeh -	10,000
Road from the ferry at Chandgaon to the Sholapur Road at Loni - - - - - - -	3,000
Road from Indapur to Soogaon - - - -	2,000
Prickly pear clearances - - - - -	3,000
or Rs.	4,000

And adding that he agrees with Mr. Macpherson that the Irrigation Department should be urged to press on the works in connexion with the extension of the canal from the Kharakwasla dam, so as to give employment to as many hands as possible. The Revenue Commissioner remarks that, in the event of a failure of the rubbee crops, expenditure on cuttings and embankments on the projected line of railway from Dhond to meet the North-east Branch Extension of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway would be of great service to the inhabitants of Ahmednagar, Poona, and Sholapur.

RESOLUTION.—These proposals are approved, and the road works enumerated may be put in hand as soon as the local officers consider that the necessity for affording relief has arisen.

2. As regards prickly pear clearance, Government consider that it would be better to expend the funds it is proposed to devote to this purpose to additional road works. The local officers should, therefore, take this point into consideration, and should propose additional road works to the extent of the outlay contemplated. Estimates for the proposed works, if not already prepared and sanctioned, should be drawn up, and should be sanctioned by competent authority with as little delay as possible.

3. All the works being local, the funds for their execution should, as far as possible, be provided by the Local Funds Committee. Formal proposals for re-appropriations necessary to cover their cost should, therefore, be submitted at once, and, if the current year's budget will not admit of the necessary re-appropriations, proposals for the appropriation of any local funds balance that may exist should be submitted.

4. Should the current year's budget, aided by the unappropriated local funds balance, not be sufficient to furnish the necessary funds to cover the contemplated outlay, Government will provide the difference from other sources, but the works should not be delayed as soon as it is determined that they are needed.

5. The papers should be transferred to the Irrigation Department as regards the proposal to proceed with the Kharakwasla Canal.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, in the Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, 3rd October 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,040, dated 12th September 1876. Submits a letter from the Collector and President, Local Funds Committee, Sholapur, requesting sanction to the re-appropriations, amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 25,462–10 as under, for famine relief works now being carried out in the Sholapur District. The Revenue Commissioner remarks that it is desirable that the particular works which the Collector and President proposes to undertake as famine relief works should be specified, and that estimates for such as are beyond his power of sanction should be submitted by him for the sanction of competent authority as early as practicable.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,140, dated 18th September 1876. Submits, with reference to paragraph 2 of Government Memorandum, No. 50P., dated 15th September, copy of a letter from the Collector and President, Local Funds Committee, Sholapur, forwarding a list specifying the works for which re-appropriations and appropriations from the local funds balance are required; and stating that the estimates have been called for, and will be forwarded in due course.

ITEMS requiring re-appropriation.

Head of Service.	Particulars.	Amount of proposed re-appropriation. R.	A.	P.
	Sholapur Taluka.			
Original works, miscellaneous public improvements -	Improving the tank at Nandani - - - -	1,000	0	0
	Madha Taluka.			
Repairs, communications.	Repairing the road from Mohol to Penur - -	2,160	0	0
Ditto -	Repairing the road from Madha to Kurduwari - -	1,000	0	0
Ditto -	Repairing the road from Madha to Shetphal - -	1,000	0	0
Ditto -	Repairing the road from Jarite to Bhuenj - - -	500	0	0
Original works, Miscellaneous public improvements -	Improving the tank at Ooplai - - - -	1,500	0	0
		6,160	0	0
	Karmala Taluka.			
Ditto -	Improving the tank at Kamoni - - - -	2,500	0	0
Ditto -	Improving the tank at Shetphal - - - -	2,000	0	0
Ditto -	Prickly pear clearance at Jinti - - - -	5,000	0	0
Repairs, Communications.	Repairing the road from Karmala to Jategaon - -	700	0	0
		10,200	0	0
	Sangola Taluka.			
Ditto -	Repairing the road from Sangola to Mahud - -	1,400	0	0
	Malsiras Taluka.			
Original works, Miscellaneous public improvements -	Improving the tank at Welapur - - - -	2,000	0	0
Ditto -	Improving the tank at Nateputa - - - -	2,600	0	0
Ditto -	Improving the dam or bandhara at Nateputa - -	1,600	0	0
Ditto -	Improving the Parwati Tank near Akluz - - -	500	0	0
		6,700	0	0
	Grand total -	25,460	0	0

BUDGET ITEMS from which re-appropriation is proposed.

Head of Service.	Item of Budget Estimate.	Amount. R.	A.	P.
	Actual local fund balance on 31st March 1876, *vide* Accountant-General's letter No. L. F.— 8,210, dated 2nd September 1876 - - - - - - -	23,391	4	0
	DEDUCT—			
	Estimated balance on the 1st April 1876, already budgetted against in the Local Funds Budget for 1876–77 - -	6,690	0	0
		16,701	4	0

Head of Service.	Item of Budget Estimate.	Amount. R.	A.	P.
Original works, Communications.	Road from Karkan to the Poona-Sholapur Road near Aran, item No. 233, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876–77 -	1,800	0	0
Original works, Civil buildings.	Re-building a chauri at Kharghoti Taluka, Sholapur, Form A.	290	0	0
Ditto.	Constructing a chauri at Shirpanholi, Taluka, Sholapur, Form A. - - - - - - -	390	0	0
Original works, Communications.	Re-building a dhurmshalla at Wadakbhial, Taluka Sholapur, included in item No. 234, Rs. 5,840, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876–77 - - - - - -	300	0	0
Original works, Miscellaneous *public improvements.*	Constructing a well at Kegaum, Taluka Sholapur, included in item No. 413, Rs. 5,380, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876–77 - - - - - - -	540	0	0
Ditto.	Constructing a well at Shirwal, Taluka Sholapur, included in item No. 413, Rs. 5,380, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876–77. - - - - - - - -	990	0	0
Original works, Communications.	Unpaid amount on account of a dhurmshalla at Bhondegaum, Taluka Barsi, included in item No. 234, Rs. 5,840, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876–77 - - - -	300	0	0
Ditto.	Unpaid amount on account of a dhurmshalla at Kasari, Taluka Barsi, included in item No. 234, Rs. 5,840, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876–77 - - - - -	440	0	0
Original works, Miscellaneous public improvements.	Unpaid amount on account of a well at Malegoan, Taluka Barsi, included in item No. 413, Rs. 5,380, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876-77 - - - - - -	300	0	0
Original works, Civil buildings.	Improving Mhars' chauri at Wirag, Taluka Barsi, Form A. -	200	0	0
Ditto.	Improving a chauri at Kandalgaon, Taluka Barsi, Form A. -	200	0	0
Original works, Communications.	Constructing a dhurmshalla at Mahagaon, Taluka Barsi, included in item No. 234, Rs. 5,840, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876–77 - - - - - -	600	0	0
Ditto.	Constructing a dhurmshalla at Mohol Taluka Madha, item No. 231, Rs. 5,840, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876–77	1,220	0	0
Ditto.	Constructing a dhurmshalla at Kural, Taluka Madha, included in item No. 234, Rs. 5,840, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876–77. - - - - - - - -	600	0	0
Original works, Miscellaneous public improvements.	Rebuilding Mhars' well at Madha, included in item No. 413, Rs. 5,380, Part II., Local Funds Budget for 1876–77 -	200	0	0
Repairs, Miscellaneous public improvements.	Repairing a well at Ooplai, Taluka Madha, Government resolution No. 296 A.—376, dated 22nd May 1876 - -	200	0	0
Repairs, Civil buildings.	Repairing chauri at Shetphal, Taluka Madha, Form A. -	200	0	0
	Grand total - -	25,471	4	0

RESOLUTION.—The proposed re-appropriations of credits in the current year's Local Funds Budget are sanctioned, the additions to the current year's budget and appropriations against such additions are also sanctioned.

2. The sum of Rs. 5,000 entered for "prickly pear clearance at Jinti," if still available, had better be expended on road works; roads are more needed than pricky pear clearance, and the fruit of the prickly pear is understood in some cases, to be used as food by the people.

3. The attention of both the Collector and President, and of the Executive Engineer, is called to the necessity for submitting plans and estimates for all works that may be commenced under these orders with as little delay as possible.

4. The Revenue Commissioner should ensure that a record is kept of transfers of Taluka funds owing to these re-appropriations, so that an adjustment may be made in the next or subsequent years.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY in the Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, 3rd October 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,209, dated 23rd September 1876.—Submits a letter from the Collector of Ahmednagar [and further correspondence], reporting that he has found it necessary to start local fund relief works for the support of the very poor in certain talukas of the Ahmednagar Collectorate, where the fall of rain has been very scanty, in the shape of road repairs, to the extent of Rs. 4,500 [for which the Collector promises to submit re-appropriation statements in due form]; stating that, if the present state of distress continues and increases it will be absolutely necessary to start works on a larger scale, and suggesting as the best [1] the railway embankment from Dhond towards Nagar and Munmar, for which a grant of Rs. 25,000 would be required from Imperial or provincial funds, and [2] the Khardi and Kashti Road, towards which a re-appropriation of Rs. 4,000 is proposed from the unexpended balances of local funds on the 31st March 1876.

The Revenue Commissioner adds that, besides the Rs. 4,000 proposed for re-appropriation from unexpended balances on 31st March 1876 towards the above road, the Acting Collector anticipates being able to obtain a sum of Rs. 10,000 for more immediately pressing wants by re-appropriation from budget items pertaining to the current year; but as the total sum thus obtained will not suffice for any lengthened period, he is desirous of obtaining a grant from provincial or Imperial funds for expenditure on famine relief works in the district; that the Collector has not yet suggested any particular work or works, nor has he yet specified any particular sum, but that in his first letter he asked for Rs. 25,000 for the railway from Dhond, and Rs. 10,000 for the Kharda and Kashti Road; and, in conclusion, points out that there are sums, as noted below, for road repairs provided in the Provincial Budget of the current year, and Superintending Engineer and Executive Engineer of Ahmednagar may be able to expedite proceedings on these works, so as to furnish early relief to some portions of the district where relief is most urgently required:—

	Rs.
Road from Ahmednagar to Ghor River - - -	12,000
Ditto to Dhond - - - -	18,000
Ditto to Pimpalgaon (Malegaon Road) -	11,000
Road from Nandur-Singota to Ahmbegargaon (Násik and Poona Road) - - - - - -	6,000
Road from Ahmednagar to Toka - - - -	9,000
Road from foot of Imampur Ghât to Paithun - -	10,000
Aggregating - -	66,000

RESOLUTION.—The proposed appropriation against the balances of local funds on the 31st of March last is sanctioned.

2. Re-appropriation statements in regard to relief works it is proposed to undertake against sanctioned budget credits for the current year should be submitted; in the meantime the works determined on as necessary should proceed.

3. The Executive Engineer should be directed to proceed with road repairs in the Nagar District to the extent available in the current year's Provincial Budget. This balance is understood to amount to about Rs. 10,000. Should rain still hold off, and further assistance in addition to that referred to above, be needed, Government will be prepared to grant it; in the meantime, the Collector, in communication with the Executive Engineer, should determine what works it would be best to undertake, so as to be ready to commence them the moment an undoubted necessity arises.

4. As regards the Dhond and Munmar Railway, it may be advisable to commence the earth-work of this line, should relief on a larger scale be required, and the state of the surveys is such as to admit of this being done without difficulty; but this work can only be commenced as a last resource, and the Government of India should be addressed on the subject by telegram, and their permission to put the earth-work in hand should be solicited, in the event of Government being driven to this measure by the necessity of affording relief to the suffering people of the district.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY in the Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, the 3rd October 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, No. A. 6, dated 27th September, 1876.—Forwards for the orders of Government, a letter from the Collector of Khandesh, submitting an estimate by the Executive Engineer, Khandesh, of Rs. 31,005 for a tramway from Sowda town to railway station, a distance of a little over 2 miles. The work is provided under item 154, Part II. of the Local Funds Budget, with a provision of Rs. 4,400. States that the work has been put in hand in anticipation of sanction, and that as it is in the very centre of the famine stricken districts, it supplies labour for 1,000 persons. The Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, disapproves of the work for reasons stated, and recommends instead of it that an Irish bridge be constructed over the Tapti at Bhosawal or Satara, or some place between the two; or a road from Jalgaum to Amalnair *viâ* Dharangaum.

RESOLUTION.—The Collector has been informed by telegram that the proposed tramway from Sowda to the railway station is not approved, but that a metalled road between these points will be sanctioned, if required, as a relief work.

2. Government concur generally with the Revenue Commissioner's remarks on this work, but the point is not now so much what particular class of work it is most expedient that the Local Funds Committee should undertake, as what work or works can best be put in hand, with a view of affording local relief.

3. The Sowda Road has already been undertaken, and has been partly completed, and if in addition other relief works are needed, the local officers should determine whether it is best to undertake, as suggested by the Revenue Commissioner, a causeway across the Tapti, in the vicinity of Bhosawal, with its necessary approaches, or a road from Jalgaum to Amalnair, or whether there is any other suitable work that it would be advisable to carry out in addition to, or in substitution for, either or both the above.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY in the Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, the 3rd October 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, No. A. 7, dated 28th September 1876.—Forwards, for the orders of Government, a letter from the Collector of Násik,

reporting the condition of several points of the Collectorate where crops have failed, and recommends the starting of the following relief works, viz.:—

1. On the Bhawadbari and Suttana Road.
2. The 3rd section of the Bhawadbari and Vinchur Road.
3. Continuation of the road to Lasalgaon or the road between Chandor and Munmar.

States that there are no plans and estimates for the last works (3). Points out that the Executive Engineer, Násik, requires additional establishment to go on with these works, and that there are no local funds balances to appropriate.

The Revenue Commissioner states that he has already supported the Collector's demand for a loan of Rs. 40,000 to enable the works proposed being carried out.

Resolution.—The Acting Collector of Násik should be referred to the instructions already issued with regard to the provision of funds and the prosecution of works. These instructions state clearly that, after the current year's budget credits, and any balances that may not have been budgeted against, are exhausted, Government will grant such other sums as may be clearly necessary to give relief. These grants will be made as advances to local funds, and under these circumstances the advance of Rs. 40,000 asked for, or any other specific sum, is not required.

2. The Superintending Engineer, Northern Division, should ascertain what assistance is required by Lieutenant Hart, and should provide it by transfers from other districts where there is no pressure for relief works, or by entertaining such temporary establishments as may be available.

Resolution by the Government of Bombay in the Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, the 3rd October 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,224, dated 25th September 1876.—Submits a letter, with accompaniments, from the Collector of Dharwar, reporting on the distress prevailing in this district, and expresses his entire concurrence in that officer's view of the necessity to employ the people on useful works of intercommunication as early as possible; and states that it will be seen that the Local Funds Committee will devote all available local funds for expenditure of the kind "in accordance with the budget rules;" but the Collector requests that immediate orders may be given to the Executive Engineer to prepare plans for lining out the provincial road from Hubli to Kaládgi, between Hubli and Kunnur, as the line passes so directly through the length of the very distressed districts of Navalgund and Nargund, as to afford the best relief to the people; and also suggests, in the event of the distress increasing, that the question of the immediate construction of the earth-works of the railway between Bellary and the Kanara frontier be taken into consideration.

Resolution.—The principle to be adopted in respect to relief works is as follows:—

1st.—All possible re-appropriations to be made from the current year's Local Funds Budget items, irrespective of the talukwar restriction; this, on the principle that the district is bound to help its own suffering people to the full extent of its ability, before indenting on the resources of other districts, or parts of India.

2nd. All balances of local funds not yet appropriated, *i.e.*, not yet budgetted against, to be made available.

3rd.—When the current year's budget credits, and the balances not yet budgetted against, have been exhausted, Government will provide such other funds as may be clearly required to afford the necessary relief.

2. The necessary re-appropriation returns, as regards transfers of budget credits, and appropriation returns, as regards unbudgetted balances, for works undertaken under these orders, should be submitted as soon as possible, and, if it is absolutely necessary to undertake any works for which there are no sanctioned estimates, estimates should be submitted to competent authority for sanction as soon as it can be done.

3. In starting relief works it should be borne in mind that the most useful works, as well as those best suited for relief, are road works and tank clearances.

4. In order, as regards road works, that the greatest ultimate benefit may be secured from the measures now to be undertaken, it should also be borne in mind that what are required are railway feeders, branch lines to existing through communication, and roads connecting market towns and centres of producing districts with other market towns, and with distant markets. The local officers should keep in view the necessity of laying out works, as far as may be, so that they may form portions of an efficient system or net-work of roads, that will enable the cultivators to convey their produce with facility to railway lines or trunk roads, and to obtain access to near or distant markets.

5, These orders should be sent to the Revenue Commissioners, Southern Division and Northern Division, and should be held to be generally applicable.

6. As regards the particular case of the Dharwar District, orders should at once be sent to the Executive Engineer to line out and be prepared to commence that portion of the Hubli and Kaládgi Road which lies in the Dharwar District, and the Government of India should be addressed by telegram as regards the commencement of the earth-works of the Bellary and Karwar Railway, should that measure, a last resource, be forced on this Government by the necessity for relieving distress.

Resolution by the Government of Bombay in the Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, the 6th October 1876.

Letter from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,262, dated 27th September 1876.—Forwards correspondence with the Collector of Kaládgi relative to the employment of unexpended balances of the local funds of the Kaládgi District in useful works to be undertaken

in order to furnish employment for the poorer classes during the pressure of the present drought Observes that each work has either a plan and estimate, or will have one, to be sanctioned by competent authority; and solicits sanction to the several works in the statement as under being undertaken in the current year as a debit to the unexpended local funds balances of the district amounting to Rs. 55,097. States that, although sanction is thus desired, a discretion will be exercised in actually carrying out the works, in due regard to their intrinsic utility and the degree of necessity for the employment of local labour.

Description.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.
	Rs.	Rs.
Making a new road from Muddebihal to Alkapur	2,000	—
„ „ Kaládgi to Muddebihal	2,500	—
„ „ Talikoti to Sultanpur	3,000	—
„ „ Bagewari to Nirgundi and Chimalgi	1,500	—
Improving road at entrance to Mamdapur from Kakhandki	500	—
New road from Mulwad to Ukali	500	—
Tank at Katgeri	2,400	—
„ at Amingad	—	1,596
„ on the road from Bagalkot to Sirur	1,575	—
„ at Sunag	—	3,400
„ at Tulchigeri	—	3,131
„ at Manur	—	5,000
Repairs to road from Rugi to Satihal	1,800	—
„ „ Sivangi to Sungthan	1,000	—
„ „ Bijapur to Nagthan	1,000	—
„ „ Bagewari to Kolhar	550	—
„ „ „ to Mangoli	600	—
„ „ „ to Huvinhippargi	200	—
„ „ Indi to Manur	500	—
„ „ „ to Halsangi	800	—
„ „ „ to Marshauhali	800	—
„ „ „ to Tambe	475	—
Contribution to Imperial Establishment	—	1,969
Total	21,700	15,096

Memorandum from the Accountant General No. L. F. 9849, dated 29th September 1876—Reports that the actual balance on 1st April 1876, and the estimated receipts for 1876–77, are correctly given by the Collector and President, Local Funds' Committee, Kaládgi; that he has, however, no means of verifying the estimated unexpended allotments at the close of 1876–77, and the estimated charges for 1876–77 are given by the Collector and President at Rs. 23,512 in excess of the amount originally sanctioned in the budget estimate for the current year, which cannot be accounted for.

Resolution.—The propositions are approved, and sanctioned only in the event of its being absolutely necessary to undertake works of relief; and the total amount, Rs. 36,796, should be taken as an addition to the current year's Local Funds Budget.

2. The arrangement proposed is in accordance with the orders contained in Government Resolution, No. 138 C. W. 709, dated 3rd October 1876, regarding the principle to be adopted in providing funds for relief works.

3. Estimates should be submitted as early as possible for the sanction of competent authority in cases of works for which there are at present no sanctioned plans and estimates.

Resolution by the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, 9th October 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,340, dated 5th October 1876—Submits, for consideration and orders, a letter from the Collector of Sholapur regarding famine relief works in that district. Recommends sanction, as solicited, to the works as under, to carry out which permission has been accorded by Government, through the Secretary in the Public Works Department. States that it is presumed that the requisite plans and estimates have been, or will be, furnished; that no specific arrangement regarding the Pandarpur and Janoni Road has as yet been made by the Collector; that he has consulted the Superintending Engineer with reference to the Barsi and Yedsi Ghât Road recommended by the Collector and the Executive Engineer, and Colonel Finch approves of the proposal; that an estimate for this work, Rs. 1,27,655, as per Government Resolution, No. 620, C. W. 1544, dated 26th August 1875, was submitted for sanction for bridging and metalling, but of this sum Colonel Finch considers that Rs. 30,000 could be spent on road works at the present time. Urges strongly that this grant should be made at once, as it is suited to give employment to the people in the northern part of the Sholapur Collectorate. Adds that he considers, that, whenever any large work is to be constructed within easy reach of a station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, good grain should be imported from the central provinces or Gujrat, where it is cheap, as by this means Government will be able to apply the famine test of paying a portion of wages in grain bought at a moderate rate, and the labourers will be to a great extent saved from the danger of eating grain damaged by age, which is always produced by the storers for sale in a season of scarcity.

	Rs.	Rs.
Pandharpur Taluka.		
Tank at Rahatewari	1,200	
Pandharpur-Poona Road, 14 miles, up to Kuroli	2,500	
Pandharpur-Satara Road *viâ* Bhalani, up to the limit of the taluka, 12 miles	2,400	
Pandharpur-Karar Road, up to the limit of Tisangi Sonke, 9 miles	1,800	
Pandharpur-Mungalvedha Road up to Man, 8 miles	1,600	
Repairs to the road from Toongat to Pandharpur	2,400	
		11,900
Malsiras Taluka.		
Repairs to the tank at Natepute	2,500	
		2,500
Madha Taluka.		
Additional grant for the repairs to the Madha-Shetphal and Madha-Kurduwari Road, Rs. 500 each	1,000	
Mohol and Madha Road, 18 miles	2,500	
Mohol and Penur Road (additional)	600	
		4,100
Kurmala Taluka.		
Tank at Kurmala	2,500	
Road from Kurmala to Niluz	1,200	
Ditto Nimbgaon, 12 miles	2,400	
Nagar Road from Kurmala to Jetegaon (additional)	700	
		6,800
Sholapur Taluka.		
Tooljapur Road, 17 miles	2,500	
Ahirwari Road, 16 miles	2,500	
Dadpur Tank clearance	2,000	
Nandni Tank (additional)	2,500	
		9,500
Grand total		34,800

RESOLUTION.—The famine relief works enumerated in the list submitted by the Revenue Commissioner should be put in hand whenever they are required.

2. The outlay upon them should be carried to a separate head of "Famine Relief Expenditure."

3. The papers should be transferred to the Financial Department, in order that the Accountant General may be directed to afford the Collector the necessary credit to admit of his obtaining funds.

4. Estimates should be submitted for each work as soon as possible, in order that regular and formal sanction may be accorded.

5. The provision under item 37 of the Provincial Budget for the Sholapur and Takli Road, amounting to Rs. 30,000, or so much of it as is still unexpended, should be transferred to the Barsi and Yedsi Road, for which there are sanctioned plans and estimates, the latter work being considered to be of greater service as a famine relief work than the former.

6. The Superintending Engineer should direct the Executive Engineer, in carrying out relief works, to apply the funds at his disposal, as far as possible, to earth-works on which bodies of labourers can be employed, and not upon works of construction, such as drains or bridges, which will only give occupation to a limited number of skilled workpeople.

7. The road from Pandharpur to Janoni may be added to the list of works, the commencement of which is now authorised for famine relief; but this work should not be commenced unless it is clearly needed; estimates should be submitted without delay for sanction.

8. As regards the importation of foreign grain, the proposal is one which should be considered in the General Department. In this department it is observed that transport and railway haulage over long distances will greatly enhance the cost of imported grain, and that the measure is one which does not seem necessary or desirable so long as there is grain locally available. Should it be necessary to start large concentrated famine relief works, on which large numbers of people would be employed, it might be advisable to make arrangements with the Banias and grain-dealers to regulate price and quality of grain, but the difficulty of supplying grain to the people over numerous scattered works by Government agency would be very great, and would render necessary a special machinery.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, the 11th October 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Department No. 5,729, dated 7th October 1876—Transfers a memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 5,082, dated 4th October 1876, forwarding, in continuation of his No. A.-7 of the 28th September 1876, a letter from the Collector of Násik, stating with reference to the amounts available for re-appropriation from items of the current year's budget for the relief works which he has set going on the Niphar and Yeola Road, and on the Kappralla Ghât in Sinnar, that, in concert with Lieutenant Hart, he went very carefully through the budget provisions, and the result is that something within Rs. 3,000 can be diverted from the provisions of the budget of 1876–77 on account of works to be done by Public Works agency, and Rs. 3,388 from works to be done by Civil agency; so that in round numbers he can reappropriate Rs. 6,388 for relief works on the Niphar and Yeola Road, and at

the Kappralla Ghât; but he and Mr. Hart, and his assistants, are agreed that to do so will be detrimental to the scheme of works arranged for 1867–77; that this sum of Rs. 6,388 is not likely to suffice for the two relief works mentioned, and he still thinks it would be best to let the local funds have the loan of Rs. 40,000 he has asked for, and that he has shown how it would be repaid in 1877–78 in proportions fixed for each taluka, and he believes that the concession would do much for the road system of Nâsik Collectorate.

RESOLUTION.—The Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, should be referred to Government Resolution No. 137 C. W.-708, dated 3rd October 1876, which gives the Acting Collector all the authority he is in need of; if he does not, he should state clearly in what difficulty he finds himself.

2. The intention of that resolution was to permit him to anticipate the local funds assets of 1877–78 to the extent absolutely needed for relief works in anticipation of the next year's budget. He should also be referred to clause 3, paragraph 1, of Government Resolution No. 140 C. W.-715 of the 5th October 1876.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, the 12th October 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,230, dated 26th September 1876. With reference to Government Resolution No. 123 C. W.-672, dated 22nd September 1876, submits a letter from the Collector of Poona, reporting that no rain has as yet fallen in the eastern talukas, and applications for assistance are numerous and urgent; stating that he proposes to commence the works which have been sanctioned on the 1st October 1876; the plans and estimates for the works noted—[road from Supa to Baramati, Rs. 10,000; road from Indapur to Nira, passing through Bowra, Rs. 10,000; road from Chandgaon Ferry to Loni, Rs. 3,000; road from Indapur to Sugaon, Rs. 2,000]—having already been prepared, and those for improvements on the roads from Patus to Supa and Patus to Baramati are under preparation; that the two large works, viz., the roads from Supa to Baramati and Indapur to the Nira, will be undertaken by the Executive Engineer, who will be requested to employ every one who is willing to work, and to pay all labourers at least once a week, and the other works will be undertaken by the Mamlatdars, with the assistance of the usual Local Funds Establishment, and that Mr. Macpherson will also proceed into the district early next month to exercise a general supervision in the distressed taluks; that as Government consider that additional road-works should be undertaken in preference to prickly pear clearances, he proposes the two following roads, which he thinks will be found useful:

	Rs.
Bhimthadi Taluka.	
Road from Baramati to Sangni on the Nira - - -	4,800
Indapur Taluka.	
Road from Kalas to Sholapur high road at Kumbhargaon -	3,000

Stating, with reference to the 4th paragraph of the above resolution, that the Local Funds Committee are unable to provide any portion of the funds required for the execution of the proposed works, as the unappropriated local funds balance on the 31st March 1877 is estimated to amount to Rs. 714 only; that the unexpended balance at the close of the year will, no doubt, amount to a much larger sum, but, on the other hand, if large remissions of land revenue have to be given there will be a corresponding falling off in local funds receipts; appending extracts from the Local Funds Budget of Indapur and Bhimthadi, from which it will be seen that there is no possibility of making re-appropriations, that road repairs having already been undertaken as famine works, as reported in his previous letter, and the remaining works consisting chiefly of repairs to wells and dharamsalas, &c., which it would be very false economy to postpone; that the other talukas of the district are in much the same position as Bhimthadi and Indapur, and cannot spare any portion of their local funds for expenditure elsewhere; trusting, therefore, that there will be no difficulty in providing the necessary funds from Imperial or provincial sources

The Revenue Commissioner concurs, except that he thinks it possible a better line from Baramati might be to Moreshwar on the Nira Bridge line, which is more direct for Jejuri and Poona than Supa.

Memorandum from the Superintending Engineer, Central Division, No. 3,364, dated 5th October 1876. Forwards the above, and states that the most advantageous line for the road proposed to be constructed between Baramati and Supa appears to be that indicated in Mr. Havelock's memorandum, viâ Moreshwar, as the road will then follow for a considerable distance the beaten track communicating from Jejuri to Baramati and beyond to Pandharpur, and that he estimates relating to the following roads referred to have been prepared by the Executive Engineer, and submitted through his office to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, for approval and sanction :—

1. Supa to Baramati.
2. Indapur to Nira, passing through Bowra.
3. Indapur to Sugaon.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,353, dated 6th October 1876. With reference to Government Resolution No. 323 C. W.-672, dated 22nd September 1876, and in continuation of his memorandum No. 3,230 of the 26th September 1876, submits, for sanction, a letter from the Superintending Engineer, Central Division, forwarding survey plans with estimates, as follows, prepared by the Executive Engineer, Poona Districts, for constructing certain local roads in that district:

	Rs.
Estimate No. 152, for Baramati and Supa Road - - -	9,503
„ „ 156, for Baramati and Moregaum Road - - -	9,655
„ „ 154, for Indapur and Nira River Road through Bowra -	7,190
„ „ 153, for Sugaon and Indapur Road - - -	2,319

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,357, dated 6th October 1876. Submits a letter from the Collector of Poona, forwarding, with reference to paragraph 6

of his letter No. L. F.-699, dated 25th September 1876, for sanction, an estimate amounting to Rs. 3,000 for making special repairs to the road from Kumbhargaon to Kalas, Taluka Indapur, and requesting early instructions regarding the source from which the cost is to be met.

RESOLUTION.—As these are all local works they are within the competency of the Revenue Commissioner to sanction, and he should sanction them accordingly. He should also issue such orders as he may think fit in regard to the alignment of the road between Baramati and Supa. It seems to be of very little consequence what particular direction the road takes; the chief object in putting the work now in hand is to afford relief, and this object should not be lost sight of while discussions are carried on regarding what is practically a very minor point.

2. As regards the provision of funds, when the local funds resources are exhausted, the requisite means will be found by Government, and the papers should accordingly be transferred to the Financial Department, in order that the Accountant General may be directed to afford the Collector the necessary credit. The expenditure should for the present be carried to a separate head of "Famine Relief Expenditure," to be hereafter adjusted.

No. 5,891, the 16th October 1876.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Revenue Department, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

I am directed by his Excellency the Governor in Council to forward the accompanying copies of the papers noted in the margin, together with copy of this Government Resolution thereon, No. 5,890, dated 16th instant, regarding the measures to be adopted for the relief of the famine-stricken population in the districts of Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur, and to request that this Government may be favoured with the earliest communication of the views of the Government of India on the proposals contained in the Resolution quotod above.

Letter from the Collector of Sholapur, No. 2,321, dated 4th October 1876, to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division.

Demi-official letter from the Collector of Poona, to the Private Secretary to his Excellency the Governor, dated 10th October 1876.

Letter from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, and the Superintending Engineer, Central Division, No. P—1, dated 10th October 1876.

Letter from the Collector of Poona, to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 731, dated 10th October 1876.

2. A copy of this Government letter in the Public Works Department to the address of the Government of India, No. 142, dated 9th instant, is herewith forwarded for ready reference.

No. 2,321, dated the 4th October 1876.

From the ACTING COLLECTOR OF SHOLAPUR to the REVENUE COMMISSIONER, Southern Division, (Poona. *See* pp. 13, 14.)

Poona, 10 October 1876.

Demi-official from the COLLECTOR OF POONA to the PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

The Governor was good enough, yesterday, to ask me to put on paper the result of my observations when at Dhond last Sunday. For the first few miles beyond Poona the crops are still in the ground, but they are rapidly drying up, and, unless rain falls, cannot expect to yield any grain. They are now being cut for forage.

Beyond that distance the country is an absolute desert. Not a blade of grass nor a particle of grain is to be seen anywhere. The rivers and wells are drying up, and the cattle are dying of absolute starvation. The people are looking very thin and ill, and though there have been no deaths from starvation it is very evident that something must speedily be done to alleviate the distress. I have already received sanction to commence works, which will cost about Rs. 40,000, and these will be pushed on as fast as we can get tools and collect labourers. I fear these works alone will not be sufficient even for present requirements. In the course of a month or two other large works must be started, but they will require time and a thorough organization to get under weigh. What is wanted now is immediate assistance, and the only way this can be done is by making a grant of money to local officers to expend as they think best. This may be irregular, but I see no other alternative. I am to day writing officially on the subject, and I hope that my views will meet with the approval of Government. In a crisis like the present it is absolutely necessary to act promptly, and much must be left to local officers. If the famine unfortunately continues through the hot weather, it will be possible to establish a proper organization, but this cannot be done at once, and in the meantime people may die of starvation. If his Excellency desires any further particulars, I shall be ready to wait upon him at any time.

I have just heard of a grain riot at Sirur, owing to the grain dealers suddenly raising their prices. Of course it was promptly suppressed, without damage to person or property. The grain dealers at Sirur are more arbitrary than at other places, because they know they can rely on the Poona Horse for protection. I hope that the municipality there may equalise prices by buying grain wholesale and retailing it at cost price. I shall go to Sirur myself on Sunday for a couple of days to do what I can.

Ahmednagar, 10th October 1876.

From W. H. HAVELOCK, Esq., Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, and Colonel A. W. H. FINCH, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Central Division, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

In accordance with the instructions conveyed in extract of Government Resolution No. A., dated 4th October 1876, we have the honour to report that we have visited the Bhimthari Taluka of the Poona Collectorate, and have passed through a portion of the Ahmednagar Collectorate, from the head-quarters of which we are now writing.

2. The Collectors of Poona and Ahmednagar, Messrs. Norman and Jacomb, met us in conference at Dhond Station on the Great Indian Peninsular Railway.

3. We are about to proceed to the Sholapur Collectorate, but we are already so impressed with the excessive character of the drought in those parts seen by us, and we are so fully convinced from various circumstances, and especially from the communications of the Collector of Sholapur, Mr. Grant, that our visit there will bring before us a still worse and more universally spread calamity, that we should consider ourselves to blame in delaying to lay the very serious nature of he case before Government, and to apply at once for relief works on a large scale.

4. Several works have been already sanctioned by Government for Poona and Sholapur, which the Collectors are, no doubt, utilising until labour on a larger scale can be found.

5. We append a statement framed in consultation with the Acting Collector, Mr. Jacomb, and his Executive Engineer, Major Manson, of works in Ahmednagar partly selected for appropriation of the provincial repair allotment, Central Division, of the year 1876–77, partly as re-appropriations from the local funds, and the remainder as sums for which we trust Government will be able to find provision from Imperial funds.

6. We have also availed ourselves of an interview with Mr. Hallum, Executive Engineer, Railway Survey, to ascertain from him the probable cost of the earth-work in cutting embankments, &c. on the projected State railway between Dhond and Munmar, and we append a separate memorandum of particulars. The estimated cost of that portion of which the survey has been completed, viz., 47 miles from Dhond to Ahmednagar, is six lakhs. We recommend this work being immediately commenced, as the only present available means of meeting the influx of labourers, who, according to the best information we can obtain, are in the east of Poona, in the greater part of Ahmednagar, and the whole of Sholapur, in enforced idleness on account of the absence of harvest, and clamorous for employment.

7. We regret to add that the very general entire failure of the kharif or early crops in the area mentioned, and the almost hopeless prospect of the rabi or later crops, are throwing on the hands of the authorities many thousands of cultivators who do not ordinarily work for labour. The rise in prices has also caused deprivation and discontent among the common people of the towns.

8. The Collectors of the three districts above named have been requested to furnish an estimate of the number of the population who may in all likelihood be thrown on the hands of Government to find labour for their support. The preparation of the estimate will probably take a little time, but for the two talukas of Bhimthari and Indápur alone, which are the worst in the Poona District, the numbers are roughly estimated at not much less than 40,000, and they may be in excess of that estimate. Unless there should be within a few days a good fall of rain to give hope of the late or rabi crops, which cannot be expected, the numbers of destitute will certainly increase, and we are prepared to find the Sholapur District alone requiring provision for a much larger crowd of human beings, who will shortly have no means of subsistence, except that provided by Government.

9. With this prospect before us we have turned attention to the inquiry when the survey of the section of the projected State railway beyond Ahmednagar will be sufficiently prepared to commence operations. We have been neutrally informed that this can be done in two months, with certain additional assistance ; this section is 86 miles in length, making a total of 133 miles, and it is understood the cost of the works on which the population can be employed with advantage may be taken, inclusive of Mr. Hallum's estimate given above, at about 15 lakhs. As places better suited in regard to water supply than others for the location of large gangs of workmen we have ascertained that Dhond, Balaundi, and Ahmednagar should be selected. The Collector of Ahmednagar has, we understand from him, turned his attention to the appropriation of land for the line for which the present moment ought to be particularly favourable. Smaller gangs can be detached along the line.

10. Colonel Finch is making inquiry as regards a supply of suitable tools.

11. We hear on all sides of the great and sudden rise in prices of the staple grains. This is only what might be expected, and is in the prospect of increased scarcity to a certain extent beneficial as tending to diminish consumption. But one of the results is to throw a large supply of damaged grain into the market, which is reserved for consumption in seasons of scarcity.

This is also a beneficial provision, because it is better that a man, woman, or child, should get bad grain than none at all. But sanitation ought to be considered in a large assemblage of workpeople. Disease is likely to follow the eating of bad grain, and it appears to us that Government should either allow contracts with responsible dealers to supply approved grain at specified points, at the weekly advertised rates of the head-quarter station, to all who are willing to buy, giving a "bonus" in consideration of the risk of the undertaking, or that Government should purchase large stores of good grain where it may be cheap, and import for distribution in payment or part payment. We prefer the former course, because interfering less with the markets, and saving most of the cost of establishment, which might be limited to a few inspecting officers.

12. There is a project of which the plans and estimates have been prepared and favourably regarded by the late Superintending Engineer, Central Division, Colonel Bell, but for which funds would probably not in ordinary course be provided for some time. This is the Malse Ghât, which is already tested by a trace of six feet in width throughout its length. It would open out Ahmednagar and the talukas north and east, and a portion of Poona in the direction of Bombay *viâ* Kallian. This is a work well suited for the employment of large gangs of labourers, and the only extensive work in the Poona Collectorate which we could at present bring forward with confidence. The approaches to it have already been in a measure opened out by the Local Fund Committees of Ahmednagar and Poona, and we understand that provision for a road to meet the foot of the Ghât in the Konkan is undertaken jointly by the Forest Department and the Tanna Local Fund Committee.

13. We desire this project to be considered as one of local importance, for which, with necessary improvements of the approaches on the Deccan side, we would recommend grant of one lakh of rupees. Bearing in mind the indispensable requirement of water supply for large numbers of labourers, we have made our recommendation on the assumption that the streams on the Konkan side of the Ghâts are in their ordinary state of refreshment from the rainfall of the past monsoon.

I.

STATEMENT of proposed EXPENDITURE on Famine Relief Works in the Ahmednagar District.

ALLOTMENTS AT PRESENT AVAILABLE.

	Rs.	Rs.
Bári Ghât Road	5,000	
Repairs, provincial roads	20,000	
Re-appropriations of grants under Collector	5,000	
		30,000

PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.

Road from Bári Ghât to Sangamner and Kolhar	12,000	
„ „ Kardeh to Kashti	16,000	
Railway-feeder, Deksal to Rasin and Karjat	10,000	
Subsidiary works under Collector	10,000	
Improvements to existing local fund roads — Ahmednagar to Karmala, Ahmednagar to Anna Ghât, Kolhar to Nándur	10,000	
		58,000
Total		88,000

II.

MEMORANDUM of APPROXIMATE COST of earth-work and ballast in proposed line of Railway from Dhond to Ahmednagar and Munmar.

Section from Dhond to Ahmednagar, 47 miles. Survey completed and quantities of embankment and cutting taken out in statement furnished by Mr. Hallum, Executive Engineer in charge of Railway Survey	6,00,000
Section from Ahmednagar to Munmar, 86 miles. Survey incomplete	9,00,000
Total	15,00,000

A. W. H. FINCH, Colonel, R.E.,
Acting Superintendent Engineer, Central Division.

No. 731, 10th October 1876.

From the ACTING COLLECTOR OF POONA to the REVENUE COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN DIVISION.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3364C., dated 7th instant, with accompaniment, to which I hasten to reply. The remarks of my assistants, to whom your letter will be at once sent, I propose to forward hereafter.

2. I will reply to your queries in the order in which they have been put in your letter.

A.—What number of people may eventually be dependent on Government for support should the drought continue?

At present the talukas chiefly affected are Bhimthari, Indápur, the eastern parts of Sirur, Khed and Junnar. To a slight extent Haveli and Purandar are also likely to suffer. At present I have not reason to suppose that Mawal will suffer to any great extent, though, if no rain falls, the crops will be below the average.

The population in the affected area is as follows:—

Taluka.	Population.	Affected.	Population.
Bhimthari	115,297	the whole	115,297
Indápur	62,392	the whole	62,392
Sirur	76,984	one-half	38,492
Khed	139,152	one-fourth	34,788
Purandar	75,732	one-sixth	12,622
Haveli	155,082	one-eighth	19,385
Junnar	106,876	one-third	35,625
Total			318,601

I calculate that the whole population of the affected area will never be dependent on Government for supplies of food. Many have already emigrated and more will follow. Deduction must also be made for traders, those who are well off, very young children, and the like. I therefore take one-fifth of the total population as the possible number of persons who may eventually have to be provided for. This gives a total of 63,720 souls. A labourer cannot be supported on less than four rupees a month, which would give a monthly expenditure of Rs. 2,54,880. Suppose the famine to last for six months, an expenditure will therefore be required amounting to Rs. 15,29,280.

Grain is now selling at nine seers the rupee; if that price be maintained, and the labourer be paid in grain instead of money, at the rate of one seer per man a day, the expenditure will amount in round numbers to Rs. 12,74,400.

I believe the above estimate is the very outside of the amount that may possibly be required. It must take time to organize an establishment sufficiently large to expend so large a sum, and even if my worst anticipations are realized, I do not expect that 63,720 will immediately become dependent on Government for food.

B.—What is the best organization for a work on a large scale?

I am of opinion that a large work such as a long line of road thould be cut up into sections, each section under a European officer. The labourers should be arranged in gangs according to villages, so that the whereabouts of every man might be ascertained at once. Under these circumstances men and women might be allowed to work together. Sub-contracts might eventually be instituted, but not at first. Able-bodied men should have the hard work to do. Grain stores might be established, and the labourer given the option of being paid either in food or money.

C.—Should a portion of those seeking work be employed on minor operations in various parts of the country in preference to being collected on large works?

I am strongly of opinion that as many small works should be undertaken as possible. I much fear that the collection of large numbers of people in localities where they must live in great discomfort, and without shelter, may lead to the outbreak of disease, which it would be difficult to combat.

3. I have already recommended the immediate commencement of work in Indápur and Bhimthari, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 40,000; these are now being taken in hand. Of larger works I would beg to recommend the following:—

1st. The construction of the earth-works of the proposed railway from Dhond to Manmar.

This will relieve the northern part of Bhimthari and the eastern part of Sirur and Khed.

2nd. The immediate extension of the Karakwasla Canal towards Patas, which will give employment in the worst parts of Haveli and Bhimthari.

3rd.—The improvement of the road from Ana to the head of the Malsef Ghât, and the eventual construction of the Ghât Road.

This will relieve the people of Junnar and part of the Nagar Zillar.

4. I do not anticipate very great distress in the western part of Khed, but Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 30,000 laid out in opening out the road to Bhimashankar would afford great relief to the villages on the Ghâts, and would tend to keep the hillmen quiet, who are apt to be very turbulent in times of scarcity.

5. With regard to minor works, I hope to be in a position to make further recommendations in the course of a short time. There are a few tanks which it might be advisable to clear out, and some short lines of roads which should be constructed. The work of all others which I consider best adapted for the purposes of relief is the clearance of prickly pear. This work could be carried on independently at each village. The workpeople would live in comparative comfort. They could utilize their own tools, and from a sanitary point of view the benefit to many villages would be incalculable. It is true there would not be much to show for the money spent, but the land thus reclaimed would be available for cultivation, and in many cases would realize a considerable sum. I believe this work would be more easily supervised than most others, and it would certainly be more popular, because it would not take people away from their villages. Should Government be willing to modify their opinion with regard to this class of work, I shall be prepared in a short time to submit definite proposals as to the amount which could advantageously be expended in each village.

6. Should it eventually prove necessary to establish stores of grain, I propose to utilize the dharmshalas at Khetgaon, Patas, Dhond, and Diksal as depôts. Each is large enough to contain a considerable store of grain, and all are connected by good roads with the most famine-stricken parts of the district.

The 9th October 1876.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department.

With reference to the telegrams noted in the margin, regarding the distress now prevailing in some of the eastern districts of this Presidency in consequence of the failure of the monsoon, I am directed to forward, for the information and consideration of the Government of India, a copy of a letter received from the Collector of Sholapur, which describes the very serious state of matters with which this Government have now to deal in the Sholapur districts.

Telegram, Works, Bombay, to Works, Simla, dated 29th September.
Telegram, Governor, Bombay, to Works, Simla, dated 3rd October.
Telegram, Works, Simla, to Works, Bombay, dated 3rd October.
Telegram, Commerce, Simla, to Works, Bombay, dated 4th October,

2. Returns similar in tenor have been and are being received from the districts of Násik, Khandesh, Ahmednagar, Poona, Kaládgi, and Dharwar, and

it may be said that the whole of the eastern parts of the Deccan and the southern Mahratta country are threatened with a serious famine. In the parts affected nearly the whole of the monsoon crops have perished, and there have been no later rains to admit sewing of the rabi.

3. His Excellency in Council has directed the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, and the Superintending Engineer, Central Division, at once to proceed to the affected districts to obtain the most reliable and the most recent information as to the condition of the country, and to be in a position to suggest to Government the best measures available for meeting the emergency which has arisen. On the receipt of the report of these officers, a copy of it will be immediately placed before the Government of India; in the meantime in all the districts affected this Government have authorised the immediate commencement of the works which are best calculated to afford relief, and for which projects superintendence and funds are available.

4. These works have hitherto afforded some measure of relief, and may do so for a short time longer; but it is apparent that efforts on a larger and more extended scale must very shortly be made if extreme distress and even disaster is to be averted.

5. His Excellency in Council, I am desired to say, is awaiting the receipt of a letter from the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, dated 29th September, of the despatch of which he has been advised in the telegram last quoted above, in which he understands he is to receive instructions as regards the provision of funds for famine relief works, and in respect to the incidence of the charge for such works. Some considerable outlay of Imperial money will, no doubt, be necessary, but his Excellency in Council, I am desired to say, believes that, if confidence be placed in this Government, all that is needed may be done without extravagant or lavish expenditure of public money, and without and great ultimate loss or waste.

Accompaniments to this letter,—

(1.) Letter from the Collector of Sholapur, No. 2321, dated 4th October 1876.

(2.) Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3340, dated 5th October 1876.

No. 5,890.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY in the REVENUE DEPARTMENT, dated 16th October 1876.

RESOLUTION.—On the reports received from different districts, Government have from time to time, during the last six weeks, issued orders for minor works calculated to relieve the distressed in those districts of the Presidency where the failure of the monsoon rains has caused the destruction of the crops, and deprived the agricultural population of their ordinary means of earning a subsistance. But from the information now being received, it is evident that the distress is of a wider and more serious character than was at first anticipated; and Government are therefore called upon to determine and make known the plan of operations which they will propose to the Government of India for meeting the great calamity which is impending over a very large portion of this Presidency.

2. The districts with which the Government are best enabled to deal immediately are Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur. They form but a part only of the tract to which relief on a large scale must be afforded; but the principles applied to them will generally govern all the rest.

3. The Collector of Sholapur, in his letter of the 4th October, reports "there is now no part of "the district in which the condition of the mass of the people is not most deplorable; and as "there is no prospect of any crop whatever throughout by far the greater portion of the "Collectorate, there can be no doubt that a scarcity amounting to famine must be the result." The Collector of Poonah, writing on the 10th instant, says: "For the first few miles beyond "Poona the crops are still in the ground, but they are rapidly drying up, and unless rain falls "cannot expect to yield any grain. They are now being cut for forage. Beyond that distance, "the country is an absolute desert, not a blade of grass nor a particle of grain is to be seen "anywhere. The rivers and wells are drying up, and the cattle are dying of absolute starva-"tion. The people are looking very thin and ill, and though there have been no deaths from "starvation, it is very evident that something must speedily be done to alleviate the distress." The Revenue Commissioner and the Superintending Engineer, who had been specially ordered out by Government to report on the distressed districts, writing from Ahmednagar on the 10th instant, after passing through the Bhimthari Taluka of the Poona District, report: "We are "about to proceed to the Sholapur Collectorate; but we are already so impressed with the "excessive character of the drought in those parts seen by us, and we are so fully convinced "from various circumstances, and especially from the communications of the Collector of "Sholapur, Mr. Grant, that our visit there will bring before us a still worse and more universally "spread calamity, that we should consider ourselves to blame in delaying to lay the very serious "nature of the case before Government, and to apply at once for relief works on a large scale."

4. The Collector of Poona, in a letter to the Revenue Commissioner of the 10th instant, estimates the population of those talukas which are more or less affected at 318,601. The last census gives that of Ahmednagar as 773,938, and that of Sholapur as 662,986. The total population of the districts for which Government is now endeavouring to make immediate provision, amounts to about one million and three-quarters. The Collector of Poona estimates the number of those that must be kept alive by Government at one-fifth, or over sixty-threee thousand. There is little reason to believe that the proportion of the destitute in Ahmednagar will be less than that of the worst talukas of Poona. While in the case of Sholapur the Collector calculates that the cultivating classes and others, such as the Mhars, Mhangs, and Ramosis, will be without food or provision for themselves, their families, and cattle for the next twelve

months, and unable to procure the barest necessaries of life without the assistance of Government.

5. It is evident that all calculations on this head must be attended with great uncertainty; but bearing in mind that the Government of India in their Despatch to the Secretary of State of the 30th January 1874, in commenting on the Bengal famine, assumed that one-tenth of the population might require relief, it seems reasonable to frame our estimate on a medium between that rate and that of the Collector of Poona, viz., one-eighth, or say two lakhs and a quarter.

6. The Collector of Poona supposes the famine may last six months. The Collector of Sholapur contemplates twelve months. It will probably be better to reckon on eight months from the 1st November, that is, up to the end of June, by which time it may be hoped that the monsoon rains of 1877 will enable the agricultural population to resume their ordinary avocations.

7. Assuming, again, that each person will require, on an average, one pound of grain per diem, and that 18 lbs. or 9 seers can be purchased for one rupee, the following will be the general result:—

$$219{,}440 \times 240 \div 18 = \text{Rs. } 29{,}25{,}866$$

or say 30 lakhs of rupees.

8. Such being the magnitude of the undertaking with which the Government are called upon immediately to deal, and which they much fear will form but a moderate proportion of the whole burden, they think it desirable to make known the mode of action they will recommend to the Government of India.

9. His Excellency in Council is clearly of opinion that in all cases in which, with due regard to sanitation and other local circumstances, it may be found practicable, it will be far more convenient, and in the end far more economical, to select for relief works those of considerable magnitude, which have been well examined and approved, though unavoidably postponed, on which the labour of large bodies of men can be advantageously concentrated. There may be cases in which it may be necessary to have recourse to isolated works of a trifling nature; but these should, as far as possible, form the exceptions.

10. All payments for labour employed on relief works should be paid for either in money or in grain; the officers directing the works should take no part in the provision of food.

11. Government earnestly desire to abstain from making any purchases of grain in the general market. They will only have recourse to such a step in cases where there is no supply, or where they are satisfied that the prices demanded by the dealers are extortionate and cruel, and they trust they may not be disappointed in the hope that no such necessity will arise.

12. In every case, therefore, in which it may be found necessary to undertake large relief works, the Government will, by public advertisement, invite tenders for contracts for the supply of grain to the labourers employed, at certain rates, for a term certain, at such places as may be found convenient.

13. In those cases in which the Government may be obliged to supply food to people unable to work, or to those employed on small works to which no contractors may be attached, the grain will be purchased, as far as practicable, at the contract price from the nearest contractor.

14. Government do not lose sight of the fact that, under this system, the price to be paid for grain may be high; but they believe that this may be counterbalanced by their being relieved of the obligation to provide stores and establishments for the charge and distribution of the grain, and above all by escaping the risk of accumulating supplies which may prove in the end to exceed the actual requirements.

15. His Excellency in Council has sent the following message by telegraph to the Government of India in the Revenue Department: "There has been a long discussion in Council on the "measures to be adopted for the relief of the distressed population. The reports are exceedingly "bad. All will be forwarded immediately. The small works spoken of in your letter of the "29th have been sanctioned and are nearly done. We are unanimously of opinion that the "work on the Dhond and Munmar Railway must be commenced at once. If there is not heavy "rain in the course of a few days, the state of affairs will be most serious, and we must be free "to deal with them at once. Local resources are virtually exhausted, and we have been compelled to day, as a temporary expedient, to authorise each of the Collectors of Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur to expend Rs. 25,000 for preserving the lives of those who may be too "infirm to work or too poor to buy, as well as for the payment of any employed on trifling local "works."

16. This Government have issued instructions for resuming work on the Mutha Canal, which will afford useful employment to the people of the Poona Collectorate.

17. The works enumerated in the statement No. I. attached to the letter from the Revenue Commissioner and Superintending Engineer should be sanctioned in the Public Works Department, and should be proceeded with at once.

18. His Excellency in Council abstains on this occasion from any discussion on the incidence of the cost of the contemplated operations, to which allusion is made in the letter from the Government of India of the 29th September last. By a letter from this Government, of the 7th June last, the Government of India were made acquainted with their views on the subject. The measures adopted in Bengal have established the principle that the people must be kept alive, and it is manifestly impossible to postpone affording relief until the ultimate incidence of the cost has been arranged.

19. Copies of this resolution, and of the reports on which it is founded, should be immediately transmitted to the Government of India, with a request for the earliest communication of their views on the proposals submitted.

No. 5,953, 19th October 1876.

From the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenues, Agriculture, and Commerce.

In continuation of my letter No. 5,891, dated 16th instant, I am directed by his Excellency the Governor in Council to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying copies of the papers noted in the margin, regarding the distress prevailing in the Satara and Dharwar Collectorates of this Presidency, and the measures adopted in consequence.

Letter from the Collector of Satara to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 4,347, dated 10th October 1876, with accompaniments.
Endorsement by the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, on the above, No. 3,440, dated 13th October 1876.
Government Resolution, No. 5,907, dated 17th October 1876.
Letter from the Collector of Dharwar, No. 3,076A., dated 7th October 1876, with accompaniments.
Endorsement by the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, on the above, No. 3,441, dated 13th October 1876.
Government Resolution, No. 5,906, dated 17th October 1876.

2. I am desired at the same time to transmit the accompanying copies of the Resolutions of this Government in the Public Works Department, Nos. 142 C. W.–718 and 144 C. W.–725, dated respectively the 9th and 12th instant, as also a copy of the Resolution of Government in the Financial Department, No. 4,256, dated 16th idem, instructing the Accountant General to debit all charges on account of the famine to a separate head "Famine Relief Expenditure."

No. 903, 3rd October, 1876.

From Khan Saheb Meherjibhai Kuvarji, Subordinate Judge, Tasgaon, to the Collector and Magistrate, Satara.

Though it is no part of my duty, I consider myself bound, as a public servant, to bring to your notice the following few circumstances, which my own experience and personal inquiry have enabled me to ascertain, relating to the very great suffering of the cultivating and other poor population of this large town, and the other villages of this taluka within the jurisdiction of my court, on account of want of rain this year.

It is quite justifiable to say that the little rain that fell here and there throughout the whole season was really speaking equal to no rain to produce any crops. I have been in this place since the beginning of the rainy season, and am therefore able to lay before you circumstances attending the fall of rain from the commencement. In a very few places of the taluka it fell at the commencement of the season (about the 7th or 8th June), and in other places about a month and a half after (*i.e.*, about the 26th of July). But this downpour was only sufficient for the purpose of sowing seeds in the fields. At this time most of the fields (for there are a few fields which are not sown up to this time) were sown. The rain almost entirely stopped after this, except a few momentary showers here and there, which fell at great intervals, and to no advantage to the crops. The seeds grew up as long as there was moisture in the fields, and no sooner they were dry than the growth of the crops were stopped. The consequence is, that at this time, when the crops ought to be in their full height, and healthy, and prosperous state, with ears of corn over them, they are hardly more than a foot high from the ground, and in a ruinous and dry state, with not a particle of grain over them.

Such being the state of crops the people are exceedingly alarmed; every person dreams of a famine. The grain bazaar is getting dearer and dearer every day. There are two bazaar days in this town, Monday and Thursday. On Thursday before last the rate of grain was suddenly reduced by the merchants from 3 to 2 "pailis" for the rupee. And even at this dear rate many persons were unable to get any grain in the bazaar. I had to assemble all the grain merchants in one place and persuade them to have mercy on the poor sufferers, and not to mind much about their profits. The consequence is that the same rate is retained for the last three bazaars, and the practice of the merchants of this place of buying in lump the grain that come from out-stations and then selling it in retail on profits has been discontinued for a time, to enable the poor to buy it from the out-station merchants directly at a cheaper rate. But I humbly submit that if the state of rain remains the same the bazaar will not retain its present state for many days.

It is a well-known thing in this part of the country that cultivators have no grain in store for their own provision. They produce grain, but they go to their Soucars no sooner they are ready, and almost immediately after the harvest time they are obliged to borrow either money or grain for their own support. But at this time the lenders have stopped all transactions with their customers, either in cash or grain, because they have no hope of recovering anything at the next harvest time. The same is the case with the other labouring class who are not cultivators, as every man has stopped his private works. The labourers are ready to work for the whole day for a paltry wage of 1½ annas, or even less, but they are unable to find employers. The result is that the above two classes of people have become quite supportless. They are quite unable to support themselves and their families. It is horrible to describe how many cattle they have lost. Many are obliged to abandon their cattle for being unable to feed them. For the last one week I have been hearing of instances in which people are actually starving; some living on vegetable only. Many people have become desperate, and it has therefore become a dangerous thing for a man to go from one place to another without apprehending the danger of being plundered on the road. The other day a witness who appeared to give evidence before me complained of his being plundered by two men and deprived of the only two breads he had for himself. Many such instances have come to my knowledge, and I have taken the utmost care to see that the statements are not exaggerated.

Since the 25th of the last month there has almost every day been every sign of a heavy rain. In some places there were actually some downpours, but they were too slight to be of

any use to the crops. There were two successive downpours at this place on the 26th and 27th ultimo, but each did not last for more than 10 minutes, and was to no advantage to the standing crops at all. It is said that if sufficient rain falls within the next eight or ten days, the crops in the best soil which are not quite dry will yield one-fourth part of their usual produce. But if it does not fall within the above time, then it is beyond all hopes to get anything out of the crops that are standing now. If it falls within a fortnight or so, it will be useful only for the rabi crops, the advantage of which is not to be derived before the month of April or May of 1877.

I have been able to ascertain that very few people of this taluka have some grain in store, but they apprehend famine, and are therefore unwilling to take it out for sale. The other day a Marwari took a certain amount of grain out of his store, and no sooner the Mohars and Mangs heard of it than they came in multitude of about 50 to demand grain from him. At last he was obliged to give them some (of course gratis), lest they would commit mischief and other outrages. I myself have heard many a people cry for food. Some say they are starving for two days, some for three days. If the children are fed the parents must starve.

Such is the condition of the people of this taluka, particularly the cultivators and labouring class of people. The long and short of it is, that they have neither grain nor money to buy any with, and though they are willing to work for a trifling wage there is nobody to employ them. Unless, therefore, some prompt measure be immediately taken by Government to relieve the sufferers from starvation their condition will be too hard to endure.

I am sorry to say that I have not the advantage of going round in the taluka, otherwise I would have made this report earlier. Still, whatever I have stated above is not without inquiry and satisfying myself as to its truthfulness. I have just ascertained from some merchants of this place that what grain they and other merchants have in store in the taluka is hardly enough to last for a month if freely exposed to sale. They are willing to get grain from distant parts of the country, but they are discouraged to do so on account of the dangerous state of the roads in these days.

I need hardly suggest what measure should be adopted, but if public works be commenced to enable the labouring classes to earn their livelihood, and arrangements made for the safety of grain in transit, the evil will be remedied to a great degree.

Hoping to be excused for the lengthy report.

No. 920, 8th October 1876.

From Khan Saheb Meherjibhai Kuvarji, Subordinate Judge, Tasgaon, to the Collector and Magistrate, Satara.

With reference to my letter, No. 903, of the 4th instant, I have the honour to state that on the 5th instant, at about 2 p.m., a multitude of about 60 persons (men and children) of the village of Nimblak came to me while I was engaged in court and complained that they have been all starving, that the merchants of their village who have some grain in store have positively declined to lend them any. They further said that some of the villagers have already become deserters and gone to different directions, and the remaining have made up their minds to go wherever they like and do whatever their present condition would dictate them to do, unless the Sirkar would make some immediate handobast.

Yesterday morning also some 25 men of the village of Erandole came and complained about the same things as above stated. They say that their calamity has reached to such a height that they cannot suffer any longer; that they cannot see their children starve before their faces, and that the last thing that remains for them to do would be to throw their children into wells, and then do whatever they would be compelled to do under the present hard circumstances.

Such are the circumstances which I consider it my duty to bring to your honour's notice.

I beg humbly to submit that this place being the sadr station of the taluka, the suffering class of the people can have every excuse for coming here in a large number for the purpose of asking for relief from the Sirkar, and it is not therefore unlikely that they may commit some outrages. The police force here is comparatively too small to confront any such attempt from the desperate people. Several minor thefts and house-breakings have already been committed for the last few days. Mangs and Mohars are occasionally seen wandering in the town at unusual hours, and when they are asked the reason of doing so, they plainly say that they are starving, and so wandering for bread.

While I was writing the above, about 60 men of the village of Visapur came and complained about the same thing. It has now become a difficult thing to console such people.

It has been reported to the Chief Constable that several persons have very severely assaulted a Wani merchant of Visapur yesterday in daytime for refusing to give them grain.

Since my last report there has not been a single drop of rain, and the crops are therefore in a worse condition than before.

I have hastened to make this second report to-day, though Sunday, as I consider that such things as the above should be brought to your honour's notice without delay.

No. 4,342, 10th October 1876.

From Acting Collector and Magistrate, Satara, to the First, Second, and Extra Second Assistant and Deputy Collectors.

Judging from reports arriving from the districts, it appears to me that there is every chance of grain riots if some special measures are not adopted to provide the poorer classes with grain; that there is no scarcity of that article I fully believe, but evidently it is not available to the public. I have addressed Government on the subject of importing grain from Bombay, but a fortnight or more may elapse before it arrives, and meanwhile our position will be considerably worse.

2. I have written to the several municipalities in the district to suspend the duty on grain, and I have also written to Mamlatdars and others to use their influence with those who have granaries

to sell their grain to the people; but reports received to-day, especially from Tasgaon, are so distressing, that active measures must be adopted.

3. After giving the subject much anxious and serious consideration, I have come to the conclusion that we must compel those who have granaries to open them for the use of the poor. This may appear at first sight a harsh measure, and certainly it interferes with the right in private property; but I believe that the end justifies the means, and that it would simply be culpable on our part if we sit with folded hands.

4. You are now in your districts, and you will be able to judge for yourself what the real state of the poorer classes is. If it is as bad as represented, I authorise you to assemble the people who are holding back their grain, and to point out to them that if they wish to prevent serious disturbances, resulting most probably in great injury and loss to themselves and their property, they should at once place their granaries at our disposal for distribution to the starving poor. If they refuse I authorise you to take possession of the granaries, and after, with the assistance of a panchayat, fixing a fair and just valuation, to distribute it as you think fit, either by sale to those who can afford to buy, or as wages in return for labour to those who cannot afford to buy.

5. As regards the particular works on which unskilled labour can most effectively be employed, I must leave much to your discretion. I will, by the next post, send you a copy of a letter addressed by me to the Revenue Commissioner on the 7th instant, and I would add, I think, pending the sanction which I have solicited to the commencement of important water schemes, you cannot inaugurate any more useful work than digging large and deep pits or trenches on the roadsides for tree-planting and filling them up half with prickly pear and half with soil. We shall thus eradicate prickly pear, secure good pits and trenches for our roadside trees, and give really useful and profitable employment to a starving and discontented population.

6. You should, where necessary, establish about four centres in each taluka, so as to prevent the people from all congregating in one particular part.

7. I fully depend upon your good sense and zeal in carrying out these instructions, and you may, in turn, rely upon my support in strengthening your hands to the best of my power.

8. I have asked the District Superintendent of Police to place aid at your disposal in carrying out these instructions.

No. 4,347, 10th October 1876.

From the Acting Collector and Magistrate, Satara, to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division.

The translations of petitions which I sent you to-day for perusal will have given you some idea of the state of these districts. I have now the honour to forward copies of two communications received from the Subordinate Judge at Tasgaon, which show that it is high time to take active measures in order to prevent the suffering poor from taking the law into their own hands.

2. The present state of affairs is clearly the result of a panic. There is, I believe, a good deal of grain in the district; but the khariff crop has failed in the east, and the continuous drought causes apprehension for the safety of the crops which have hitherto thriven and for the sowing of the rabi, and therefore those who have grain in their possession are holding it back in the hope of making a harvest.

3. But be the cause what it may, it is a fact that grain is not procurable in many places, and, as in Tasgaon the poorer classes are in desperation assuming a threatening attitude.

4. The outcry is not confined to Khatan and Man, where the crops have, we may say, failed altogether, or to Tasgaon and Khandpur, where they have suffered much; but, even in Satara and in the most fertile taluka of this Collectorate, Wahva, the poor cannot procure grain.

5. In Satara some of the respectable and most liberal-minded traders, led by Shet Durgaram, have sent money into Poona in order to import grain to sell it at cost price, including the transit charges; and the arrival of some of this grain, coupled with the temporary suspension of the municipal duty on that article, has already afforded some relief in this city; and although I have recommended the suspension of the grain duty in other municipalities, I find on calculation that it will be impossible to import grain from Poona to the east and south-east of this district and to sell it except at a high rate. I also feel that if I wait until I can make arrangements for importing grain at any price to those parts of the district much delay must occur, and that meanwhile the starving people will probably be driven to violent and lawless measures; and I have therefore assumed the responsibility of issuing instructions to the officers in charge of districts to compel such people as have granaries to place them at our disposal as the only means of affording immediate relief.

6. I append a copy of the instructions which I have issued, and I trust that Government will hold me excused for acting illegally in consideration of the urgency of the case. You will observe that I have directed my assistants in the first place to adopt persuasion, and in case of failure only to assert their authority.

7. We have, it appears to me, the choice of two evils—either to stand idly by and to see the houses and property of the merchants robbed and destroyed, or to put the law on one side, and take possession of their grain at a fair valuation, and to distribute it to the poor. In the former case the greatest mischief and trouble to all concerned will result, and in the latter the owners of grain will receive a fair profit for their goods, and their houses and other property will be safe, while the wants of the poor will be supplied until we can import grain. Taking this view of the case (the only view in which I can possibly regard it), I trust that I may be held justified in adopting the measures which I have taken.

8. Such measures can, however, only afford temporary relief, and I have now to request that Government will be so good as to make arrangements for sending grain from Bombay to Chiplun, in order to meet the pressing wants of the distant parts of these districts. I will make arrangements with the Collector of Ratnagiri to have it sent up the Kumbharli Ghât to Karad, from which place I can send it where it is required.

9. I am sorry to trouble Government in this matter, and to ask them to make these arrangements for me, but I know not to whom to apply in Bombay, and, as delay in making references may prove fatal, I trust this requisition may be complied with at once, and that I may receive an intimation to that effect. I might, it is true, procure grain from Poona, but from inquiries personally instituted in the city I find that it will be cheaper to import grain viâ Chiplun to the south and south-east of the district.

10. A cart is supposed to carry 6 maunds of grain. Cart hire from Poona to Satara is Rs. 7; the distance to Tasgaon is double that from Poona to Satara, so we will put that down at Rs. 14, plus the price of grain, including extra charges, Rs. 43, *i.e.*, Rs. 7 per maund, and Re 1 for extras; Rs. 57 for 6 maunds from Poona to Tasgaon.

11. By Chiplun the following would be the calculation:

	R.	A.	P.
Water carriage for 6 maunds from Bombay to Chiplun -	1	2	0
Cart hire from Chiplun to Tasgaon - - - -	8	0	0
Price of grain - - - - - -	42	0	0
Total -	51	2	0

or Rs. 5·84 less per cart-load.

12. As a commencement, I think grain worth Rs. 5,000 will suffice, and I will regularly report progress.

13. There is no prospect of rain at present, although it is anxiously expected. If rain falls prices will fall, and there will be hope for a rabi crop; but the season for sowing rabi has already far advanced, and if rain is withheld great despondency will succeed the present anxiety.

14. You will be glad to hear that the temporary suspension of the municipal tax on grain has already had its effects. Private traders are bringing in grain and selling it at a fair price to the public. I was at the bazaar this morning when they were commencing to sell at 8 seers per rupee. I have had a good deal of conversation with the merchants of this city lately, and I must say the disposition is to help the poor; they wish to make a little profit and to sell grain to the people at cheap rates. As far as Satara is concerned, I think we have secured a fair supply of grain now, and I can also feed Khandala, Koregaon, Wai Janli, Khatan, and Man from Poona; but it is for the distant talukas that I wish to import grain, as they have not the same facilities as we have at Satara.

No. 3,440, 13th October 1876.

MEMORANDUM by the REVENUE COMMISSIONER, Southern Division.

Submitted to Government.

2. As the Collector explains in his 9th paragraph that he has a difficulty in applying to agents for grain in Bombay, the Revenue Commissioner respectfully supports the request in paragraph 12, that Rs. 5,000 worth of grain* should be supplied viâ Chiplun for distribution as wages or part wages to labourers, or to be otherwise applied at the Collector's discretion; the value to be accounted for. The amount, however, appears inadequate.

* The Collector does not specify the kind. Jawari would be preferable, but if not obtainable at moderate price, then bajri would be taken. That grain is just now very cheap in Gujrat.

3. The Revenue Commissioner regrets that he cannot add his approval of the measure reported by the Collector of "issuing instructions to the officers in charge of districts to compel "such people as have granaries to place them at our disposal as the only means of affording "immediate relief." The best feature in the measure is the option given to the grain holders to voluntarily place their property at the disposal of the authorities, because though it is obvious that the panchayat valuation is not that which the grain storer wishes to realise, yet he may perhaps set against the loss of profit avoidance of the risk of holding on when the popular feeling is irritated, and the expropriation might take place in a still less unceremonious manner, with the addition of personal violence.

4. There is apparently a complete failure of the early or kharif crop in Khatan and Man talukas, and more than a partial one in Tasgaon and Khandpur, the Satara Mangs and Ramosis are also a turbulent race, but there is at least as bad a failure in Pandarpur and Sangola taluka of Sholapur, from which district the Revenue Commissioner is now writing, and a more than partial failure in Malsiras. The two first-named talukas formerly belonged to Satara, and Malsiras was transferred only last year; yet no such measure has been ever recommended for those districts.

5. It appears to the undersigned that though there may be much suffering already among the poor of the talukas in Satara under consideration from the failure of the renewal of supply to which they ordinarily look at the season of harvest, yet that the amount in store has been underrated. The simple and judicious measure of suspending the municipal octroi on grain at Satara has, Mr. Moore reports, made the grain pass from the shops. The similar instructions to other municipalities will probably have a similar effect, not perhaps to last very long, unless rain should fall.

6. If there are any serious grounds for the apprehension expressed, the Revenue Commissioner thinks the proposed amount of importation of grain by Chiplun quite insufficient, and would recommend its being quadrupled. No doubt, though not precisely so stated, the maund to which Mr. Moore's recommendations refer is the Satara maund of 12 local pailis, or 48 local seers, which would probably represent about 130 lbs. each, instead of the maund of 82 lbs. used in Government statistics. Between 300 and 400 cart loads of grain which, at the prices mentioned, Rs. 20,000 would represent, would not have the effect of a glut on any one of the talukas in the condi ion described.

7. With regard to the taking possession of the grain dealer's property, except in case of a desire to seek protection, the undersigned would be prepared to peremptorily prohibit any further proceedings of the kind; but the question is respectfully left for the consideration and orders of Government.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Revenue Department, No. 5,907, dated Bombay Castle, the 17th October 1876.

MEMORANDUM from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,440, dated 13th October 1876, submitting, with his remarks, a letter, No. 4,347, dated 10th idem, from the Collector of Satara, with its accompaniments, relative to the distress prevailing in that Collectorate and the measures proposed for its relief.

RESOLUTION.—A grant of Rs. 25,000 has already been made, under conditions which have been communicated to the Collector.

2. Steps have been taken to countermand the instructions issued by Mr. Moore in respect to interfering with the free action of the dealers.

3. There is no reason to suppose there is a scarcity of grain in the country; and Government are most averse to import on their own account, or otherwise interfere with the natural course of trade.

No. 3,076A., 7th October 1876.

From the COLLECTOR OF DHARWAR to the REVENUE COMMISSIONER, Southern Division.

I have the honour to submit copy of my letter No. 3,053, dated 6th instant, to the Executive Engineer for Irrigation, as also copy of his reply.

2. I would request that Mr. Palliser may receive early orders for the immediate commencement of the three works mentioned in his 3rd paragraph.

3. As regards the Doni tank work, that project necessitates a great deal of skilled labour, and therefore, as a famine relief work, is not so desirable as the Dambal tank work, which will have more earth-work.

4. A very large body of distressed villagers are employed on the Dambal and Hasrur Road, and by the end of this week the number of persons employed will have (I am told by the Engineer Department) reached the large number of about 3,000 people.

5. Yesterday I met Colonel Greig, and we arranged for such re-appropriations in the Local Funds Budget as were feasible, and I am about to submit a letter on this subject.

6. As the relief works now absolutely required to keep people from starving are extending, and the number of people on the Hasrur Road is very large, I have issued orders, in concurrence with the views of Colonel Greig, to introduce the famine test of part grain payments. We have determined to pay part wages in grain, at the rate of ½ Dharwar seer (equal to a seer of 80 tolas) of jawari to each single man per diem, and 1 Dharwar seer (equal to 2 seers of 80 tolas) to each man with a family. The grain we can, by buying it wholesale, purchase cheaper than the people can buy it retail, and we shall serve it out at our purchase rate. I have directed that the grain distribution or payments shall be made by the Mamlatdar every Sunday morning.

7. It may be necessary to ask Government to relieve the Mamlatdar of his magisterial duties, and to appoint an extra first Karkun. This course has, I hear, been adopted in all the talukas of the Bellary Collectorate, Madras Presidency, the Mamlatdars being employed specially in matters connected with the present distress.

8. The Dambal and Hasrur Road work cannot last very long, and we must have some other properly prepared work on which to proceed in the Gadag taluka as soon as the Hasrur Road work comes to an end.

9. I beg, therefore, with reference to paragraph 4 of the letter of Mr. Palliser, Executive Engineer for Irrigation, that he may at once be directed to resubmit the plans and estimates of the Dambal tank scheme, which, from there being much earth-work, is one admirably suited for a relief work.

10. In calling upon Mr. Palliser to hasten the Savanur tank project, as the work is required as a relief work in that State, he has stated in his No. 1,725, dated 6th instant: "The delay has "been unavoidable owing to the insufficiency of my establishment." I beg that the establishment of the Executive Engineer for Irrigation may be temporarily strengthened, as at this juncture time is everything, and the want of a sufficient establishment must not be allowed to delay the preparation of projects on which funds can be expended for the relief of the people.

11. Now that works are being vigorously prosecuted, the want of establishment is most seriously felt. Colonel Greig yesterday complained severely of it, and I hope that Government will be pleased to place a sufficient extra strength of supervisors at the Superintending Engineer's disposal, to allow of his being able to meet our necessities.

No. 3,053, 6th October 1876.

From the COLLECTOR OF DHARWAR to the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION, B. and Dharwar.

I have the honour to request you will inform me what estimates you have prepared, as also for what works you have sanctioned plans and estimates.

2. The road work from Hasrur to Dambal is progressing rapidly, and funds will soon be expended. It is now therefore necessary to look to new works to aid the people.

No. 1,715, 6th October 1876.

From the Executive Engineer for Irrigation, B. and Dharwar, to the Collector of Dharwar.

In reply to your letter No. 3,053 of this date, I have the honour to report in detail on the subject, as it appears you wish the information for the whole district, and not for any one taluka.

2. The Doni tank estimates, amounting to Rs. 89,114, have been sanctioned by this Government, but in consequence of financial difficulties the Government of India excluded the work from this year's budget. In April last the Chief Engineer for Irrigation said that "possibly after "the rains provision might be made for the work by re-appropriation." If it were necessary to start the work as a relief to the people, funds would, I think, probably be available; but a reference from you would be desirable.

3. Below are named three sanctioned works, which I have authority to proceed with immediately after the rains:

Work.	Taluka.	Amount of estimate.
		Rs.
Repairs and improvements, Mavinkop tank - - - -	Dharwar -	10,000
Ditto ditto Yelvigi tank - - - -	Bankapur -	9,200
Repairs, Tilavalli tank - - - - - -	Hangal -	5,350
Total - -	—	24,550

4. The Dambal tank estimates, amounting to Rs. 40,000, have been returned to me for reconsideration. Some further survey is necessary; but if you should contemplate urging this work as a relief work, I shall be obliged by your letting me know, so that I may do my best to send in the estimates for immediate sanction.

5. The estimates for the Medhri tank, taluka Ranibennur, are in abeyance pending a reply to a reference to you on the subject: vide my No. 1,332 of the 1st August last. These estimates could, if necessary, be pushed on and sanction be obtained by December. The work would be effective as a relief work.

6. The Hirekerur tank work, taluka Kod, will in all probability be sanctioned in a week or two. The amount will be about Rs. 10,000.

7. There are other works the estimates of which are in hand, but I cannot give you such certain information with regard to them as on those enumerated above.

No. 3,441, 13th October 1876.

Memorandum by the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division.

Submitted for the early consideration and orders of Government.

2. The Collector's present proposal relates principally to the question of finding employment for the people on works of irrigation. The Dambal tank scheme is represented to be specially adapted, as supplying a large quantity of earth-work, to the present emergency. The undersigned accordingly strongly supports the recommendation in paragraph 9 of the Collector's letter.

3. Attention is also invited to the representations in paragraphs 10 and 11, regarding the insufficiency of the establishments under the Executive Engineer for Irrigation, as well as the Executive Engineer of the district.

4. Regarding the subjects mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 7, the Collector's reports, when received, will be laid before Government for consideration in the departments to which they relate.

5. The steps taken by the Collector, as reported in his 6th paragraph, appear very suitable under the circumstances, and are recommended for approval.

Resolution by the Government of Bombay, Revenue Department, No. 5,906, dated Bombay Castle, 17th October 1876.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,441, dated 13th October 1876, submitting, with his remarks, for the early consideration and orders of Government, a letter No. 3,076 A., dated 7th idem, with its accompaniments, from the Collector of Dharwar, containing his proposals for finding employment for the people on works of irrigation, and for the relief of the distress prevailing in that district.

Resolution.—Government understand that the Dambal tank can be commenced at once as a relief work. Instructions should therefore be communicated by telegraph from the Public Works Department.

2. The steps the Collector of Dharwar is taking regarding the construction of the Dambal and Hasrur Road are approved.

3. The Collector should be informed that Government is most anxious to avoid buying grain in the general market, and desires to obtain contracts for the supply to labourers on large works. Further instructions will be sent to him on this head.

4. The Government of Madras have been asked by telegraph to inform this Government of the measures of relief that are being adopted in Bellary.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, No. 142 C. W.– 718, dated Bombay Castle, 9th October 1876. (*See* p. 22.)

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, No. 144 C.W.—725, dated Bombay Castle, the 12th October 1876.

MEMORANDUM from the REVENUE COMMISSIONER, Southern Division, No. 3,230, dated 26th September 1876.

With reference to Government Resolution, No. 123 C. W.—672, dated 22nd September 1876, submits a letter from the Collector of Poona, reporting that no rain has as yet fallen in the eastern talukas, and applications for assistance are numerous and urgent; stating that he proposes to commence the works which have been sanctioned on the 1st October 1876; the plans and estimates for the works noted in the margin having already been prepared, and those for improvements on the roads from Patas to Supa, and Patas to Baramati, are under preparation; that the two large works, viz., the roads from Supa to Baramati and Indapur to the Nira, will be undertaken by the Executive Engineer, who will be requested to employ every one who is willing to work, and to pay all labourers at least once a week, and the other works will be undertaken by the Mamlatdars, with the assistance of the usual Local Funds Establishment, and that Mr. Macpherson will also proceed into the districts early next month to exercise a general supervision in the distressed talukas; that, as Government consider that additional road works should be undertaken in preference to prickly pear clearances, he proposes the two following roads, which he thinks will be found useful:—

	Rs.
Road from Supa to Baramati - -	10,000
Road from Indapur to Nira, passing through Bowra - - - -	10,000
Road from Chandgaon Ferry to Loni	3,000
Road from Indapur to Sugaon - -	2,000

Bhimthadi Taluka.	Rs.
Road from Baramati to Sangui on the Nira - - - - -	4,800
Indapur Taluka.	
Road from Kalas to Sholapur high road at Kumbhargaon - -	3,000

Stating, with reference to the 4th paragraph of the above resolution, that the Local Funds Committee are unable to provide any portion of the funds required for the execution of the proposed works, as the unappropriated local funds balance on the 31st March 1877 is estimated to amount to Rs. 714 only; that the unexpended balance at the close of the year will, no doubt, amount to a much larger sum, but, on the other hand, if large remissions of land revenue have to be given, there will be a corresponding falling off in local funds receipts; appending extracts from the Local Funds Budget of Indapur and Bhimthadi, from which it will be seen that there is no possibility of making re-appropriations, the road repairs having already been undertaken as famine works, as reported in his previous letter, and the remaining works consisting chiefly of repairs to wells and dharamshalas, &c., which it would be very false economy to postpone; that the other talukas of the district are in much the same position as Bhimthadi and Indapur, and cannot spare any portion of their local funds for expenditure elsewhere; trusting, therefore, that there will be no difficulty in providing the necessary funds from Imperial or provincial sources.

The Revenue Commissioner concurs, except that he thinks it possible a better line from Baramati might be to Moreshwar on the Nira Bridge line, which is more direct for Jejuri and Poona than Supa.

MEMORANDUM from the SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, Central Division, No. 3,364, dated 5th October 1876.

Forwards the above, and states that the most advantageous line for the road proposed to be constructed between Baramati and Supa appears to be that indicated in Mr. Havelock's memorandum, viâ Moreshwar, as the road will then follow for a considerable distance the beaten track communicating from Jejuri to Baramati, and beyond to Pandharpur, and that the estimates relating to the following roads, referred to, have been prepared by the Executive Engineer, and submitted through his office to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, for approval and sanction:—

1. Supa to Baramati.
2. Indapur to the Nira, passing through Bowra.
3. Indapur to Sugaon.

MEMORANDUM from the REVENUE COMMISSIONER, Southern Division, No. 3,353, dated 6th October 1876.

With reference to Government Resolution No. 123 C. W.—672, dated 22nd September 1876, and in continuation of his memorandum No. 3,230, of the 26th September 1876, submits, for sanction, a letter from the Superintending Engineer, Central Division, forwarding survey plans, with estimates, as follows, prepared by the Executive Engineer, Poona District, for constructing certain local roads in that district:—

	Rs.
Estimate No. 152, for Baramati and Supa Road - - - -	9,503
„ „ 156, for Baramati and Moregaum Road - - - -	9,655
„ „ 154, for Indapur and Nira River Road through Bowra - -	7,190
„ „ 153, for Sugaon and Indapur Road - - - -	2,319

MEMORANDUM from the REVENUE COMMISSIONER, Southern Divison, No. 3,357, dated 6th October 1876.

Submits a letter from the Collector of Poona, forwarding, with reference to paragraph 6 of his letter No. L. F.—699, dated 25th September 1876, for sanction, an estimate amounting to Rs. 3,000, for making special repairs to the road from Kumbhargaon to Kalas, taluka Indapur, and requesting early instructions regarding the source from which the cost is to be met.

RESOLUTION.—As these are all local works they are within the competency of the Revenue Commissioner to sanction, and he should sanction them accordingly. He should also issue such orders as he may think fit in regard to the alignment of the road between Baramati and Supa. It seems to be of very little consequence what particular direction the road takes; the chief object in putting the work now in hand is to afford relief, and this object should not be lost sight of while discussions are carried on regarding what is practically a very minor point.

2. As regards the provision of funds, when the local funds resources are exhausted the requisite means will be found by Government, and the papers should accordingly be transferred to the Financial Department, in order that the Accountant General may be directed to afford the Collector the necessary credit. The expenditure should for the present be carried to a separate head of "Famine Relief Expenditure," to be hereafter adjusted.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY in the Financial Department, No. 4,256, dated Bombay Castle, the 16th October 1876.

Resolution of Government in the Public Works Department, No. 142, C.W.—718, dated 9th October 1876. Transferring a memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, No. 3,340, dated 5th October 1876, together with a letter from the Collector of Sholapur regarding famine relief works in that district; and requesting that the Accountant General may be directed to afford the Collector the necessary credit to admit of his obtaining funds to carry on the works enumerated therein.

Letter from the Accountant General, No. R.-10,490, dated 12th October 1876, stating with reference to the above resolution that the sum of Rs. 34,800 has been placed to the credit of the Collector of Sholapur, by telegram, to the debit of Famine Relief Expenditure, in accordance with paragraph 3 of the resolution quoted, and soliciting the necessary sanction for the same.

RESOLUTION.—The Accountant General is to be informed that the Government of India are being kept informed of all expenditure that is being incurred to meet this emergency, and he is to be directed to open a separate head of "Famine Relief Expenditure," to which all charges of this nature that have been and may be sanctioned should be debited.

2. On the question of importing grain, Government are most averse to interfere with the course of trade, and cannot sanction any such measure as that proposed by the Collector, unless it is satisfactorily proved that there is a positive scarcity of the article. If it should be found necessary to undertake relief works on a large scale then it will probably be advisable to invite tenders for the supply of grain for the maintenance of the labourers.

NOTE on the CONDITION and RESOURCES of the DISTRICTS in the BOMBAY PRESIDENCY which are threatened with SCARCITY.

Simla, October 21, 1876.

1. THE following particulars on this subject may be found useful for reference.

2. The official communications which have been received in this Department from the Bombay Government up to the present date do not go further than to report distress in the Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur districts. But from the accompaniments to a resolution of the Bombay Government, dated October 13th, which was published in the Bombay daily papers of the 14th, it appears that relief works have been also sanctioned in the districts of Khandesh, Násik, Kaládgi, and Dharwar, and the weekly "season and crops" telegrams, especially those published in to-day's Gazette, show serious distress in Satara and Belgaum likewise.

3. The whole of the nine districts of the Bombay Deccan, containing an area of 54,203 square miles and a population of 7,966,061 persons, and yielding in 1874–75 a realisable land revenue of Rs. 1,39,40,000 and an abkari revenue of about ten lakhs, may therefore be considered as more or less affected. The Bombay Government say, in a letter dated the 9th instant, that "in the parts "affected nearly the whole of the monsoon crops have perished, and there have "been no later rains to admit of sowing the rabi." The telegram published to-day says, "No improvement in the prospects of the Deccan and the Southern "Mahratta country, where famine relief works have been started. Distress general, "and scarcity widespread in those parts."

4. Of Khandesh we only know that Sowda, a town and railway station on the eastern side of the district, near the Bhosawal junction of the Berar and Jubbulpore lines, is said by the Collector to be "in the very centre of the famine-stricken districts," and that the local government have sanctioned a road there as a relief work. The telegram published to-day, moreover, says, "Crops in the same "bad state as before; prices rising rapidly; scarcity of grass felt in the eastern "and central talukas; water supply decreasing generally."

5. Regarding Násik, it appears from official documents that the crops have failed in "several points of the Collectorate." Privately, I learn that the crops have failed in three talukas, that others will follow unless a little rain fall, and that such scarcity is anticipated "that it will be difficult to get any revenue collected." I presume this refers to the talukas where the crops have failed. Relief works have been started in two talukas, but no definite grants have been made. The Bhils are uneasy.

6. The condition of Poona is that two talukas are most seriously affected, and all the others are more or less so. The Collector states that "the rivers and wells "are drying up, and the cattle are dying of absolute starvation. The people are "looking very thin and ill," &c. It is estimated that one-fifth of the whole population, or 63,000, will have to be fed by Government for several months. The people are said to be "becoming disorderly," and one riot has occurred. The famine is worst in the talukas where the riots occurred last year. Numerous works from local and provincial funds have been started, and Rs. 25,000 have been separately sanctioned "for preserving the lives of those who may be too infirm to "work and too poor to buy," &c. The Government have also ordered the recommencement of the works of the Mutha Irrigation Canal.

7. Ahmednagar also is a district in which riots occurred last year. Its condition appears to be nearly as bad as that of Poona. Works to the extent of Rs. 66,000 have been sanctioned out of the provincial budget, in addition to others regularly provided for out of local funds. A special grant of Rs. 25,000 has also been made, as in Poona. The Dhond and Munmar Railway was urged on the Government of India, with the view of giving relief to the three Collectorates of Poona, Ahmednagar, and Násik, which it would traverse in a direction corresponding generally with the most distressed talukas.

8. Sholapur is a peculiarly poor and bare district, which has suffered from drought on more than one previous occasion. It is reported that "there is now "no part of the district in which the condition of the mass of the people is not "most deplorable; * * there is no prospect of any crop whatever "throughout by far the greater portion of the Collectorate." Local and provincial funds are being taxed to the utmost here, as elsewhere, and a special grant of Rs. 25,000 has been sanctioned, as in Poona.

9. Kaládgi is a poor district, lying along the eastern border of the Presidency between Sholapur and Dharwar. Very little appears to have been done about or for it, but the Collector, in a private letter dated the 13th instant, tells me that "there is apparently no chance of rain now. The kharif here has, almost without "an exception, withered away, and the rabi is not even sown."

10. Dharwar.—Two talukas are said officially to be "very distressed," and the local and provincial funds are being exhausted before other relief is given. The Collector has been holding a public meeting and forming a committee of Europeans and natives to assist him—chiefly, it would appear, against a combination of the grain dealers, who are said to be withholding grain from the market. He stated that the relief works already sanctioned were to cost a lakh and a half. Dharwar is a district which profited enormously during the high prices of cotton, and the people have, no doubt, a fair amount of money in hand. The difficulty of Dharwar, Kaládgi, and the adjacent Belgaum will probably be from a want of grain, as these districts have no railway communication, and are cut off by the Ghâts from the sea. The telegram in to-day's "Gazette" says, "Crops worse than last week; "distress increasing; price of grain rising."

11. Regarding Belgaum nothing has come from the Bombay Government, but the telegram published to-day runs thus, "No rain at Belgaum, but slight showers "on the 16th in the neighbourhood; accounts from all talukas very gloomy; "kharif crops have entirely failed in Gokole, Athni, and in part of Chikori, and

" little hope of their surviving in other parts; great mortality of cattle in northern " talukas; prices of grain continue to rise."

12. Of Satara, also, nothing has been said yet by the Local Government, but the telegrams for some time past have indicated approaching distress. Last week the report was, " Rain urgently wanted; scarcity of pasture severely felt; prices " of grain risen high; distress among poor people." The telegram of to-day says, " Want of rain severely felt throughout the district; distress general."*

13. The Bhils, Mangs, Ramoosees, and similar classes who inhabit the Ghât talukas of Násik, Poona, and Satara, and are to be found in parts of Ahmednagar, are not those who will sit down and die. They are naturally predatory, and have risen more than once within my recollection, with fatal results.

14. I have collected a few of the leading statistics of the districts affected, with the view of giving some idea of their respective extent and resources, the means and classes of the population, and the Government revenues involved. The figures are taken from the census of 1872 and the Bombay Administration and Jamabandy Reports. The subjoined table gives the principal features of the population.

Districts.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Population per Square Mile.	Per-centage on Total Population.		Per-centage on Adults.		Per-centage of Proprietors on Total Persons engaged in Agriculture.
				Of Inhabitants of Houses of better sort.	Of Inhabitants of Houses of inferior sort.	Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	
Khandesh - -	10,162	1,028,642	101·22	6·54	93·46	32·86	67·14	83·63
Násik - -	8,140	734,386	90·22	5·84	94·16	30·74	69·26	87·03
Ahmednagar -	6,047	773,938	116·43	7·88	92·12	35·67	64·33	82·52
Poona - -	5,099	907,235	177·92	7·78	92·22	38·87	61·13	91·21
Sholapur - -	3,925	662,986	168·91	6·12	93·88	26·03	73·97	65·85
Kaládgi - - -	5,695	816,037	143·27	·64	99·35	33·54	66·46	34·42
Satara - -	5,378	1,116,050	207·52	4·08	95·92	34·86	65·14	95·88
Belgaum - -	4,591	938,750	204·44	4·91	95·09	32·95	67·05	32·29
Dharwar - -	4,564	988,037	216·44	1·89	98·11	33·76	66·24	26·03
Total -	54,203	7,966,061	—	—	—	—	—	—

The variations in all these particulars between one taluka and another are, of course, very considerable. But the inferiority and comparative poverty of the whole Deccan may be inferred from the fact that in Gujrat the population is 279 to the square mile, and 23 per cent. of them live in houses of the better sort. The three southern districts are remarkable for the larger size of holdings, subordinate to which there are from 40 to 45 per cent. of tenancies.

15. The following statement gives the land in acres, the proportion of it, and consequently of the revenue from it, in which Government is directly interested, and the incidence of the Government assessment. The latter is a fair measure of the fertility and resources of the several districts.

Districts.	Area in Acres.	Per-centage.		Per-centage of Government Land occupied on Total Government Arable Land.	Gross Land Revenue, 1874–75.	Land Revenue realisable by Government, 1874–75.	Incidence per Acre per Annum of Government Revenue on Revenue-paying Cultivated Area.			Abkari Revenue, 1873–74.
		Of Government Land.	Of Inam Land.							
					Rs.	Rs.	R.	A.	P.	Rs.
Khandesh -	6,505,202	92·69	7·31	50·59	33,30,798	30,21,890	1	2	10	2,13,605
Násik - -	3,503,518	91·13	8·87	78·71	14,95,211	11,67,169	0	10	5	65,824
Ahmednagar -	4,073,229	84·68	15·32	96·07	16,32,730	13,30,602	0	7	5	22,745
Poona - -	3,265,542	80·15	19·85	97·66	15,44,238	12,83,771	0	7	9	1,59,962
Sholapur -	2,495,904	86·36	14·64	99·90	12,60,537	10,44,010	0	6	9	46,801
Kaládgi - -	3,645,363	68·36	31·64	96·26	15,84,925	12,18,256	0	5	9	1,32,643
Satara - -	3,401,690	68·71	21·29	96·96	24,19,489	16,53,136	0	10	10	27,320
Belgaum -	2,880,848	59·91	40·09	91·27	17,76,646	12,59,977	1	1	10	1,27,455
Dharwar -	2,903,442	69·53	30·47	92·13	23,84,048	19,60,635	1	2	4	2,20,366
Total -	32,674,738	—	—	—	1,74,28,622	1,39,39,446	—			10,16,821

It would, of course, be premature to estimate how much of the revenue may be

* Since the above was written an official letter has been received from the Bombay Government, reporting serious distress in the district, and apprehension of disturbances.

lost. But in the scarcity in Khandesh in 1871–72, which was apparently lighter than the present, the loss was nearly four lakhs, or one-eighth.

Districts.	Total Number of Horses, Ponies, and Mules.	Total Number of Oxen, Cows, Bulls, and Buffaloes.	Total Number of Sheep and Goats.
Khandesh - -	14,561	615,783	199,524
Násik - -	13,619	517,658	260,506
Ahmednagar -	18,851	537,100	413,457
Poona - -	11,879	513,594	280,436
Sholapur - -	4,288	371,651	265,812
Kaládgi - -	9,785	524,342	283,279
Satara - -	14,534	570,018	437,188
Belgaum - -	6,613	398,588	209,636
Dharwar - -	6,867	541,237	199,189
Total -	100,997	4,589,971	2,549,027

16. The table in the margin shows the resources in cattle, &c., and indicates a considerable amount of accumulated wealth, by means of which it is possible to keep in cultivation so large a proportion of the arable land. Upon this the drought will fall most severely, and the extent of cultivation in future years may be diminished in consequence.

17. The following statement gives the crops cultivated in 1874–75 upon the Government land only.

Products.	Khandesh.	Násik.	Ahmednagar.	Poonah.	Sholapur.	Kaládgi.	Satara.	Belgaum.	Dharwar.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Rice - - -	16,471	25,517	8,473	39,940	20,516	5,687	18,565	69,251	90,896
Cotton - - -	553,949	15,753	48,063	15,772	48,733	234,527	20,522	93,252	283,810
Jawari - - -	427,466	67,700	647,744	599,086	990,674	1,185,237	216,457	433,861	497,312
Bajri - - -	558,249	663,574	923,186	581,684	349,831	234,494	494,202	78,068	6,126
Wheat - - -	129,651	177,158	141,046	65,249	39,079	92,424	31,200	36,713	112,169
Sugar cane - -	2,589	7,600	3,764	3,814	3,059	2,445	10,703	4,604	2,909
Pulses - - -	129,192	140,667	—	—	72,195	—	136,012	99,178	—
Gram - - -	—	—	87,040	40,442	47,345	—	—	—	23,411
Til and other oil seeds -	175,690	139,340	9,463	35,024	2,994	14,930	—	36,327	29,647
Linseed - -	76,005	—	1,236	—	24,568	23,198	755	42	9,766
Miscellaneous products	83,738	170,004	288,518	296,721	220,746	191,863	512,153	131,827	295,281
Land lying fallow, or grass land - -	232,885	212,779	273,814	228,149	128,123	50,666	254,348	136,891	182,869
	2,385,885	1,620,092	2,432,347	1,905,881	1,947,863	2,035,471	1,694,917	1,120,014	1,532,396
Deduct land twice cropped - -	2,844	7,297	—	21,202	18,712	809	44,906	5,257	2,165
Remainder -	2,383,041	1,612,795	2,432,347	1,884,679	1,929,151	2,034,662	1,650,011	1,114,757	1,530,231

The foregoing statement shows how largely all the districts are dependent upon kharif crops, such as rice, bajri, and jawari, which are very generally reported to have almost entirely failed. Jawari is in some districts to a considerable extent cultivated, as rabi also. The statement in the margin for the same year further illustrates the subject, and shows how little aid the cultivation receives from artificial means of irrigation.

Rice Lands.

Districts.	Irrigated Garden Lands.	Dry-Crop Lands.	Irrigated from Tanks, Water Courses, &c.	Unirrigated or wholly dependent on the Fall of Rain.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Khandesh -	31,352	2,343,697	—	—	2,375,049
Násik -	41,368	1,557,438	—	13,994	1,612,801
Ahmednagar	33,934	2,394,506	—	3,912	2,432,354
Poona -	32,566	1,824,926	—	27,187	1,884,679
Sholapur -	55,605	1,871,112	—	2,452	1,929,170
Kaládgi -	6,072	2,026,424	1,409	761	2,034,668
Satara -	48,836	1,586,161	19	14,998	1,650,015
Belgaum -	7,660	1,054,087	9,906	43,126	1,114,779
Dharwar -	4,234	1,439,383	59,662	26,956	1,530,235
Total -	261,627	16,097,734	70,996	133,386	16,563,750

—	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Total Revenue.
			Rs.
Satara Jagirdars -	1,950	300,870	8,16,970
Akalkot - -	498	81,068	2,28,500
Kolapur - -	3,184	802,691	24,29,000
Southern Mahratta Jagirdars -	2,734	610,434	14,90,000
Savanur - -	70	17,288	50,429
Total -	8,536	1,812,351	50,14,899

18. This note has dealt exclusively with British territory, but it must not be forgotten that the Native States named marginally are comprised within the Bombay Deccan, and interlaced with our districts, and that several of them, including Kolapur, are at present under our management during minorities of the Chiefs. We have no information as to their condition, but it must be tolerably similar to that of the adjacent British districts, and we shall be to a considerable extent responsible for dealing with it.

19. In conclusion, it may be mentioned that the weekly telegrams (1) from the Central Provinces report rise of prices in one district owing to exports to Bombay; (2) from Madras, indicate a certain amount of distress, except in Malabar; and (3) as to Mysore and Coorg, state as follows: "Failure of expected rain most "disastrous to such crops as had survived drought; distress among people and "cattle already acutely felt; prices rising everywhere; markets only moderately "supplied; the condition of the country is most critical."

T. C. HOPE.

Telegram, 22nd October 1876.

From the SECRETARY, Department of Revenue, Agriculture and Commerce, Simla, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, Bombay.

The President in Council requests that all communications relating to the scarcity may be addressed to this Department; also that no communications to the Government of India on the subject may be made public until the answers have been received, but there is no objection to publication of periodical narratives of the condition of the several districts, and of relief operations actually sanctioned. Indeed such publication is desirable. His Honour wishes to receive, at the earliest practicable date, separate statements regarding each taluka in the districts of Ahmednagar, Khandeish, Nasik, Poona, Satara, Sholapur, Kaladgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar, showing its area, population, government, realizable revenue in 1875-76, rough proportion of kharif to rabi cultivation, average annual rainfall, actual rainfall this season, ordinary price of staple food of the taluka at this season, actual present price of the same, probable extent of failure of crops, and amount, if any, sanctioned for relief works and other relief. These statements may be prepared from the best materials now available to Government, and corrected or supplemented afterwards, and should be forwarded as they can be got ready.

Telegram No. 921 A.—G., 23rd October 1876.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Yours of 9th October, enclosing letter from the Collector of Sholapur, is transferred to Department of Agriculture and Commerce, to which Department of the Supreme Government that of Bombay will for the future address direct on all matters touching the initiation of measures for relief of famine, limiting the correspondence between this Department and that of the Works in Bombay to the usual professional and other details, after the orders of the Government of India have been issued through the Agriculture and Commerce Department, on the policy on action to be taken and on the projects of works approved for execution Letter follows.

No. 923 A.—G., 23rd October 1876.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 142 C. W., dated 9th October 1876, forwarding copy of a letter received from the Collector of Sholapur, describing the state of distress in his district which has to be met by Government, and in reply to say that the further report promised on the subject will be awaited.

2. I am at the same time to request that, apart from the professional or ordinary departmental customs involved in reference to special or ordinary works, which should be dealt with in the usual way, all references to the Government of India in regard to the initiation of works undertaken as famine work may, with a view to consistent action, be submitted through the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Telegram, 24th October 1876.

From GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY TO COMMERCE, Simla.

This Government is grateful for the support given by the Government of India in their telegram of the 16th instant, without which they would not hope to contend with success against the present difficulties. They are preparing complete statements of the works sanctioned for the relief of the population in the distressed district, together with full statistical information, and all shall be sent with an explanatory map, as soon as possible. The impression gains ground that the proportion of the population to be employed or relieved will much exceed the calculation given in our resolution of the 16th. Rain is reported by telegraph to have fallen at Dharwar, Belgaum, and Kaládgi. Effect on crops not yet stated.

No. 365.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

Simla, 25th October 1876.

I have had the honour to receive your letter No, 5,891, of the 16th instant, with accompaniments, which concludes with a request for the earliest communication of the views of the Government of India on the proposals contained in the Resolution of the same date, and also your letter, No. 5,953, of the 19th instant, giving particulars regarding the distress in the Satara and Dharwar Collectorates. The letter of the Secretary to the Bombay Government in the Public Works Department, No. 142 C.W.—718, dated the 9th instant, has also been transferred to this Department. A memorandum in the Public Works Department, dated the

13th instant, communicating various documents, including the letter of the 9th instant, to the public press, which has not been forwarded to the Government of India, but which appeared, with its accompaniments, in the "Times of India" of the 14th instant, further illustrates the views and proceedings of the Bombay Government in connexion with the prevailing and anticipated scarcity in certain districts.

2. His Honour the President in Council has perused with much concern the accounts contained in these papers of the serious calamity which appears to be impending over a large portion of the Presidency of Bombay.

3. In Khandeish it would appear that in the eastern and central talukas the crops have suffered severely, a scarcity of grass is felt, the water supply is generally decreasing, and a rapid rise of prices is taking place. Regarding Násik, it is understood that the crops have failed in at least three talukas, that the sowing of rabi is doubtful, unless some rain should fall soon, and that the Bhils have shown symptoms of uneasiness.

4. In the district of Poona the Collector estimates that all the talukas will be more or less affected, and that one-fifth of the whole population, or 63,000, may have to be fed by Government for several months. The people are reported to be "thin and ill," and also to be "becoming disorderly." The adjacent distrcit of Ahmednagar appears, from the report of the Revenue Commissioner and the Superintending Engineer, whom you have deputed on a special tour of inquiry, to be in a nearly similar condition. The condition of Sholapur is evidently somewhat worse than that of either Poona or Ahmednagar, and the various reports submitted afford full confirmation of the statement that the "condition of the "mass of the people" is "most deplorable," and that "there is no prospect of "any crop whatever throughout by far the greater portion of the Collectorate."

5. Distress in the Satara Collectorate appears to have been only very recently brought officially to notice, but to be severe in some parts, while the peculiarities of the district, in being less accessible to relief by rail and road and in the large number of the population belonging to the predatory classes, will necessitate special care in its administration. Regarding Belgaum no special communication has yet been received from the Bombay Government, but it is stated in the last weekly telegram that the kharif crops have already failed in three talukas, that the accounts from other parts are very gloomy, and that there is great mortality of cattle in the northern part of the district.

6. The districts of Kaládgi and Dharwar remain to be noticed, Regarding the former no specific official representation has reached the Government of India, but it is understood that the kharif has very generally failed and the rabi is unsown. The poorness of the district will, no doubt, tend to make all losses felt with special severity, while its remoteness from the railway and the sea will render relief unusually difficult. Of Dharwar it is known that two talukas are suffering severely, and that others are little better. Here, as in certain other parts, enhanced prices are observable, which are probably aggravated by the comparative inaccessibility of the district.

7. It thus appears that the area over which serious scarcity extends to a greater or less degree consists of Khandeish and eight of the districts of the Bombay Deccan, containing an area of 54,203 square miles, and a population of about eight millions, and yielding in 1874–75 to Government a realizable land revenue of Rs. 1,3940,000, together with an abkari revenue of about ten lakhs. But the fact must not be overlooked that, in addition to the above, which is British territory, there are encircled by and interlaced with it numerous Native States, comprising a total area of about 8,536 square miles, with a population of fully 1,800,000, and an estimated revenue of about 50 lakhs of rupees. Of the condition of these States the Government of India have received no information, but it is probably not materially different from that of the surrounding British territory, and as several of the States, including Kolapur, are at present under British management during the minority of the Chiefs, the responsibility of dealing with it will, to a considerable extent, fall upon Government.

8. For the alleviation of distress the Bombay Government were, in the first instance, on the basis of such limited information as was then before the Government of India, requested on September 29th to make full use of the local and provincial funds; but, on the receipt of further particulars, full authority was conveyed in the telegram of the 4th instant from this Department for the starting

of whatever relief works or relief operations the Governor in Council might consider necessary, and the question of the incidence of the expenditure was reserved for future consideration. The Government of Bombay have, in accordance with these instructions, been very fully utilising all the local resources, and have also made to four districts special grants of Rs. 25,000 each. But as it is now evident that considerable Imperial expenditure will be required, both in providing work, and in supplying food to those who cannot work, I am directed to communicate the following remarks as to the nature of the works and other measures which may most usefully be undertaken.

9. With regard to the proposed Dhond and Munmar Railway, to which further reference is made in the accompaniments to your letter of the 16th instant under reply, I am to state that the decision of the Government of India is contained in the telegram of the same date from this Department. In the construction of railways in India, it is absolutely necessary that each project should be taken up in succession, in the order of its necessity as compared with others, that no projects should be undertaken under present financial circumstances which cannot be depended on eventually to return full interest on the outlay, and that only so many should be in hand at one time as the borrowing powers of the State permit. In works designed to afford relief during scarcity, moreover, it is now an established principle that those ought to be selected, as far as practicable, which can be completed, or far advanced towards completion, by the outlay which the scarcity demands. Testing the Dhond and Munmar Railway project by the above conditions, the information at present before the Government of India does not appear to justify the immediate commencement of the line, while the relief outlay which it would provide would bear a very small proportion to the entire expenditure which it would involve, and would be confined to a comparatively small area of the affected tracts.

10. His Honour the President in Council trusts that the Government of Bombay will apply these principles, as far as they are applicable, to all projects which may be suggested to them for commencement at the present juncture. The prominent position held by tank clearances, and repairs or improvements of existing roads, among the works which, as appears from the accompaniments to the memorandum of October 13th above referred to, have been sanctioned by his Excellency the Governor in Council, is entirely in accordance with these principles. The remarks of the Collector of Poona as to the inexpediency of collecting large gangs away from their homes on large works have the full concurrence of the Government of India. How far the sums which have been sanctioned for new roads will go towards their completion, instead of leaving them to be for years a burden on local and provincial funds, does not appear from the correspondence. But the commencement of so expensive an undertaking as a new ghât from the Deccan to the Konkan, which is proposed in joint report of Mr. Havelock and Colonel Finch, would probably be unadvisable.

11. With regard to the various general measures which may be adopted for relief in times of scarcity, some of which are discussed in the Resolution of the 16th instant which accompanies your letter, I am directed to invite the attention of his Excellency the Governor in Council to the Resolution of the Government of India of February 18th, 1875, which was published in the "Gazette of India" of the 26th idem, and specially to paragraphs 9, 11, 14, 20, and 23.

12. While organizing suitable relief works, attention will, no doubt, be given to ascertaining, as far as possible, the extent of the grain reserves existing in each district, and how far they are being, or are likely to be, supplemented from without by private enterprise. This inquiry appears to be of special importance in the case of Satara and the Southern Mahratta country, the people of which are probably, on the one hand, better able to afford to purchase grain than those of the poorer districts further north and east, but, on the other, are less likely to obtain grain to purchase, owing to the absence of railway communication, and the difficulties of getting supplies up from the sea. The President in Council cordially approves of the decision to invite tenders for the supply of grain to persons employed on works and to those needing to be fed, as also that the Government should abstain from making purchases in the general market on its own behalf, except in the last resort.

13. The President in Council has observed with much satisfaction the efforts which have been made in some parts by the more wealthy or influential native

gentlemen for the relief of their suffering countrymen, and the support which they have given to the measures of the district officers, and to the endeavours of the latter to allay panic, and he trusts that every scope will be afforded to such benevolent dispositions, whether in the formation of central and local relief committees to superintend the distribution of food, or in the raising and application of private subscriptions to specific charitable purposes, such as might be held to be beyond the scope of the action of Government.

14. The importance of strengthening the administrative establishments of the affected districts will not have escaped his Excellency the Governor in Council, and is a prominent feature in the Resolution of the Government of India, which is referred to in paragraph 11. The creation of an additional Revenue and Police Commissionership in the Bombay Presidency, in order to reduce the present divisions, has been urged by the Bombay Government on the Government of India at various times since the year 1867, and was sanctioned by that Government and the Secretary of State in 1868, but was subsequently held in abeyance for reasons which need not be recapitulated. In August last the Government of India intimated their willingness to accede to the proposal, provided corresponding reductions could be effected. Since that date it has been represented to the Government of India that by a redistribution of charges in connexion with the sanction of an additional commissioner, a better control over the excise revenue, and a corresponding increase in its amount might probably be attained. At the same time it seems probable that the present Revenue and Police Commissioner of the Southern Division will be especially unable in a time of famine to exercise due control, and to afford to the Government the necessary information in a charge comprising 43,923 square miles, with a population of 7,620,515, and a revenue, including excise, of Rs. 1,55,95,000. Under these circumstances I am to state that the Government of India are prepared to sanction, as a temporary measure, the appointment of an additional Revenue and Police Commissioner, in order that the Southern Mahratta country may have the benefit of the supervision of a separate controlling officer.

15. The President in Council will likewise have no objection to the temporary appointment of an extra Deputy Collector in each of the seriously affected districts, so as to liberate one covenanted assistant for special duty, and to the deputation on such duty of the Mamlatdar of every so affected taluka, his first Carkoon officiating for him, and a new man being engaged for the vacancy in the lowest post of the office. If necessity should arise for further strengthening the administrative establishment, the Government of India will give their favourable consideration to any proposals the Governor in Council may deem it proper to make. Whatever officers may be required for the supervision of special works will, of course, be independent of this addition to the regular administrate staff. In the event of any addition to the Public Works Establishments being needed, application should be made to the Government of India in the Public Works Deartment, whence orders will be issued for furnishing such officers as can be spared.

16. The telegram forwarded on the 21st instant will have made known his Honour's request that all communications touching the initiation of measures regarding the scarcity should be addressed to this Department. This course, which was the one adopted during the famine in Bengal, appears necessary to secure promptitude and unity of action, and will not interfere with the reference by this Department to that of Public Works of any matters in which professional questions may be involved. Whether a similar concentration of duties should be adopted in Bombay is, of course, entirely for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor in Council. At the same time I am to point out, as an illustration of the inconveniences of more than one Department dealing with the same subject, that, unless my letter of September 29th was unduly delayed in transmission, the Bombay Public Works Department were up to the 9th instant unaware that you had received it.

17. To what has been stated in the telegram regarding the publication of official communications to the Government of India it is unnecessary to add more than that, while the President in Council fully appreciates the advantages of securing the sympathy and confidence of the public, and the intelligent co-operation of traders and others by a frank statement of facts relating to the scarcity and of the measures of relief which are being adopted, the publication of proposals, involving important principles, which are under consideration by the

Government of India should be postponed until the decision of that Government has been received.

18. With reference to the request contained in the same telegram for statements showing the condition of each taluka in the nine districts of the Deccan which are more or less threatened, I am to explain that his Honour has no doubt that the Government of Bombay has already procured such information for its own use, but that without having some such comprehensive review before it, the Government of India is unable to estimate with accuracy what may be the exigencies of the situation, or to do justice to the proposals for relief which are submitted by the Government of Bombay. The statements need not be of an elaborate character, but, after giving the principal figures in tabular form, should conclude with general remarks, containing the best information procurable as to the condition and prospects of the taluka. In addition to these statements once for all, a slightly fuller account of each district in the weekly telegram on the "season and crops" will be all that the Government of India at present require.

19. In conclusion, I am desired to express the cordial acknowledgments of the Government of India of the promptitude and care with which the Government of Bombay and its officers are dealing with the emergency. His Honour the President in Council has no desire to impose upon the Bombay Government any restrictions beyond those which are afforded by the experience of the past, as authoritatively recorded by the Government of India, and has the fullest confidence that his Excellency the Governor in Council will exercise the discretion vested in him so as to prevent any loss of the lives of Her Majesty's subjects, without incurring an expenditure of the public money in excess of the necessities of the case.

I have, &c.

Telegram, 25th October 1876.

From COMMERCE, Simla, to CHIEF SECRETARY, Bombay.

Letter goes to-day expressing regret at the extended and serious aspect of the distress in the Deccan. The President in Council cordially acknowledges the promptitude and care with which the Bombay Government are dealing with the emergency, and the excellent spirit which the wealthy and intelligent classes of the native community are displaying in support of Government. In works for relief, those should be preferred which can be completed or far advanced towards completion by the outlay which the scarcity demands, and which will not collect large gangs at a distance from their homes. The decision to invite tenders for supply of grain, and that the Government should abstain from making purchases in the general market on its own behalf, except in the last resort, is approved. Administrative establishments may be strengthened by one temporary Deputy Collector in each affected district, and putting Mamlutdar of each affected taluka on special duty, first Carcoon acting for him. As a separate controlling officer for southern part of Presidency seems desirable, the Bombay Government may, as a temporary measure, appoint an extra Revenue Commissioner, on Rs. 3,000 per mensem.

Telegram, 24th October 1876.

From SECRETARY, Madras, to COMMERCE, Simla.

Condition of Kurnool, Kaddapah, and Bellary districts very bad, and daily becoming more gloomy. If north-east monsoon should not set in favourably within fifteen days, gravest results. Distress approaching famine will probably ensue in these districts, and great distress in some other districts. Present state of grain market causes us great anxiety. Prices prematurely reached famine rates. Following measures have been taken; relief works opened wherever distress prevails, food to aged and children given in some places, and local officers being aided by additional temporary officers. Member of Board of Revenue visiting all districts most distressed. Very heavy Imperial expenditure probably inevitable.

Telegram, 25th October 1876.

From COMMERCE, Simla, to CHIEF SECRETARY, Madras.

Your telegram of yesterday. The President in Council has received with much concern the accounts of distressed condition of Kuddapah, Bellary, and other districts, and fully approves of measures taken by Madras Government. His Honour wishes to receive, at the earliest practicable date, separate statements regarding each taluka in the distressed districts, showing its area, population, government, realisable revenue in 1875–76, rough proportion of early to late cultivation, average annual rainfall, actual rainfall this season, ordinary price of staple food of the taluka at this season, actual present price of the same, probable extent of failure of crops, and amount, if any, sanctioned for relief works and other relief.

Revenue Despatch, No. 44 of 1876.

From the Secretary of State for India to the Government of India.

7th December 1876.

1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 26th October, No. 22 of 1876, relative to the scarcity which has arisen in the Presidency in Bombay has been considered by me in Council.

2. I fully approve of the proceedings which form the subject of report, and I concur in the commendation bestowed upon the Government of Bombay and its officers for the promptitude and care with which they are dealing with this emergency. I also recognize and am grateful for the excellent spirit which has been evinced by the more wealthy and influential members of the native community in that Presidency.

3. It is matter for much additional anxiety that scarcity would also seem to be threatening the Kurnool, Kuddapah, and Bellary districts of the Madras Presidency. I approve of the instructions which you have sent to the Madras Government, which appears to be acting with vigour and intelligence. I desire to have a weekly report of the progress of this calamity, both in Bombay and Madras.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 24 of 1876.

From the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India.

Simla, 2nd November 1876.

1. In continuation of our Despatch of the 26th ultimo, and of our telegram of this date, we beg leave to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of communications (as per margin) relating to the scarcity prevailing in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, in the Nizam's territories, and in Mysore.

From Government of Bombay, No. 6,008, dated the 21st October 1876, with accompaniments.
Resolution of the Government of Bombay, No. 6,152, dated the 27th October 1876.
Telegram from the Government of Madras, dated the 27th October 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 27th October 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 27th October 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 31st October 1876.
Telegram from Resident at Hyderabad, dated the 30th October 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 1st November 1876.
Letter from Chief Commissioner of Mysore, dated the 3rd October 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 25th October 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 30th October 1876.

2. With reference to the communication from Bombay of the 21st ultimo, we have suggested to his Excellency the Governor in Council the probable expediency of taking steps to ensure the occupancy rights of ryots not being sold for default of payment of land revenue in any instances where the default may be to any reasonable extent attributable to the unfavourableness of the season, and of allowing, in all cases of sales of movable property which may be deemed indispensable, the exemptions applicable to ryots which have been proposed in section 266 of the Civil Proceedure Code Bill now before the Council of the Governor-General for making laws and regulations.

3. We are engaged in considering the particulars of the works referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Resolution of the Government of Bombay, No. 6,152, dated 27th October, which only reached us yesterday. The scheme of relief works which the Bombay Government have sanctioned as a whole, to be undertaken as necessity arises, involves a very heavy expenditure, amounting to little less than 62 lakhs of rupees, and we are not free from apprehension that the principle of the injunction contained in the telegram which we addressed to that Government under date of the 16th ultimo, to the effect that the works undertaken should be such as will not involve the continuance of heavy expenditure after the emergency has ceased, and repeated in paragraphs 9 and 10 of our letter of the 25th ultimo, may not have been sufficiently kept in view. Any further instructions that we may deem it necessary to issue on this subject will be communicated to your

Lordship by the next mail. Allusion is made in the Resolution to a slight fall of rain which took place the week before last in some of the southern districts. We have not yet received information as to the effect of this fall, but it seems to have been confined to the districts of Belgaum, Kaládgi, and Dharwar. We append transcripts of the weekly telegraphic season reports with reference to these districts.

District.	Rainfall for Week preceding.	State of Agricultural Prospects.
Belgaum (25th Oct.) -	1·19	Total rainfall, 30·46; rain has fallen partially in eastern talukas, where part of kharif crops will be saved and rabi sown; slight fall in price of grain.
Dharwar „ -	0·67	Total rainfall, 21·38; rainfall very partial in a few villages, in a few places heavy and beneficial; late crops being sown where rain fell; grain dealers refuse to sell; prices rising; distress very great.
Kaládgi (23rd Oct.) -	1·03	Total rainfall, 10·89; more rain urgently wanted for rabi sowing; cholera in two talukas; cattle dying from want of fodder; distress amongst poorer classes; relief works progressing.

4. The suggestion of the Resident at Hyderabad is still under consideration, because, although the charge consequent on reduction of the rate of railway freight on grain conveyed for the relief of the Nizam's subjects would necessarily be defrayed by the Nizam's Government, such a reduction could not be sanctioned without applying a similar measure to the whole of the distressed districts in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.

5. In the case of Mysore, a failure of crops and of water supply, and the adoption of various minor measures of relief, were reported to us in January last, and the measures of the Chief Commissioner were approved. Subsequently we were informed of the continuance of drought during the present year, and a special grant of a lakh of rupees was sanctioned on the 12th of April last. The further grant of one lakh of rupees referred to in the Chief Commissioner's telegram was also sanctioned on the 20th ultimo, and detailed information, similar to that required from Madras and Bombay, has been called for.

6. We fear that the worst effects of the scarcity which has thus occurred over so large a portion of Western and Southern India cannot be averted without considerable loss of land revenue and expenditure of Imperial funds, but we shall not fail to adopt every precaution to confine the loss within the necessary limits.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN, &c.

Telegram.

From the PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, Simla, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

2nd November.

No material improvement in prospects of distressed districts of Bombay. Slight fall of rain in Belgaum, Kaládgi, and Dharwar. Bombay Government have sanctioned programme of relief works exceeding 61 lakhs. We are scrutinising details, fearing that our injunctions have not been sufficiently regarded. Madras Government have asked permission to commence railway from Bellary to Guduk as a relief work. We have declined for reasons given to Bombay on similar application.

No. 6,008, Bombay Castle, 21st October 1876.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

In continuation of my letter No. 5,953, dated 19th instant, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the accompanying copy of a report* from the Collector of Násik on the condition and prospects of that district, as also a copy of the Resolution passed by this Government thereon, No. 6,007 of this day's date.

* No. 3,252, dated 15th October 1876.

No. 3,252, Násik, 15th October 1876.

From the Acting Collector of Násik to the Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division.

I have the honour to send, for submission to the Government of India, the report on the state of the Násik Collectorate to date of this letter, as required by your endorsement, No. 5,196, of 13th instant, on memorandum of Government in the Revenue Department, No. 5,808, of 11th instant.

2. In the Yeola taluka, which comprises 120 villages, having a population of 59,313 souls, almost complete failure of the kharif crops has occurred, and there has been little or no sowing of rabi, of grass there is next to none, and water is very scarce, instead of being abundant, as is usual at this time of year. The cattle have mostly been driven away to neighbourhoods where there is more grass and water. This is true of all Yeola, except of a dozen villages in the north-east corner of the taluka, separated from the rest of it by a low line of hills, which have apparently attracted rain, for the grass and crops there are nearly in their normal condition.

3. In the Niphar taluka, which has 122 villages, containing a population of 86,017 souls, the kharif harvest will be rather under than over half an average crop. The villages north of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have crops better than half average. But those south of the railway have crops less than half average, and as the southern division of the taluka is larger than the northern, the kharif harvest may be taken on the whole to be rather under than over half an average crop. Complete failure of the kharif crops has been confined to the villages of—

1. Mannore	Towards the Yeola taluka.
2. Bhorwas	
3. Dahigaon	
4. Wahegaon	
5. Gondegaon	
6. Gollegaon	
7. Maralgeo Khurd	
8. Maralgeo Budruk	
9. Pachora Khurd	
10. Pachora Budruk	
1. Mahal Sakora	Adjoining the Sinnar taluka.
2. Bhossa	
3. Tarrokhedle	
4. Chappargaon	
5. Khangaon Thadee	

The rabi prospects of the Niphar taluka are as bad as those of Yeola taluka, or very nearly so, and in each case there will be no rabi harvest at all, if rain does not fall during this month. In 37 villages of Niphar, here and there fields have been sown for rabi. In the balance of 85 villages no rabi has been sown at all; some cattle have been sent away from the taluka, others will have to go if there be no more rain, and water and grass are scarce.

4. Of the Sinnar taluka, having 103 villages, with a population of 64,872 souls, Mr. Charles, the assistant in charge, writes: "I have now seen a great part of the south of Sinnar, and the worst impressions have been fully confirmed.

There has, therefore, been no rain for two months here.

"The rain of September 25th and 28th did not extend more than a few miles east of Sinnar (except in two villages where showers fell on the Nagar border).

"It is therefore certain that no rabi can be sown in all the eastern half of the taluka.

"This of itself means the loss of one-fourth of all the crops.

"Bajri is now being reaped, and though nearly in every village there are some good fields, with an out-turn of perhaps annas 8 or 9, the great majority of all the fields are not two feet high, with the stalks yellow, and what little grain there is small and imperfectly developed. The out-turn of these I should put at about annas 4, while there are numbers of fields and parts of fields where there is no grain at all, and the stalks only a few inches high. The people are becoming very importunate. Yesterday large bodies of Kunbis, from six or eight villages, came to my tents demanding remissions, and asking what arrangements were to be made to feed them.

"I was obliged to tell them I had no authority to promise any remissions, and at this they were angry and even insolent. One set of people, after coming up three or four times and getting the same answer went away, and were heard by my peons to say that they would take an opportunity of knocking the Sahib (*i.e.*, myself) on the head, and then perhaps Government would pay attention to their condition.

"I do not fear that they will carry out their threats, but mention the matter that you may understand what their temper is.

"I think that it is highly desirable Government should make some distinct promise as to the revenue, and then the people could either leave their crops and seek work, or use them to feed cattle with. As it is, they are afraid to leave their villages for fear of being called upon to pay revenue, and having their occupancies sold up.

"I think from what I have seen, that no revenue at all can be collected this year from the eastern half of Sinnar, and what I should propose is that the people should be told this as soon as possible, and informed that whatever proportion of the revenue may be finally settled upon as leviable will be collected not this year but the next.

It must be remembered that the bajri crop last year was a poor one, owing to excess of rain in September 1875.

"No half measure will satisfy them, and the good effect of what I am convinced must finally be adopted (viz., no collection this year) will be much neutralized if they are kept in suspense and

irritation for months. I have now been twice over this part (in September and now again), and I cannot see what good further inspections can do, unless indeed a more experienced officer can come to check my conclusions." It will therefore be seen that the kharif harvest of the Sinnar taluka is very poor, especially in the eastern part of the taluka, and if no rain falls during this month there will be no rabi harvest. Mr. Charles says : "This of itself means the loss of "one-fourth of all the crop." I think he understates the calamity, but he knows the district better than I do.

5. Having described the state of things in the Yeola, Niphar, and Sannar talukas, where it is worst, I must say of the rest of the Collectorate that there has been an unusual shortness of rain, which I will show by a statement appended to this letter. The kharif harvest is by no means good, but rabi prospects are worse. There has not been rain enough in September to admit of the land being prepared for rabi crops; and if there be no rain during this month the rabi crops of the whole Collectorate will be very short indeed. In the Chandore taluka the kharif harvest will be very irregular, as was the rainfall, which came to some villages and did not touch others, and I hear that at least a dozen of 32 villages called the Deshi villages, which came to the Kalwan taluka from the Baglan taluka, have had very small kharif crops, and are not likely to have any rabi harvest.

6. Up to the beginning of this month the nagli and rice crops of the hilly or Dang country of the Igatpuri, Násik, Dindori, Kalwan, Baglan talukas promised fairly. But now there are rumours that, owing to cessation of rain since, say, the 26th of September, and unusual atmospheric dryness, the grain has not ripened, and if that be true, Bheels and hillmen about the Ghâts will suffer very much. On the 15th September, when I left the hills of the Kalwan taluka, nagli and rice were vigorous, and rain which fell on the 16th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 25th, 26th, and 28th of September appeared to have removed all cause for anxiety. But if the grain be not ripening very serious want among the hillmen must follow. This matter has my anxious attention.

7. Of remedial measures, I have to report that in the middle of September, finding that a downfall of rain which occurred almost all over the Collectorate on the last two days of August had not been followed by seasonable rains, I directed an expenditure of Rs. 8,176 to be made from local funds in the talukas of Malegaon, Baglan, Kalwan, Chandore, and Nandgaon, which seems to have supplied the demand for labour there, and on the 24th September a relief work was started on the Niphar and Yeola Road, which has been in progress since, and there are now about 2,000 men, women, and children at work there per diem on daily wages of 2 annas, 1½ annas, and 1 anna each. On the 29th September another relief work was begun at the Koppralla Ghât for the Sinnar Taluka; and by the last accounts I have had above 2,000 men, women, and children were working there at the same low rate of wages paid at the Yeola and Niphar Road. Another relief work will be started after the Dewali, say by the 20th of this month, on a small scale, on the Bhawad Bari and Vinchur Road, between the Bari and the Azra Road, to relieve distress which there may be in the 32 Deshi villages of Kalwan and in the Chandore taluka.

8. There are, I have shown, about 4,000 men, women, and children at work on the Yeola and Niphar Road and at the Koppralla Ghât. The numbers are not at this moment increasing, because the kharif harvest is being reaped. But if no rain fall between now and the end of this month, the numbers will, I think, double ; and I believe that in November, and further on towards the hot weather, more works of relief will have to be opened. At present the local funds are undertaking the two relief works in progress ; but if the increased necessity for work I look for occurs, the local funds will not be able to deal with the matter, and then, as I have represented to Government in my letters to the Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, Nos. 3,173 and 3,189 of the 9th and 10th instant, some such imperial work as the contemplated railway between Munmar or Lasalgaon stations in the Násik Collectorate and Dhond in the Poona Collectorate will have to be undertaken. I mention this work because it would pass through the Niphar or the Yeola talukas, and be handy for the Sinnar people, and also afford work for a line of country east of the Násik Collectorate in Ahmednagar, where I am led to believe things are worse than they are in the Niphar and Yeola talukas. Here, however, I confess I am speaking out of my range, and from hearsay.

9. It seems to me that the very unusual want of grass and water, which is felt already by cattle in those parts of this Collectorate south of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, will increase daily till June next, unless we have falls of rain in this month or in November and December, and no one can predict anything about such falls beyond that they are very irregular, and come what may I anticipate much difficulty in collecting the year's revenue due from the Sinnar, Yeola, and Niphar talukas in December of this year, and the first four months of next year. At other points of the district also remissions will have to be made to villages affected by the very irregular rainy season we are suffering from, which has in several cases watered a village, and left neighbouring villages without rain.

10. I am not anxious about grain supplies. There will be grain enough in the district, and if there were not the railway passes through it. But prices are rising, and will rise further as the hot season comes, and the poor people in many places will not have means to buy food. There will also be lack, great lack, of water. Even here, near the Ghâts, the streams are much drier than they are generally at this time of year. In nearly all parts of the district south of the railway grass will be gone in another month, and very little hay, and not as much grain straw as usual, has been collected. If there be no rain within this year there must be much distress south of the line of railway. The grain-sellers are in places holding up grain, and I hear that the Nizam's Government have prohibited export of grain from their territory. This will tend to raise prices. On Tuesday last, the Yeola market day, very little grain came there, which was not customary as there are no grain stores at Yeola, and the weekly market is generally well supplied. At Lasalgaon the large grain dalláls are fearful of their stores being broken into, and

have asked to be allowed to have police. However, I must state that the people of Yeola and Niphar are behaving very well indeed, and though the Sinnar people have complained and even threatened, still nothing like riot has occurred.

11. I have carefully refrained from using the word famine. There is not famine here. There is unusual scarcity of water, grass, and crops. There has been, and will continue to be, till rain falls, scanty earnings. Cattle are becoming burdensome to feed, and further on towards the hot weather, men, women, and children will feel want of money and scarcity of water very greatly.

12. There is a considerable acreage of irrigated lands south of the railway, which will, of course, bear full crops, and for the next two months I do not look for the drying up of the irrigational canals. But they will give out sooner than in ordinary years.

13. I should say that Mr. Cooke, the assistant in charge of the Yeola and Niphar talukas, has been there during this month and last month, when he has visited 38 villages of Yeola and 40 villages of Niphar, and as he is well acquainted with the talukas, his representations to me of their condition is very trustworthy, and I may say the same of Mr. Charles' inspection of the Sinnar taluka, which has been made very carefully and with excellent local knowledge.

14. It is as well to state that the Násik Collectorate comprises the talukas of—

—	Population.	Square Miles.	Gross Land Revenue for 1874–75.
			Rs.
Niphar	86,017	370·5	2,78,299
Yeola	59,313	482	1,16,028
Sinnar	64,872	507	1,44,661
Násik	89,377	445·14	1,54,366
Igatpuri	57,735	672	89,631
Dindori	68,626	560	1,32,703
Kalwan	54,152	1,200	89,053
Peint State	47,033	960	51,779
Baglan	59,051	1,420	1,39,745
Malegaon	62,716	774·805	1,80,919
Nandgaon	30,230	424	66,603
Chandore	50,130	299	1,04,003
Total	729,252	7,913	15,47,790

If the nagli crops of the Ghât and hill regions have really failed to ripen, in parts of Igatpuri, Násik, Dindori, Kalwan, Baglan, there will be serious distress among the Bheels and hillmen. The condition of the rest of the Collectorate I have described. The Peint State is not in distress.

15. It strikes me to mention that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are willing to spend Rs. 10,000 in making a new siding for their station at Igatpuri. This work, which they have for some time past been trying to be allowed to make, would help hill-people in that neighbourhood. In case of the nagli having failed in the Kalwan Dangs, the big dam at Chankapur, which is in the heart of a Bheel country, might be made, and would relieve all Kalwan and parts of Dindori, and as I have said the contemplated railway from Munmar or Lasalgaon to Dhond would relieve Niphar and Yeola, and perhaps Sinnar, and be of advantage to the distress of the Ahmednagar districts.

CONTRASTED STATEMENT showing the RAINFALL in the NÁSIK COLLECTORATE.

Names of Talukas.	During 1875.								During 1876.								Remarks.
	June.		July.		August.		September.		June.		July.		August.		September.		
	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	Inches.	Cents.	
Násik	8	95	10	47	5	86	6	97	—	—	9	52	5	65	—	80	This is at the taluka stations only, and not general. The rainfall has been not only much below average, but the fall was very irregular, and sometimes in heavy masses; thus at Yeola—
Sinnar	5	95	5	81	5	9	5	56	2	27	4	5	3	2	1	3	
Igatpuri	28	56	58	63	23	44	35	84	11	65	57	55	34	70	10	67	
Dindori	7	44	12	7	6	49	9	68	—	—	8	47	8	36	—	82	
Niphar	3	7	3	74	7	10	6	—	3	58	5	69	3	9	—	3	
Chandore	5	40	6	41	11	93	10	28	4	20	5	32	2	37	—	69	
Yeola	7	41	3	40	11	8	8	18	10	15	2	23	1	73	—	85	
Nandgaon	2	88	4	5	8	13	8	63	5	51	3	84	1	92	—	51	
Malegaon	4	83	5	31	7	8	7	15	8	22	2	51	3	99	1	1	
Baglan	11	85	8	57	8	97	6	15	2	36	2	48	4	46	1	59	
Kalwan	5	90	6	53	6	—	11	61	2	31	6	57	5	36	1	86	
Peint State	17	98	47	22	20	46	26	90	6	35	41	21	23	60	7	60	
Total	110	22	172	24	121	63	92	95	56	60	149	84	98	25	27	46	

	Ins.	Cts.	
In June 1876	10	15	fell.
July "	2	23	
August "	1	73	
September "	0	85	
and at Niphar—			
In June 1876	3	58	fell.
July "	5	69	
August "	3	9	
September "	0	3	

No. 6,007, dated Bombay Castle, 21st October 1876.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, in the Revenue Department.

Memorandum from the Revenue Commissioner, N. D., No. ——, dated 16th October 1876.—Submitting, with his remarks with reference to Government memorandum, No. 5,808, dated 11th idem, a report, No. 3,252, dated 15th idem, from the Collector of Násik on the condition and prospects of that Collectorate.

RESOLUTION.—This report should be placed on the editors' table, and copies forwarded to the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

2. As to remissions, the Collector should be informed that in villages where there is nothing but kharif, and where that crop has wholly failed, entire remissions may be granted; no remissions should, however, be granted where there has been an eight-anna crop, but where it is below that valuation the first instalment should be wholly foregone. Whatever inquiries may be necessary should be made by villages or groups of villages.

3. Government consider it premature to issue any instructions regarding rabi crops.

No. 6,152.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY in the Revenue Department, dated 27th October 1876.

Telegram, dated 29th September 1876.

Distress rapidly increasing, and prospects becoming worse in eastern districts of this Presidency. Almost inevitable that large relief works must be sanctioned immediately out of Imperial funds. The proposed railway from Dhond to Manmád will afford employment to three districts, and everything is ready for commencement in certain portions of the line. Authority to begin in case of necessity earnestly requested without delay.

Telegram, dated 3rd October 1876. (*See* p. 10.)

Telegram, dated 4th October 1876. (*See* p. 11.)

Telegram, dated 16th October 1876. (*See* p. 11.)

RESOLUTION.—His Excellency the Governor in Council, while regretting that the Government of India have deemed it their duty, for the reasons stated in their telegram, to withhold permission for the commencement of work on the Dhond and Manmád Railway, gratefully acknowledges the confidence which has been placed in this Government, and the authority conveyed to them to incur such expenditure in providing work and relief in the distressed localities as they may consider necessary.

2. The reports last received from those districts are certainly not of a more favourable character than the earlier ones, and the Government have therefore lost no time in calling upon the officers of the respective Departments to submit proposals for providing employment, as far as possible, for those in need, on the understanding that, for the present at any rate, railway works must be excluded from their calculations.

3. In the case of the three districts specially dealt with in the Resolution of the 16th instant, viz., Ahmednagar, Poona, and Sholápur, proposals have been submitted providing for an outlay on road works of Rs. 8,61,879, and on works connected with the Irrigation Department of Rs. 10,61,770, to which last may be added hereafter, if required, another work, the Neera Canal, on which the possible outlay is in eight months estimated at Rs. 6,00,000. The total cost of the works which are considered available is therefore Rs. 25,23,649, and it is matter of satisfaction to the Government to find the Irrigation Department in a position at this crisis to provide so much employment of a character which, if not all directly remunerative, cannot fail to be very beneficial in future years to the localities concerned. The statements show that, out of the total given above, works to the amount of Rs. 3,28,516 have been already sanctioned. Orders have been given for the resumption of work on the Mutha Canal, and tenders have been invited for the supply of food to the labourers to be employed on it. The other works will be proceeded with as needed, and as soon as the necessary arrangements have been made. The scheme having been sanctioned, it will rest with the local officers to represent the necessity for proceeding with any particular work.

4. Turning to the districts of Dharwar, Belgaum, Kaládgi, Satara, Násik, and Khandesh, the proposals submitted provide for an outlay on road works of Rs. 20,05,000, and on works connected with the Irrigation Department of Rs. 16,56,139, giving a total of Rs. 36,61,139. The statements show that, out of this sum, works to the amount of Rs. 2,16,341 have been already sanctioned. And the directions given above with respect to the commencement of particular works will apply to the districts now under notice.

5. Such are the arrangements by means of which the Government hope to be able to provide the chief part of the employment needed for some months. They have no intention of beginning all the works simultaneously, but one of the greatest difficulties with which they have to contend is uncertainty as to the extent of the demands which may ultimately be made upon them, and which they must be prepared to meet as the necessity arises. The impression is gaining ground that the proportion of the population to whom aid must be given, in some shape, will much exceed the calculation given in the Resolution of the 16th instant. On the other hand, it is possible that the rain which has lately fallen in some of the southern districts may greatly mitigate the distress. The proposed scheme of operations is now sanctioned as a whole, in order that the local officers may be prepared to act as soon as the emergency arises.

6. Another element of complication, and one which has of late become very prominent, is the question of the water supply. The reports now show that in many of parts of the country sources of supply, which at this season are usually ample, have already failed. Cattle are already dying in consequence, and as the drought increases, much attention must be paid to this question in the selection of the works to be undertaken.

7. In connexion with the scarcity of water it has been suggested, both by local officers and the Sarvajanik Sábha of Poona, that efforts should be made for the transfer to other localities of such of the population as might be willing to quit their present homes, and the Government is making inquiries with this object.

8. It will be the duty of the local officers, when requesting authority for the commencement of any work of magnitude, to state whether the local dealers may be expected to supply food, or whether it will be necessary for Government to invite tenders from other quarters.

9. The revenue and police officers should likewise submit to Government, through the Revenue Commissioners, their views as to any additional establishments that may be required for preserving order, for distributing relief to the infirm poor, or for the superintendence of the relief works, which must be undertaken from time to time under the control of the Collectors.

10. Statistical tables have been called for, showing in respect of each taluka of the Deccan and Southern Maratha Collectorates, the area, population, average produce, average rainfall, average price of grain, and those of the present season. A sketch map should be attached to these tables.

11. Copies of this Resolution, and of the reports and statements referred to, should be forwarded for the information of the Government of India.

Telegram, 27th October 1876.

From PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, Madras, to PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, Simla.

A fortnight's time must determine whether famine is inevitable. In that case concentration of relief labour most necessary; already upwards fifty thousand employed on scattered relief works in one district out of three. If famine contingency arises, we propose commencement of embankment work of Bellary-Guddak Railway, which traverses worse part of suffering district as State work. Please telegraph reply.

Telegram, No. 387, 27th October 1876.

From COMMERCE, Simla, to PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, Madras.

Your telegram to President in Council of this date. The Government of India do not think it advisable in present emergency to sanction large and expensive works, the ultimate cost of which will greatly exceed the expense involved in providing labour for distressed poor. Local works should be organised. Bombay Government have been similarly instructed. The railway project must be decided on its merits.

Telegram, 27th October 1876.

From Madras Government, Madras, to Financial Secretary, Simla.

Sanctions for relief works already aggregate rupees three hundred and seventy-seven thousand seven hundred and seventy. Impossible to avoid expense, or to provide from provincial or local.

Telegram, 31st October 1876.

From Comerce, Simla, to the Government of Madras.

With reference to your telegram of 27th to Financial Department stating amount of sanctions for relief works, it is very desirable that report called for in my telegram of 22nd should be furnished as soon as possible.

Telegram, 30th October 1876.

From Resident at Hyderabad, Deccan, to Commerce, Simla.

Price of grain has risen most seriously here and throughout Hyderabad territory. Rice four to five and wheat seven to eight seers per rupee. Merchants offer to import grain from north-west and other quarters if the railway charge for transport is lowered. I venture to suggest that this be considered in respect of all grain in transport between Madras and Bombay, or from Central Provinces or north-west to localities affected by scarcity.

Telegram, 1st November 1876.

From Commerce, Simla, to Resident, Hyderabad.

Your telegram of 30th received, regarding lowering of freight of grain. Cannot decide immediately as question affects other Provinces.

From Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore to the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department.

Bangalore, 3rd October 1876.

In reply to your telegram of the 27th ultimo, calling for detailed information regarding the present condition of the province, I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to submit the following report for the information of the Government of India.

2. As the Government of India have been made aware from this office, letter No. 7717/114 of 14th January 1876, the condition of the province excited considerable apprehension at that period owing to the almost total failure of the south-west monsoon of last year, 1875, and the consequent loss of the staple dry crops (raggi), which are grown in that season over the greater part of the province. The harvest of the previous year had, however, been fortunately an abundant one, and though the north-east monsoon, which is relied upon to fill the tanks, and thus furnish water for the wet crops cultivated under them, also failed, the difficulties of the year were tided over with the aid of large grants for relief works, and considerable remissions of the revenue demand.

While the rainfall for 1857 was therefore very deficient, that of the present year computed for the same period of seven months, viz., from January to July, has been still more so, as shown in the subjoined table for the five districts which are chiefly affected.

——	1876.	1875.	1874.
Tumkur - - - - -	21·97	24·21	33·47
Kolar - - - - -	29·22	29·80	44·12
Shimoga - - - - -	14·59	18·69	22·77
Kadur - - - - -	18·57	17·80	25·99
Chitaldroog - - - - -	8·56	8·77	15 70

3. The effects of the present scarcity will be better illustrated, however, by reference to the subjoined statement of the price of the two staple grains, rice and raggy. This statement shows the selling prices of these grains on the 15th September 1876 and those which ruled on the same date last year and in 1874.

Districts.	Seers per Rupee.								
	Rice, 1st Sort.			Rice, Common.			Raggi.		
	15 Sept. 1876.	15 Sept. 1875.	15 Sept. 1874.	15 Sept. 1876.	15 Sept. 1875.	15 Sept. 1874.	15 Sept. 1876.	15 Sept. 1875.	15 Sept. 1874.
Kolar - - - -	11·5	17·2	14·7	11·	17·5	15·1	16·5	33·2	43·4
Tumkur - - - -	7·5	15·	13·	8·5	17·	14·	15·	53·2	56·
Shimoga - - - -	8·5	11·5	13·	10·5	16·7	17·	14·7	29·5	46·
Kadur - - - -	10·	12·	12·5	11·	14·	16·	14·	24·	32·
Chitaldroog - - -	9·	12·	13·	10·	15·	15·	14·2	29·	49·

The following is summarised from the reports which have been recently received as to the state of the crops and the people in the districts.

5. Of the three districts composing the Nundydroog Division, Kolar and Tumkur are chiefly affected, the former chiefly in the five taluks on the eastern frontier bordering Her Majesty's territory, and the latter chiefly in the taluks of Sira and Honavalli, though the other taluks are also affected, but to a less degree. In these tracts the dry crops which, owing to the delay in the monsoon rains, had been recently put down have been more or less wholly lost by the absence of timely showers during August and September. There has been an absolute failure of pasture, and cattle, which are so indispensable to the ryot, have died literally in thousands. This is, fortunately, not the case throughout these districts, but had it not been for a good fall of rain which occurred on the 25th ultimo the standing crops would also have gone and famine would have inevitably supervened over the whole area. The fall of rain has saved, it is hoped, a portion of these crops, and if more rain falls the ryots will be able to raise crops of the inferior millet, horse grain, &c. before the ensuing hot weather. In the Bangalore District of the same division he crops have been parched, and in many cases destroyed, by the drought, but, though severe distress prevails, this district has not suffered in a similar degree.

6. In the Nagar Division the condition of the whole of the Chitaldroog District, and of large tracts of the Shimoga and Kadur Districts, has been worse probably than that of the Kolar and Tumkur Districts described above. In the table appended to paragraph 1 the rainfall in the Shimoga and Kadur Districts has attained in the seven months nearly the same average as in 1875, but the figures do not quite represent the actual facts, as they include the returns from the western taluks near the ghâts, where the rain has not been very deficient this year. In the eastern taluks the rainfall has been probably the same as in the Chitaldroog District adjoining, viz., 8 inches, against 15 inches in 1874.

7. In the Ashtagram Division the distress is most seriously felt in the eastern taluks of the Hassan District, and to a less extent perhaps in those of the Mysore Districts.

8. I am desired to state that, excepting in the Kolar District, where, on the urgent representation of the Deputy Commissioner, a sum of Rs. 3,000 was recently allotted as a Government contribution towards the maintenance of "feeding kitchens" or houses in six taluks, the assignments which have been made from the 1 lac grant sanctioned by the Government of India in your No. 821, dated 11th April last, as well as from local funds, to the amount altogether of Rs. 106,983 up to date, have been ordered to be expended wholly on relief works, such as the repairs of tanks, deepening of wells, &c. While the outlay has thus been of a useful and profitable character, these works, which have been in progress in some districts throughout the present year, have contributed beyond question to allay the distress and misery which would otherwise, in all human probability, have ere this culminated in actual famine among large classes of the people.

9. In conclusion, I am desired to solicit the sanction of his Excellency in Council to an additional special grant of Rs. 100,000 being placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner for expenditure on such further relief works as may be necessary in the districts most affected, and for providing pecuniary assistance in such form as may be deemed best calculated to afford timely succour to the distressed during the present scarcity, which must for some months at least exist among the poorer of the agricultural classes.

I have, &c.

Telegram, 25th October 1876.

From Chief Commissioner, Bangalore, to Foreign Secretary, Viceroy's Camp.

My secretary's letter, No. 6,524, of 3rd instant. Owing to absence of rain the expectation of saving some portion of the raggi crops will not be realised, the area in which distress and famine may be looked for is enlarging, and relief works must be commenced in every district. The scarcity of food grains aggravated by increase of distress in Madras Presidency. The further grant of 1 lakh applied for will be needed at once.

Telegram No. 2,342 G., 30th October 1876.

From Foreign Under Secretary, Simla, to Chief Commissioner, Mysore.

President in Council wishes to receive early separate statements regarding each taluka in districts where drought or scarcity prevails, showing area of taluka, population, realisable revenue in 1875–76, rough proportion of kharif to rabi cultivation, average annual rainfall, actual rainfall this season, ordinary price of staple food of the taluka at this season, actual present price of the same, probable extent of failure of crops, and amount, if any, sanctioned for relief works and other relief. These statements may be prepared from the best materials available, and corrected or supplemented afterwards, and should be forwarded as soon as possible.

No. 27 of 1876.

From the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India

Simla, 9th November.

1. In continuation of our Despatch of the 2nd instant, we beg leave to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of communications (as per margin) relative to the scarcity prevailing in Western and Southern India.

Letter to the Bombay Government, No. 806, dated the 3rd November.
Reports of rainfall and state of crops in the Bombay Presidency for the week ending the 15th October 1876.

2. We are still awaiting the complete

Telegram from Chief Commissioner of Mysore, dated the 1st November.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 2nd November.
Accompaniment to Bombay Government Resolution, No. 6,152, dated the 27th October.
Telegram to Bombay Government, dated the 9th November.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 4th November.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 7th November.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 7th November.
Telegram to Government of Madras, dated the 7th of November.

information from Bombay and Madras which was called for in our telegrams of the 22nd and 25th ultimo respectively, but have reason to believe that the slight rainfall which took place in some parts of Bombay has practically afforded but little relief, and that no change for the better has taken place in the situation generally.

3. We have approved of a proposal received from the Chief Commissioner of Mysore to contribute, on behalf of the State, an amount equal to any sum which may be raised by private subscription in the province for the relief of distress.

4. A preliminary scrutiny of the scheme of relief works sanctioned by the Government of Bombay, and referred to in paragraph 3 of our last Despatch, having been completed, we have intimated our disapproval of two large works, by which heavy future liability would have been incurred, and have directed that certain others shall not be commenced, pending the receipt of fuller information. We have, however, explained that if, previous to this being supplied and considered, other relief works should be necessary, minor works may be commenced in each distressed taluka on the system already adopted in the Poona District.

5. The question of the reduction of the freight of grain by railway is still under consideration, pending replies to a reference which we have made to the Governments of Madras and Bombay, but we append a telegram received from the latter, which shows that the importation of grain by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is very satisfactory.

We have the honour to be, &c.

No. 806, Simla, 3rd November 1876.

From Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

With reference to the Resolution of the Bombay Government, No. 6,007, dated the 21st ultimo, upon a report by the Collector of Násik, which was one of the accompaniments to your letter, No. 6,008, dated the 21st ultimo, I am directed by his Honour the President in Council to suggest to his Excellency the Governor in Council the expediency of taking steps to ensure that the occupancy right of ryots shall not be sold in any of the distressed districts for default of payment of land revenue in any instances when the default may be, to any reasonable extent, attributable to the unfavourableness of the season, and, further, of directing by executive order that in any sales of movable property for such default which may be deemed indispensable, such of the exemptions which have been proposed in section 266 of the Civil Procedure Code Bill (vide "Gazette of India," dated the 30th September 1876, Part V.) as may be applicable to ryots shall be allowed to them.

Weekly Report of Rainfall and the State of Crops, &c. in the several talukas of the Násik Collectorate from 7th October to 13th October 1876, inclusive.

No.	Talukas.	Fall of Rain during the Week ending 6th October 1876.	State of Crops, &c.
		In. Cents.	
1	Násik - -	—	The kharif harvest is coming in, and will be about a half crop. If rain do not fall within this month the rabi harvest will fail very greatly; want of rain during this month and last has prevented rabi sowing. The rabi harvest is of much importance in the Collectorate, and without it I look for distress: and there will be scarcity of water, and grass, and grain straws in that part of the Collectorate south of the railway.
2	Sinnar - -	—	
3	Igatpuri -	—	
4	Dindori -	—	
5	Niphar - -	—	
6	Vinchur -	—	
7	Chándor -	—	
8	Yeola - -	—	
9	Nándgaon -	—	2,000 souls at work on the Niphar and Yeola Road.
10	Málegaon -	—	2,000 at the Kapprala Ghat in the Sinnar Taluka. Numbers will increase largely after the Diwali. No signs of rain.
11	Báglán - -	—	
12	Kalwan -	—	
13	Peint State -	—	

No. 3,246 of 1876.

Násik, Collector's Office, 14th October.

Forwarded to the private secretary to his Excellency the Governor, in accordance with the instructions from the Revenue Commissioner, N.D.

WEEKLY REPORT of RAINFALL and the STATE of CROPS in the several talukas of the Poona Collectorate for the week ending 15th October 1876.

No.	Taluka.	Fall of Rain during the Week ending 15th October 1876.	State of Crops, &c.
		In. Cents.	
1	Indápur -	—	There was no rain throughout the Collectorate during the week under report.
2	Khed - -	—	
3	Máwal - -	—	No change since last week in the prospects. The early crops in many places are being cut for forage. At the weekly markets held in the larger villages cattle are offered for sale at nominal prices, and find no purchasers. A water famine threatens the eastern districts. The prices of grain have been steady during the last week.
4	Haveli - -	—	
5	Purandhar -	—	
6	Sirur - -	—	
7	Bhimthari -	—	
8	Junnar - -	—	

REPORT of RAINFALL and the STATE of CROPS, &c. in the several talukas of the Belgaum District for the week ending Tuesday, the 17th October 1876.

No.	Talukas.	Rainfall during the Week.	Prices of Provisions.		State of Crops, &c.
			Jowari.	Rice.	
		In. Cents.	Seers per Rupee.	Seers per Rupee.	
1	Belgaum -	—	8	6	No rain has been registered during the past week; a few showers fell in the neighbourhood of Belgaum, but not sufficient to do much good. The accounts from all the talukas are very unfavourable. The kharif crops have all withered in Gokak, and also in Athni, except on the banks of the River Krishna. In the north of the taluka of Chikori there has also been a total failure of the crops, and those in the other talukas are most indifferent. Continued complaints of want of water, the scarcity of which in some places threatens to become very serious. The mortality of cattle continues. There is a great dearth of grain in all the markets. In some towns it is scarcely to be obtained. Although grain is selling at very high prices in Belgaum, it is scarcely procurable, and the officer commanding the troops has complained that the sepoys are actually suffering in consequence of their not being able to buy the necessary supply of food. The merchants are most unwilling to sell, and declare that their stores are becoming exhausted. Very little importation takes place from the district, as the traders imagine that the roads are unsafe, and that the goods will be plundered. The price of grain having risen in Bombay the supplies from that quarter will run short. Local Funds Works are in progress throughout the district, but are insufficient to employ the many labourers out of work.
2	Sampgaon	—	10	5	
3	Bidi -	0 22	9	7	
4	Chikori -	—	9	6	
5	Parasgad -	—	9	6	
6	Gokák -	—	9	6	
7	Athni -	—	8	6	

No. 2,616 of 1876.

WEEKLY REPORT of RAINFALL and the STATE of CROPS, &c. in the several talukas of the Kaládgi Collectorate for the week ending 14th October 1876.

No.	Taluka.	Fall of Rain during the Week.	State of Crops, &c.
		In. Cents.	
1	Indi - -	—	No rain since last report; consequently in every respect the condition of things has become more aggravated. Bazaar prices have very materially risen during the week, and will soon border on famine rates. The scarcity of fodder has increased and the cattle are suffering much. Many people are taking their cattle off to Karwar and elsewhere for grazing; consequently carriage is very difficult to procure, and trade much impeded thereby. Water also is in many places very scarce. The Indi Mámlatdár reports that many people are migrating out of his taluka. Crime also is on the increase, and many are afraid to travel for fear of being robbed.
2	Sindgi -	—	
3	Muddebihál -	—	
4	Bágewári -	—	
5	Bijápur -	—	
6	Bágalkot -	—	The public health cannot be called good, in that the poor suffer from insufficiency and badness of food. In some talukas there is slight cholera. The weather has become hot again, and heavy clouds at times appear; but, judging from past experience, it is very doubtful whether they will lead to rain. Should they not do so, it will be necessary very shortly to commence relief works on an extended scale.
7	Bádami -	—	
8	Hungund -	—	

WEEKLY REPORT of RAINFALL and the STATE of CROPS, &c. in the several talukas of the Sholápur Collectorate for the week ending 18th October 1876.

No.	Talukas.	Rainfall during the Week ending 18th instant.		State of Crops, &c.
		In.	Cents.	
1	Sholápur - -	—		There may be said to have been no rain during the week, and, therefore, everything is almost as bad as it can be. 20,000 cattle in all have been taken from the Karmála Taluka into Nizam's territory. Many villages in different talukas are being deserted, and it will be the same in many more in a few days' time when the last hope of rain is gone. 32,000 persons employed on small relief works throughout the district.
2	Bársi - -	—		
3	Madha - -	—		
4	Karmála - -	—		
5	Pandharpur - -	0	8	
6	Sángola - -	0	8	
7	Málsiras - -	—		

WEEKLY REPORT of RAINFALL and the STATE of CROPS, &c. in the several talukas of the Ahmednagar Collectorate for the week ending 10th October 1876.

No.	Talukas.	Fall of Rain during week ending 10th October.		State of Crops, &c.
		In.	Cents.	
1	Nagar - -	—		Bajri has withered for want of rain. Rabi sowing has taken place in some villages and has already germinated, but the young plants are perishing. Sowing not commenced in some places for want of rain. People in want of food are employed in relief works.
2	Párner - -	—		Jowari has been sown in some places where it had rained formerly, and has germinated; but without rain it is not likely there will be any yield. People in want of food are employed in relief works.
3	Shrigonda -	—		Kharif has entirely perished. Jowari sown in nine villages. If it rains in a week or so, rabi will be sown. For want of fodder, people are removing their cattle elsewhere. If it does not rain soon the condition of the people will get worse. People in want of food are employed in relief works.
4	Karjat - -	—		Kharif has entirely perished, and rabi has not been sown at all. There is no fodder for cattle, which are being removed elsewhere. Cattle are dying for want of fodder. About 400 men are employed on relief works. Grain is very dear. People in want of food are employed on relief works.
5	Jámkhed - -	—		Rabi has been sown in such places only where the ground was moist, and has germinated, but young plants are withering for want of rain. People are removing themselves, with their cattle, elsewhere. Kharif has been reaped. The yield is estimated at 6 annas.
6	Sheogaon -	—		There was no rain, otherwise the kharif and rabi crops would have been benefitted.
7	Newása - -	—		Kharif crops doing fairly. The yield will be about 8 annas. Jowari sowing has been completed, and gram sowing is in progress, but rain urgently required to complete sowing operations. Prices are rising.
8	Ráhuri - -	—		Kharif has perished or is withering. Rabi sowing delayed for want of rain; where rabi was sown without sufficient moisture the young plants are withering. Prices are rising. The kharif yield will hardly be 3 or 4 annas.
9	Kopargaon -	—		Rabi sown in places where the ground was moist is in villages to the south and east. Cattle are being removed elsewhere for want of fodder. Jowari has germinated. Bajri sown late is shooting into ear. Water in the Godávari is running low, as in the hot weather. Prices are rising. People in want of food are employed on relief works.
10	Sangamner -	—		Rabi sowing delayed for want of rain. Kharif is being reaped. Cattle are suffering from want of fodder. Prices are rising. People in want of food are employed on relief works.
11	Akola - -	—		Bajri ear has dried for want of rain, and there is no rain. The "Warai" and "Nágli" crops in the Dangi villages are withering. "Jiri" rice, and other miscellaneous crops, will give fair yield if it rains. Rabi sowing has not yet taken place. Rain urgently required. Kharif yield will be about 8 annas.

WEEKLY REPORT of RAINFALL, showing the STATE of CROPS, &c. for the Week ending 15th October 1876.—9 a.m.

No.	Talukas.	Rainfall during Week ending 15th October 1876.	Rainfall from 1st January to 8th October 1876.	Total.	Fall of Rain from 1st January to 18th October 1875.	Average Rainfall for the last 5 Years (Year ending 30th November).	REMARKS.
		In. cts.	In. cts.	In. cts.	In. cts.	In. cts.	
1	Satara - -	—	33 59	33 59	52 82	40 4	Kharif crops, sweet potatoes, and sugar-cane, better for the present. Rabi, where sown, requires rain.
2	Jauli - -	—	59 84	59 84	101 64	74 3	Sugar-cane not good. Rain urgently required. Kharif crops withering; people looking anxious.
3	Wai - -	—	25 34	25 34	48 68	32 88	Kharif crops suffering from want of rain; rabi sowing suspended in some places.
4	Koregaon -	—	20 8	20 8	37 20	27 77	Kharif crops,—loss will be 8 annas in the rupee. Rabi sown in some places, in others still suspended.
5	Pátan - -	—	48 82	48 82	95 56	61 71	Crops withered.
6	Karád - -	—	19 75	19 75	34 79	27 97	Sugar-cane good. Kharif crops withered.
7	Wálwa - -	—	12 80	12 80	25 55	25 24	
8	Tásgaon -	—	9 79	9 79	23 56	25 77	Kharif withering. Cattle are being fed on withered stalks.
9	Khánápur -	—	11 4	11 4	28 44	23 34	Kharif crops withered.
10	Khatau - -	—	11 51	11 51	26 47	22 38	Loss of 14 annas in the rupee anticipated in the kharif crops.
11	Mán - -	—	9 35	9 35	17 29	20 89	Kharif crops withering. Sugar-cane middling.
12	Malcolmpeth	—	243 18	243 18	336 40	273 22	—

There was a total absence of rain in the district during the week. The cry for rain is general, and the prospects from present appearances are gloomy. The entire failure of the kharif crops is apprehended—those that are standing are to a great extent fast withering. The bare stalks in some places are being cut down for fodder to cattle. The sowing of the rabi is generally suspended. The people look anxious.

No. 3,182 of 1876.

From COLLECTOR OF DHARWAR to PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR, Bombay.

Dharwar, 17th October.

I have the honour to submit my Weather Report for the week ending 14th instant. From it affairs appear to be as bad, if not worse, than before.

2. On the 14th afternoon, however, and on the 15th and 16th, rain, it is privately reported, has fallen in several places; and while I now write, 17th, it appears that heavy rain must be falling to the east. Should we get rain we may be saved anxiety as regards drinking water, but there will still be dreadful distress from want of work, and assistance will have to be most liberally continued.

I have the honour to be, &c.

WEEKLY REPORT for Week ending 14th October 1876.

No.	Names of Talukas and Pethas.	Rainfall during the Week.	REMARKS.
		In. cents.	
1	Dharwar - - - - -	0 4	
2	Mugud Petha - - - -	0 16	
3	Hubli - - - - -	—	
4	Nawalgund - - - - -	—	
5	Nargund Petha - - - -	—	
6	Gadag - - - - -	—	
7	Mundargi Petha - - - -	—	
8	Bankápur - - - - -	—	
9	Hángal - - - - -	—	
10	Ránibennur - - - - -	—	
11	Karajgi - - - - -	—	
12	Kalghatgi - - - - -	0 37	
13	Kod - - - - -	—	
14	Ron - - - - -	—	

No.	Talukas and Pethas.	State of Weather and Crops.
1	Dharwar - -	Crops not so good as last week; prices of grain rising, and dealers refuse to sell for cash.
2	Magad Petha -	Crops worse than last week.
3	Hubli - -	Report not received yet.
4	Nawalgund - -	Crops worse than last week. The sufferings of the poorer classes from the want of employment are greater than the last week. Many of the poorer classes hardly get a meal a day. Cholera prevails in eight villages. Some money must be given for the section of the Hubli Kaládgi Road in the Taluka.
5	Nargund - -	Crops worse than last week. The poorer classes are suffering considerably from want of employment. They hardly get a meal a day —in fact, they are in a state of destitution and bordering on starvation. Public health good.
6	Gadag - -	Crops worse than last week; in some places the crops have perished. The poorer classes are suffering very much from want of employment. The prices of grain are rising. The Mámlatdár of Gadag reports that the well-to-do in the town of Gadag Betigeri are about to raise funds to buy grain wholesale, and sell it to the poorer classes at the rates purchased. Cholera decreasing.
7	Mundargi Petha -	State of crops worse than last week; garden crops also withering. The poorer classes are suffering very much. The prices of grain are rising—jowari selling at 9 seers, of 80 tolas, per rupee. Holders, however, refuse to sell. Public health good.
8	Bankápur - -	Crops worse than last week; rain is reported to have fallen in a few villages; whether the fall was heavy or slight it is not stated. Prices of grain is rising. Employment required. Public health good.
9	Hangal - -	Crops worse than last week. In some places the rice crops are withered. Public health good.
10	Ránibennur - -	The crops worse than last week. The poorer classes are suffering much from want of work. At Ránibennur about 3,000 poor people are fed once a day by contribution from the well-to-do. Cattle are dying from want of fodder. Public health good.
11	Karajgi - -	Crops are worse than last week. The poorer classes are suffering very much from want of work, and are reported scarcely to get one meal a day. Holders of grain will not sell; many people cannot obtain grain to purchase. Public health good.
12	Kalghatgi - -	Crops worse than last week; great want of work. Public health good.
13	Kod - - - -	The crops are worse than last week. Public health good.
14	Ron - - -	Report not received yet.

No. 3,360 of 1876.

From the COLLECTOR OF KHANDESH to the PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

Camp Dhulia, 12th October.

According to my promise made, when submitting the Weather and Crop Returns of the Khandesh Collectorate, under date 3rd October 1876, I have the honour to forward the accompanying memorandum for the information of his Excellency the Governor.

I have the honour, &c.

MEMORANDUM.

Instead of submitting the usual formal statement regarding the crops, rainfall, &c., for the information of his Excellency the Governor, I am now in a position to record information concerning the central and eastern talukas of the Khandesh Collectorate from personal observation.

2. I have been away from head-quarters for a fortnight, and, by rapid marching, I have been able to inspect the principal portions of the following districts :—

The Parola Petha,
The Erandol Taluka,
The Nusseerabad do.,
The Bhusáwal do.,
The Sauda do.,
The Páchora do.,
The Bhadgaon Petha,

as well as a portion of the Dhulia Taluka.

3. The state of affairs is worst in the Sauda Taluka, the pethas Ráver and Yawal being also very bad, but not as hopeless as the neighbourhood of Sauda itself.

4. The extensive black soil plains between the River Tápti and the level of Sauda itself are perfectly bare, instead of, as is usual at this period of the year, being covered with flourishing crops of every description. The early sowings failed, and the cultivators ploughed up their fields in the hope that the season would prove favourable for the rabi, or second crop. No late rain, however, has fallen, nor does there appear to be a likelihood of any. We must, therefore, accept the fact that in some parts of the taluka the ryots will this season fail to secure any crop whatever. In the lighter soil, in portions of the taluka and its two pethas, a small out-turn may be expected, but the value of the crops (to be ascertained hereafter) will be very small indeed.

5. Relief works have been carried on and are still in progress. The earthwork for the road from the railway station to Sauda has been completed, and the preparation of metal has been commenced. The fact that in the month of September over 1,200 local labourers flocked to the road work is in itself the best possible proof of the existence of distress.

6. Besides the preparation of metal (not in itself a very suitable form of labour for distressed persons) I am having a road survey made from the town of Yawal to the Tápti River opposite Bhusáwal. This work will provide labour for many persons for a long time.

7. It is feared that in the event of no more rain falling four or five thousand persons will be dependent on Government for work throughout the dry season.

8. Grass has failed entirely, except in the immediate neighbourhood of the Satpura Hills, and even in the large jungles it is poor and scanty.

2. *Bhusawul.*

9. In the taluka itself, except in a few villages to the south, the kharif crops are an utter failure, and in the neighbourhood of the Tápti River the country is as bare as on the opposite bank of the Sauda Taluka. The petha Edalabad is in better case; but I fear that the total absence of late rain will cause the harvest to yield less than half the usual amount.

10. Small relief works have been in progress in the Bhusáwal Taluka for the last six weeks. The railway provides a good deal of work, and if the company agree to carry out more extensive alterations and additions, concerning which I have addressed Government through the Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, I fancy that large numbers of distressed persons will be able to get employment.

11. I am starting work at the Bodwad Tank, and also on a road from Warangaon.

12. A bad outbreak of cholera has occurred at the village of Susri, near Warangaon; half the number of persons attacked have died, and the accounts are still bad. I visited the village in company with my assistant, Mr. Woodward. I have now placed a hospital assistant on the spot. Medicine has been freely supplied since the commencement of the outbreak. No other village or town in the neighbourhood has been affected in any way.

3. *Jalgaon or Nusseerabad.*

13. Up to last month this taluka was in a better condition than its neighbours, but the absence of any late rain has caused immense damage. Crops there will be, but, with the exception of a few favoured villages, the yield will not exceed six or seven annas in the rupee.

14. The water supply at the important town of Jalgaon, always insufficient, is past failing altogether. Great difficulty will, therefore, be experienced during the ensuing season by the press and mill companies. Very strong representations on the subject of a water supply have been made from time to time by the European and native inhabitants of Jalgaon, and a scheme was prepared for supplying the town with water from the Mehrum Tank at a cost of Rs. 80,000; the greater portion of the above sum would, of course, be spent on improving and extending the tank. There appeared to be a difficulty, however, about providing funds, and up to the present time nothing has been done. I have now the plans and estimates before me, and hope to be able in a few days to make, on behalf of the Jalgaon Municipality, proposals to Government for raising the necessary funds. At the present time such a work would not only benefit the town permanently, but provide any amount of labour for the distressed poor.

15. Relief works are now in progress in the Nusseerabad Taluka, and a portion of the line between Jalgaon and Dharangaon has been taken in hand.

16. I fear that, as in the case of Sauda, there will be a steady demand for relief works up to the next monsoon in the Nusseerabad Taluka.

4. *The Pachora Taluka and Bhadgaon Petha.*

17. Like Nusseerabad, this taluka and petha for a portion of the monsoon did not suffer to any great extent, but, of late, crops of all kinds have been steadily failing. As regards cotton, although some of the fields visited by me appeared to be in a better state than those I had seen elsewhere, yet the cultivators themselves assess their cotton crop at 4 annas in the rupee. This is too low, but the real out-turn will not, I imagine, reach anything like 8 annas. Both Páchora and Bhadgaon will suffer greatly as regards the jowári crop; this in the Bhadgaon Petha is the staple product, and I am quite satisfied that, except in the case of a few favourably situated fields here and there, the crop of jowári will be hardly worth reaping.

18. The same outcry concerning the absence of grass exists in this taluka as elsewhere.

19. From Bhadgaon I visited the Government Model Farm, under the superintendence of Mr. Stormont. On the whole the crops are fair, and in some cases good. Jowári has failed of course, but the constant care and attention exercised by Mr. Stormont have borne satisfactory results. The general harvest at the farm will, in all probability, not be actually brilliant, but it will undoubtedly compare very favourably with the produce of the neighbouring lands cultivated by ordinary ryots.

20. I found a great cry for work among the Bheels and labouring classes both in Páchora and Bhadgaon.

21. A few small relief works have been in progress for some time past, and I am now taking in hand that portion of the Páchora and Bhadgaon Road to the east of the Titur River. Preparations are also being made for commencing a road from the town of Bhadgaon to the Kajgaon Railway Station.

5. *The Parola Petha of the Amalner Taluka.*

22. I found the state of the crops very unsatisfactory, cotton almost worthless, and the various grains withered and shrunk. The want of water in the town of Párola is a very serious evil at present. The supply is always bad, and towards the end of each dry season great inconvenience is felt, but on the present occasion the want of water at the beginning of October is as great as at the end of May in ordinary years. Some persons have already left the town, and what will become of the inhabitants in general I do not know, if it should appear that the present apprehensions as to the water supply not lasting for more than a month more be realised.

6. *Erandol Taluka.*

23. The crops are very inferior, but the necessity for relief works is not so pressing as elsewhere. In the eastern portion of the taluka, however, I received applications for work from distressed labourers. Little or no grass.

7. *The Dhulia Taluka.*

24. Is on the whole in an unsatisfactory condition. In some places the low rich land on the banks of the river, &c. has yielded fair crops, but the contents of the poorer and higher soil are hardly worth reaping. In the Dhulia market, on October 10th, there was a very serious rise in the price of grain.

25. Local works are being carried out as required, but the demand for work will probably very much increase as the season advances.

26. In the talukas of Chálisgaon, Jámner, Chopra, and Shirpur, according to the latest accounts, the kharif crops are withering, and there is but little prospect of a rabi crop; but at present the scarcity is not being very severely felt, and in some places labour has been provided for the present. The taluka of Virdel, which was originally in so bad a state, is again falling off. There is work for the people.

27. In the western talukas—Pimpalner, Nandurbár, Sháháda, and Taloda—the crops are very much better than elsewhere. They have fallen off of late, but there is no scarcity or distress, except in the Nizámpur Petha of the Pimpalner Taluka.

28. I have now somewhat fully described the condition of Khandesh up to the 7th instant, and will next week revert to the ordinary tabular form of return. The people of the district are at present quite quiet. The only outcry is for work and remissions of revenue; the former is being provided as actively as possible; the latter is under inquiry, and a report will be submitted hereafter. Remissions will have to be granted, and in some cases to a large extent.

Telegram, 1st November 1876.

From Chief Commissioner, Bangalore, to Foreign Under Secretary, Simla.

Your telegram of 30th. Statements for talukas will be prepared and submitted. The failure of north-east monsoon has completed the destruction to the extent of 20 per cent. of the kharif crops in all districts. Great distress exists throughout from loss of harvest in two successive years. Relief works already in operation, and will be needed on a large scale in every district. Large imports of grain by rail. I have sanctioned purchase of grain in local markets for payments on relief works. Public meeting takes place to-morrow morning, when I propose, unless prohibited, to intimate the intention of local administration to supplement all local private subscriptions for relieving distress by an equivalent grant, as was done in the famine of 1866 by Mr. Bowring.

Telegram No. 2,382 G., dated 2nd November 1876.

From Foreign Under Secretary, Simla, to Chief Commissioner, Mysore.

Your telegram of 1st. Government approves proposed intimation at public meeting that local administration will supplement all local private subscriptions for relieving distress by an equivalent grant, as was done in 1866.

Statement of Proposed Expenditure on Famine Relief Works in the Poona District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
Sanctioned Allotments.	Rs.	Rs.
Provincial.		
Road repairs (supplementary grant - - - - -	8,000	
Famine Relief Works.		
1. New line of road from Bárámati to Moregaon - - Rs. 9,655		
2. Do. from Indiápur to Sugaon - - „ 2,319		
3. Do. from do. to Nira River - - „ 7,190		
4. Do. from Chandgaon Ferry to Loni - - „ 3,000		
	22,164	
		30,164

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.	Rs.	Rs.
Famine Relief Works.		
5. Metalling and improving the road from Poona to Pour and Pimpri Ghát	40,000	
6. Constructing Málsej Ghát Road	80,000	
7. Improving existing approach road to Málsej Ghát from Anna Ghát on the boundary of Nagar District	20,000	
8. New line of road, Kusur Ghát to Wárgund	5,000	
9. „ Bhima Shunkar Ghát to Khed	7,000	
10. „ Capoolee Ghát to Mánchar	5,000	
		1,57,000
Under Civil Agency.		
Subsidiary works under Collector, as per annexed statement		80,000
	Total Rs.	2,67,164

PROPOSED EXPENDITURE in the CIVIL DEPARTMENT in addition to Works already sanctioned.

	Rs.
Indapur.	
Roi to Loni on Sholápur Road. This will connect the centre of the taluka with the railway at Pumalwádi, 4 miles, at Rs. 500 a mile	2,000
Bhimthari.	
Rawangaon on Sholápur Road to Bori Byall, 4 miles, at Rs. 500 a mile	2,000
Brimthari and Purandhar.	
Continuation of Bárámati and Moregaon Road to Jejuri. This road has been partly cleared, but the line is difficult—12 miles, at Rs. 500 a mile	6,000
Purandhar.	
Sáswad to Párgaon or road to Borghát, 6 miles, at Rs. 500 a mile. This will act as a feeder to the Uruli Station	3,000
Purandhar and Haveli.	
Improving road from Jejuri to Uruli Station, including Borghát, which is very bad—about 15 miles, at Rs. 200 a mile	3,000
Sirur.	
From cattle farm at Aligaon to Sirur and Kheirgaon Road, 7 miles, at about Rs. 300 a mile. (This work might be carried out by the Superintendent of Government Cattle Farm)	2,000
Sirur.	
Improving road from Nimone to Sirur, 9 miles. (This road has already been cleared.)	1,000
Sirur.	
Extension of above road from Nimone to Madnagaon to river, opposite Pátas Station, 10 miles, at Rs. 300 a mile. (This road is not much wanted, but it is a railway feeder, and Madangaon is a large village.)	3,000
Sirur.	
Extension of Sirur and Pábal Road to village of Pábal from village boundary, 2 miles, at Rs. 600. The ground is difficult	1,200
Sirur.	
Improvement to existing road between Sirur and Pábal, 20 miles, at Rs. 50 a mile	1,000
Sirur and Khed.	
Completion of road from Khed to Sirur. Original estimate—Rs. 10,798—already expended. Rs. 4,500 additional expenditure; in current year's budget, Rs. 2,000	5,000
Sirur, Khed, and Junnar.	
Clearing a road from Sirur to Narayangaon, about 30 miles, at Rs. 300 a mile. This road would leave the Sirur and Multán Road midway between those places, and would pass through Konteh, Pargana Rájuri, &c. The Public Works Department should line out the road	9,000
For minor works, such as deepening tanks and wells, cutting prickly pear, &c.	32,000
Extra establishments, including police	10,000
	80,200

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Ahmednagar District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
SANCTIONED ALLOTMENTS.	Rs.	Rs.
Provincial Budget.		
Road repairs (supplementary grant) - - - - -	16,000	
Local Fund Budget.		
1. Bari Ghát Road - - - - - - -	5,000	
2. Road from Kardáh to Káshti - - - - - -	4,200	
Re-appropriation of grants under Collector - - - -	5,000	
		30,200
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.		
Famine Relief Works.		
3. Metalling Nagar and Dhond Road - - - - -	1,00,000	
4. New line of road from Bari Ghát to Sangamner - - -	12,000	
2. Do from Kardáh to Káshti (additional grant) - -	20,000	
5. Railway feeder, Dicksál to Roween and Karjat - - -	10,000	
Subsidiary works under Collector, as per accompanying statement -	70,000	
		2,12,000
	Total Rs. -	2,42,200

Mooruming Existing Lines.

	Rs.
6. Ahmednagar and Anna Ghát Road 7. Do. Karmála - 8. Vita to Nándur - - - 9. Ahmednagar to Aturd - -	- - - 30,000

New Lines.

Roads in Párner Taluka - - - - -	5,000
Do. Ankola do. - - - - -	5,000
Water-supply and minor works - - - -	30,000
	70,000

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Sholápur District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
SANCTIONED ALLOTMENTS.	Rs.	Rs.
Provincial Budget.		
1. Sholápur and Tákli Road - - - - - -	30,000	
Road repairs (supplementary grant) - - - - -	10,000	
Local Funds Budget.		
Re-appropriation local fund works under Collector - - -	25,460	
Famine Relief Works.		
Subsidiary works executed by collector - - - -	34,800	
		1,00,260
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.		
Famine Relief Works.		
2. Metalling the road from Bársi to Yedsi Ghát - - - -	70,000	
3. New line of road from Pandharpur to Janoni - - -	40,000	
4. Improving the existing line of road from Bársi to Sholápur - -	21,000	
5. New line of road from Pandharpur to Wángi *viâ* Temburni - -	25,000	
Subsidiary works under Collector, as per annexed statement - -	96,255	
		2,52,255
	Total Rs. -	3,52,515

FAMINE WORKS to be carried out by Civil Agency in the Sholápur Collectorate.

Description of Works.	Amount.
	Rs.
6. Sholápur and Pandharpur cleared track, Rs. 500 per mile	19,000
7. Sholápur to Akalkot frontier, Rs. 500 per mile	7,500
8. Sholápur to Sángola from Tirbe Ferry to Begampur *viâ* Mangalveda, at Rs. 1,000 per mile	30,000
9. Road to connect Jámkhind and Jutt, one north in the Sángola taluka, with Sángola Pandharpur Road, Rs. 1,000 per mile	15,000
10. Pumalwádi to Karti	3,500
11. Kem to Rupli and Parianda	3,500
Subsidiary works now in progress	17,755
Total Rs.	96,255

ABSTRACT.—Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholápur.

	Sanctioned Allotment.	Proposed Expenditure.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Poona Collectorate	30,164	2,37,000	2,67,164
Ahmednagar Collectorate	30,200	2,12,000	2,42,200
Sholápur Collectorate	1,00,260	2,52,255	3,52,515
Total Rs.	1,60,624	7,01,255	8,61,879

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Poona District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
SANCTIONED ALLOTMENTS.	Rs.	Rs.
Mutha Canal	1,30,000	
Repairs	6,000	
		1,36,000
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE. *Famine Relief Works.*		
Mutha Canal	1,58,000	
Seersophal Tank	2,59,085	
Mullut Tank	54,570	
Supeh Tank	5,118	
Pátas Tank	33,165	
		5,09,878
Total Rs.		6,45,878

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Ahmednagar District.

Description of Work.	Amount.	Total.
SANCTIONED ALLOTMENTS.	Rs.	Rs.
Bhatodi Tank	12,624	
Ojhar Canal	5,000	
Repairs	1,000	
		18,624
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE. *Famine Relief Works.*		
Ojhar Canal Extension	20,000	
		20,000
Total Rs.		38,624

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Sholápur District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
SANCTIONED ALLOTMENTS:	Rs.	Rs.
Ekruk Tank - - - - - - - -	10,268	
Repairs - - - - - - - - -	3,000	
		13,268
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.		
Famine Relief Works.		
Ashteh Tank, Mahreh - - - - - - -	3,64,000	
		3,64,000
	Total Rs. -	3,77,268

ABSTRACT.—Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholápur.

	Sanctioned Allotment.	Proposed Expenditure.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Poona Collectorate - - - -	1,36,000	5,09,878	6,45,878
Ahmednagar Collectorate - - -	18,624	20,000	38,624
Sholápur Collectorate - - -	13,268	3,64,000	3,77,268
Total Rs. -	1,67,892	8,93,878	10,61,770

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Poona District.

Description of Work.	Amount.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.
Neera Canal.—In the Purandhar and Indápur Taluks - -	6,00,000	
		6,00,000
	Total Rs. -	6,00,000

REMARKS.

This canal forms a distinct portion of the Neera Project, estimated cost of which amounts to Rs. 44,71,080. It is proposed to construct the canal on a reduced scale (capable of enlargement hereafter), which might be utilized next year, with the addition of a weir across the river, estimated to cost Rs. 3,85,921, for the irrigation of lands in the above talukas which are now suffering most severely from drought. The district traversed by the proposed canal is one of most uncertain rainfall, and in which remissions have been heavy and frequent. The records of famine show that one out of every three is a bad year, and that remissions vary from 12 to 80 per cent. of the land revenue. In 1869 the remissions due to drought amounted to 45 per cent. of the land revenue.

Detailed plans and estimates for the various portions of this project are ready. They have received the approval of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and were laid before the Inspector-General of Irrigation in 1871.

The Storage Lake need not be undertaken till there is a demand for perennial water; and the Government would only therefore be committed to the outlay for the weir and canal works on a reduced scale, or, at the outside, to about sixteen lakhs of rupees, including distributing channels.

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Dharwar District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
SANCTIONED ALLOTMENTS.	Rs.	Rs.
Provincial Budget.		
Metalling the Mail Road - - - - -	15,000	
Road from Gadag to Hesroor - - - - -	30,000	
Improving Tenai Ghát Road - - - - -	15,000	
		60,000
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.		
Famine Relief Works.		
Metalling Mail Road - - - - - -	3,00,000	
Road from Gadag to Hesroor - - - - -	30,000	
Metalling Road, Hubli to Sunguttikop - - - -	86,000	
Do. Hubli to Anigherry - - - -	1,00,000	
Road, Hubli towards Kaládgi - - - - -	1,50,000	
		6,66,000
	Total Rs. -	7,26,000

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Belgaum District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
SANCTIONED ALLOTMENT.	Rs.	Rs.
Provincial Budget.		
Metalling Mail Road - - - - - -	28,000	
		28,000
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.		
Famine Relief Works.		
Metalling Mail Road - - - - - -	4,00,000	
		4,00,000
	Total Rs. -	4,28,000

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Kaládgi District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.	Rs.	Rs.
Famine Relief Works.		
Road from River Bhima near Tákli to Malprabha River at Govenkop, being part of Sholápur and Hubli Road - -	2,00,000	
Dholkeir on Bhima to Frontier in direction of Bellary - -	2,00,000	
Bagálkot to Hungund - - - - - -	36,000	
		4,36,000
	Total Rs. -	4,36,000

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Satara District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
SANCTIONED ALLOTMENT.	Rs.	Rs.
Provincial Budget.		
Metalling Mail Road - - - - - -	15,000	
		15,000
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.		
Famine Relief Works.		
Metalling Mail Road - - - - - -	2,00,000	
		2,00,000
	Total Rs. -	2,15,000

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Násik District.

Description of Work.	Amount.	Total.
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.	Rs.	Rs.
Famine Relief Works.		
Remaking road from Deoláli Station towards Poona - -	50,000	
		50,000
	Total Rs. -	50,000

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Khandesh District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.	Rs.	Rs.
Famine Relief Works.		
Metalling road from Manmár Station to Boreghur—Agra Road -	50,000	
Road to Dang Jungles by the Jackrea Baree - - -	1,00,000	
		1,50,000
	Total Rs. -	1,50,000

ABSTRACT.—Dharwar, Belgaum, Kaládgi, Satara, Násik, and Khandesh.

	Sanctioned Allotment.	Proposed Expenditure.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Dharwar District - - - -	60,000	6,66,000	7,26,000
Belgaum „ - - - -	28,000	4,00,000	4,28,000
Kaládgi „ - - - -	—	4,36,000	4,36,000
Satara „ - - - -	15,000	2,00,000	2,15,000
Násik „ - - - -	—	50,000	50,000
Khandesh „ - - - -	—	1,50,000	1,50,000
Total Rs. -	1,03,000	19,02,000	20,05,000

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Khandesh District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
Sanctioned Allotments.	Rs.	Rs.
Mookti Reservoir, Dhulia - - - - -	5,000	
Mhaswa Tank, Párola - - - - - -	28,500	
Repairs - - - - - - - -	5,000	
		38,500
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.		
Famine Relief Works.		
Mhaswa Tank, Párola - - - - - -	22,000	
Chowpalla Tank, Nandurbár - - - - -	23,558	
Doodala Tank, do. - - - - -	11,280	
Bhokur Tank, Amalner - - - - -	56,945	
Dhymell Tank, Pimpalner - - - - -	2,23,552	
Dewjipura Tank, do. - - - - -	26,577	
		3,63,912
	Total Rs. -	4,02,412

Irrigation Department.

Statement of Proposed Expenditure on Famine Relief Works in the Dharwar District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
Sanctioned Allotments.	Rs.	Rs.
Yelwigi Tank, Bankápur	9,204	
Mavenkope Tank, Dharwar	6,944	
Tiliwali Tank, Hángal	5,355	
Madag Tank, Kod	5,330	
Other works and repairs	1,538	
Famine Relief Works.		
Keree Kerur Tank, Kod	9,753	
		38,124
Proposed Expenditure.		
Famine Relief Works.		
Dambal Tank, Gadag	46,460	
Doni Tank, Gadag	65,426	
Medleri Tank, Ránibennur	42,000	
		1,53,886
	Total Rs.	1,92,010

Irrigation Department.

Statement of Proposed Expenditure on Famine Relief Works in the Kaládgi District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
Proposed Expenditure.	Rs.	Rs.
Famine Relief Works.		
Banknári Tank, Bádámi	1,75,000	
		1,75,000
	Total Rs.	1,75,000

Irrigation Department.

Statement of Proposed Expenditure on Famine Relief Work in the Satara District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
Sanctioned Allotments.	Rs.	Rs.
Maynee Tank, Khatau	7,000	
Yerla Irrigation, Nehr Tank, Khatau	14,293	
Repairs	5,424	
		26,717
Proposed Expenditure.		
Famine Relief Works.		
Yerla Irrigation, Nehr Tank, Khatau	1,50,000	
Pingli Tank, Khatau	1,75,000	
Mhaswar Tank, Mán	4,00,000	
Krishna Canal Extension	50,000	
		7,75,000
	Total Rs.	8,01,717

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

STATEMENT of PROPOSED EXPENDITURE on FAMINE RELIEF WORKS in the Násik District.

Description of Works.	Amount.	Total.
SANCTIONED ALLOTMENTS.	Rs.	Rs.
Pálkheir Canal, Dindori - - - - -	1,000	
Repairs - - - - - - - - -	9,000	
		10,000
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.		
Famine Relief Works.		
Chankápur Tank, Báglán - - - - -	75,000	
		75,000
	Total Rs. -	85,000

ABSTRACT.—Dharwar, Kaládgi, Satara, Násik, and Khandesh.

	Sanctioned Allotments.	Proposed Expenditure.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Dharwar District - - - -	38,124	1,53,886	1,92,010
Kaládi do. - - - -	—	1,75,000	1,75,000
Satara do. - - - -	26,717	7,75,000	8,01,717
Násik do. - - - -	10,000	75,000	85,000
Khandesh do. - - - -	38,500	3,63,912	4,03,412
Total Rs. -	1,13,341	15,42,798	16,56,139

Telegram.

From COMMERCE, Simla, to Bombay, 9th November 1876.

Your No. 6,153 of 27th ultimo. President in Council does not approve of Neera Canal and Malsej Ghaut as relief works. His Honour requests that pending submission of further information which will be communicated by letter, no steps may be taken to commence any of the following works, namely, new roads from Sholapoor to Sangola, and Sangola to Jutt Road from Dholkheir to Bellary frontier, Jakree Baree Road, Pimpulneir Tank, metalling of Pimpree Ghaut Road, Ahmednuggur and Dhond Road, mail road in Satara and Belgaum districts, except from provincial funds, Hooblee and Anigherry Road, Hooblee and Sungutteekop. Regarding other large irrigation tanks and canals, except the Mutha Canal, a further communication will be made shortly. If, pending explanation, other relief works are needed, minor works should be commenced in each taluka distressed, as has been done in Poona. It is also requested that full information may be forwarded as soon as possible of the probable proportion of failure of Kharif and rabi crops in each taluka.

Telegram, 4th November 1876.

From COMMERCE, Simla, to CHIEF SECRETARY, Bombay.

Please telegraph whether "Times of India" statement, Monday last, regarding increased traffic in grain on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is correct.

Telegram Nos. 407–408, 7th November 1876.

From COMMERCE, Simla, to GOVERNMENTS OF MADRAS AND BOMBAY.

Resident, Hyderabad, urges reduction railway freight of grain for distressed parts of Nizam's territories. Is similar reduction necessary for $\frac{\text{Madras}}{\text{Bombay}}$ districts on railway? Are high prices sufficient attraction for adequate supplies? Please telegraph as soon as possible to Simla.

Telegram, 7th November 1876.

From WORKS, Bombay, to COMMERCE, Simla.

Your telegram of 4th instant. Statement about grain traffic in "Times of India" of 30th ultimo is generally correct. Very abnormal grain traffic on Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Revenue Despatch, No. 46 of 1876.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

21st December.

1. The Despatches of your Excellency in Council, dated 2nd and 9th November, Nos. 24 and 27 of 1876, relative to the scarcity prevailing in Western and Southern India, have been considered by me in Council.

2. The proceedings of your Government, which form the subject of report in the Despatches under reply, have my approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 28 of 1876.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, 17th November.

1. In continuation of our Despatch of the 9th instant, relative to the scarcity in Western and Southern India, we beg leave to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of the communications specified in the margin.

Telegram from Government of Bombay, dated the 9th November 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 10th November 1876.
Telegram from Government of Madras, dated the 9th November 1876.
Telegram from Resident at Hyderabad, dated the 11th November 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 11th November 1876.
Telegram from Government of Bombay, dated the 8th November 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 9th November 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 10th November 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 13th November 1876.
Telegram from Government of Madras, dated the 4th November 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 11th November 1876.
Letter from Government of Bombay, dated the 6th November 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 10th November 1876.
Letter to ditto, dated the 9th November 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 11th November 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 17th November 1876.
Letter from Government of Madras, dated the 7th November 1876.

2. We have now received most of the information regarding the Bombay Presidency which had been called for, and are giving it our careful consideration. We are also to receive weekly narratives in future. The aspect of affairs has not improved, and continues to be extremely serious.

3. We stated in our last Despatch that we had deemed it necessary to stop two large works included in the programme submitted by the Government of Bombay, and to direct that certain others should not be commenced pending the receipt of more detailed information with reference to them. Among the papers now submitted will be found a telegram from the Government of Bombay, under date the 11th instant, remonstrating against these orders, as being inconsistent with the discretionary authority accorded to the local Government in our telegram of the 16th ultimo, stating that some of the works adverted to have been commenced, and requesting to be informed whether they are to be stopped. In reply we have requested the Government of Bombay to inform us of the names of the works to which they allude. On the receipt of this information we shall issue such further instructions as the circumstances may appear to call for. At present we will only observe that it is very far from being our desire to impose any unnecessary restrictions on the action of the local Government, but that we regard it of great importance, from a financial point of view, that large projects should not be commenced, under the stress of the present emergency, which are likely to involve a continuance of heavy expenditure after the scarcity has ceased, and that the apparent departure from this rule, especially in the case of the Malsej Ghât and the Níra Canal, led us to issue the order to which the Bombay Government object. As we have left the Government free to substitute smaller and more strictly local works for those which we have stopped or suspended pending inquiry, we cannot think that any practical inconvenience is likely to result from our orders.

4. The question of taking every precaution which may tend to diminish the mortality among cattle is so pressing and so important, that with reference to a Resolution which has been sent to your Lordship by the Government of Bombay with their Despatch of the 6th instant, No. 44, we have thought it right to intimate to that Government that we see no objection, under the circumstances, to their

going even further than they appear to have contemplated in the direction of making the Government forests available for the sustenance of cattle, and that, should his Excellency in Council deem it proper, it may be well to proclaim as free grazing grounds for the distressed districts any forest reserves which may be conveniently situated, and which are not of a description to sustain serious permanent injury from cattle being admitted into them.

5. Your Lordship will observe that we have not felt justified in assenting to the recommendation made by the Resident of Hyderabad, in his telegram of the 30th October, that with reference to the very high prices obtaining at Hyderabad and in the Nizam's territories generally, and with a view to the early replenishing of the grain market from the north and south, the rates of freight for the transport of grain on the railways should be reduced. Before disposing of this recommendation, we deemed it advisable to refer to the Governments of Madras and Bombay for their opinion as to its necessity as respects the Madras and Bombay Districts; for the rates could hardly have been lowered in the case of grain destined for Hyderabad without adopting a similar course in the case of grain destined for the distressed districts in Madras and Bombay. The replies of those Governments satisfied us that it would not be advisable to adopt Sir Richard Meade's recommendation. The Resident's telegram of the 11th instant, which must have crossed ours of the same date, has not led us to alter our opinion.

The Bombay Government state that the railway brings up every day as much grain as it can carry; that the prices demanded on the retail trade bear no proper proportion to the cost of transit; that there has been over speculation in the grain trade; that prices are beginning to fall. The Government of Madras consider any reduction unnecessary and undesirable; that private trade is active, and that a reduction of the rate of freight would not benefit either the consumers or the railway, but only the traders already largely profiting.

6. The detailed statements explanatory of the condition of the affected districts in the Madras Presidency, which the Government was requested to furnish, have not yet been received; but we learn from the letter from Madras under date the 7th instant, which is enclosed, that the district officers, acting under the direction of the members of the Board of Revenue, who have been deputed to visit the affected districts, are doing all that is necessary. We regret, however, to have to report for your information a measure which has been taken by the Government of Madras without any previous reference to us, and which we regard as open to very grave objections. On the 9th instant we received from the Government of Madras a telegram, dated the 4th instant, which had been delayed in transit, intimating that with reference to the high prices and the uncertainty as to the stores of grain in the distressed districts in that Presidency, the Government had confidentially contracted with a local firm for the purchase of 30,000 tons of rice at a cost of 32 lakhs of rupees, and requesting us to provide for the payment in Calcutta of four lakhs of rupees per week. This step appears to have been taken by the members of Council in the absence of the Governor, who at the time was away from the Presidency on a tour, and who did not return to Madras until the 7th instant. In the present state of the finances such a measure should only have been resorted to upon the strongest grounds of proved necessity, and not then, until full explanation of the necessity had been submitted to and accepted by the Government of India, upon whom rests the entire responsibility for the financial administration of the Empire. In the absence of detailed information, for which we have called, but which has not yet reached us, we are not at present in a position to express a confident opinion as to whether the circumstances are such as to justify a measure which is open to the grave primâ facie objection that it may seriously interfere with the course of private trade, to say nothing of the loss which it may entail upon the State; but, so far as we are able to form a judgment from the scanty information before us, we feel bound to say that the action of the Madras Government appears to be singularly inconsistent with the chief ground assigned by them for deprecating any reduction of the rates of freight for the transport of grain, viz., the activity of private trade. In bringing the subject thus prominently to your Lordship's notice in the present stage of the question, we are influenced by the consideration that if local Governments are to be permitted that to embark in financial transactions of such magnitude without the permission or knowledge of the Government of India, the most serious embarrassment must ensue. We have instructed the Madras Government to make no further purchases of grain without our permission, and have called for full explanation of

their recent action, which, as soon as it reaches us, will be submitted to you with our remarks.

We have the honour to be, &c.

Telegram, 9th November 1876.

From SECRETARY, Bombay, to REVENUE SECRETARY, Simla.

Your telegram of 7th. We have already urged the railway to reduce their rates. But the railway brings up every day as much grain as it can carry, some of which remains at Poona, and some goes on. The prices demanded on retail rate bear no proper proportion to the cost of transit, and I cannot see how we can secure any reduction being made in the retail price in consideration of the reduced railway charge for which Government will have to pay.

Dated the 10th November 1876.

From SECRETARY, Bombay, Public Works Department, to REVENUE SECRETARY, Simla.

Collector of Sholapur reports officially, in reference to telegram of 6th instant from "Times of India" special correspondent, that not a single death from starvation is known to have occurred in the Sholapur District, and that he does not anticipate any such deaths will occur. The deaths that have occurred have been due to an outbreak of a choleraic type in a party employed on a relief work. Party has been broken up, and people transferred to other works, and all precautions taken.

Telegram, 9th November 1876.

From SECRETARY, Madras Public Works Department, to SECRETARY, Government of India, Public Works Department.

Reduction railway freight of grain considered unnecessary and undesirable. Private trade active. Reduction not benefit consumers or railway, but only traders, already largely profiting.

Telegram, Hyderabad, Deccan, 11th November 1876.

From RESIDENT, Hyderabad, to REVENUE SECRETARY, Calcutta.

The minister earnestly solicits that railway charge on consignments of grain of 15,000 maunds and upwards from North-west Provinces to Hyderabad may be reduced by one half to facilitate importations by Hyderabad merchants from that quarter. I trust the question may receive early consideration. Much grain has been exported from Hyderabad to suffering British districts, and Nizam's Government has forbidden any interference with or obstruction to such exportations. This drain has caused great rise in prices, and much distress here.

Telegram, 11th November 1876.

From SIR A. ARBUTHNOT, Simla, to RESIDENT, Hyderabad.

Both Madras and Bombay Governments object to reduction of railway freights for grain. Railways already carrying as much as they can. President in Council does not think reduction advisable.

Telegram, 8th November 1876.

From SECRETARY, Government of Bombay, to REVENUE OFFICIATING SECRETARY, Simla.

Your telegram of yesterday. Collectors of Poona, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Kaladgi, and Satara authorised each to expend Rs. 25,000 for preserving lives of those too infirm to work or too poor to buy grain.

Telegram, 9th November 1876.

From REVENUE OFFICIATING SECRETARY, Simla, to SECRETARY, Bombay.

Your telegram of yesterday's date. The President in Council wishes for explanation of the organization which has been adopted for preserving lives of those unable to work or buy grain.

Telegram, 10th November 1876.

From SECRETARY, Government of Bombay, Works, Poona, to SECRETARY, Government of India, Revenue Department, Simla.

My telegram of 7th. Enormous traffic in food-grain over Great Indian Peninsula. Conder reports on 9th, 10,000 tons on line between Egutpoora and Tanna, and in past three weeks 21,000 tons conveyed to Poona and stations beyond, only a small portion of which was for stations on Madras line. From information received there has been over speculation in grain trade, and prices, which are abnormally high, now beginning to fall. Large exports to southern ports, 16,000 kandies in October. Grain from Persian Gulf, Sind, and Guzarat coming in large quantities to Bombay. Will keep you informed of grain movements.

Telegram, 13th November 1876.

From Secretary, Bombay, Public Works Department, Poona, to Revenue Secretary, Calcutta.

Discretionary allowance made to Collectors. Collectors place at disposal of Assistant Collectors, Mamlutdars, and local district officers, portions of allowance to enable them to give aid to incapable and destitute persons. Patels ordered to feed and pass on to nearest Mamlutdars' stations indigent and incapable travellers. At present these allowances availed of only to very small extent. Relief is given on works. Later on may be necessary to increase discretionary allowance and staff for distribution.

Telegram, 4th November 1876.

From Secretary, Government of Madras, Revenue Department, to Financial Secretary, Calcutta.

In consequence of extreme uncertainty grain stores in distressed districts, and extraordinarily high prices prevailing in distressed districts in Madras, and difficulty in obtaining food for money, this Government have confidentially secured a Government reserve during this month of 13,000 tons rice, to be supplemented in this month by 2,000 tons wheat, and in next month by further 15,000 tons rice. These supplies are to be strictly held as reserve to meet contingency of local markets and private enterprise failing. Action of Government has been kept secret, and district officers encouraged to rely on local contracts. Estimated cost, whole transaction, 32 lakhs. Accountant General, under instructions of Government, arranged immediate payment five lakhs in Calcutta through Currency Office, leaving explanation to this Government with view to secrecy. This Government rely on Government of India to place four lakhs of rupees a week in Bank of Bengal at credit of Arbuthnot and Co. for next five weeks, keeping transaction secret.

Telegram, 11th November 1876.

From Sir A. Arbuthnot, Simla, to Chief Secretary, Madras.

Your telegram, 4th instant, to Financial Secretary. President in Council requests that no further purchases may be made without previous reference and full explanation to Government of India. Proceeding now reported calculated to cause serious financial embarrassment. Please explain fully by letter to Calcutta.

No. 6,346, Bombay, 6th November 1876.

From the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 365, dated the 25th ultimo, communicating the observations of the Government of India on the measures that have hitherto been taken, and those which are about to be taken, by this Government for the relief of the distress prevailing throughout a large portion of this Presidency.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council is grateful for the confidence that has been reposed in this Government, and the freedom and latitude of action that have been conceded to them. The suggestions conveyed in your letter will receive his Excellency in Council's best attention, and care will be taken to keep the Government of India regularly and promptly informed of the course of events.

Telegram, 10th November 1876.

From Secretary, Government of India, Revenue Department, Simla, to Secretary to Government, Bombay, Revenue Department, Bombay.

President in Council requests that full information may be submitted about irrigation relief works, and no work undertaken which exceeds Rs. 30,000 estimate without the sanction of the Government of India.

No. 412, Simla, 9th November 1876.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

1. With reference to my telegram of this date on the subject of the programme of relief works, estimated at Rs. 61,84,758, which was sanctioned by the Bombay Government Resolution, No. 6,152, of October 27th, I am directed by the President in Council to communicate the following remarks.

2. The construction of a ghaut road between the Deccan and Konkan is, under all circumstances, an undertaking involving very heavy expense during a series of years. One lakh of rupees, which it is proposed to devote to the Malsej Ghaut, would go but a short way towards its completion, but might prove a foundation for inconvenient demands in future years. The work, moreover, is not very conveniently situated with regard to the homes of the more distressed population, and there would appear to be doubts as to the healthiness and water supply of the locality. The Neera Canal, likewise, is a project by the commencement of which

the Government, and in this case the Imperial revenue, would be committed to a heavy future outlay. On these grounds the President in Council requests that the Malsej Ghaut and its approaches, and the Neera Canal, may be excluded from the programme of relief works.

3. I am to request that, with the permission of his Excellency the Governor in Council, you will be so good as to submit full explanation as to the necessity of the under-mentioned works :—

(*a.*) Metalling of the Pimpree Ghaut Road (Rs. 40,000). This is understood to be a line much disused of late years, the metalling of which is of doubtful advantage compared with other works.

(*b.*) Metalling the Ahmednagar and Dhond Road (Rs. 1,00,000). In the event of the railway being eventually constructed, this expenditure will be thrown away. Would it not be better to add the amount (when required) to the line from Khande to Kashti, and possibly to the branch from it to Deksal Station? Part perhaps might be added to the Ahmednagar and Karmala grant. All these will, apparently, relieve nearly the same locality as the Dhond and Munmar line.

(*c.*) The proposed road from Sholapur to Sangola (Rs. 30,000) will, it would appear, have a break of several miles of foreign territory and the unbridged Bhima River in the middle, and will hardly serve traffic better than the road between these places viâ Pandharpur. The road from Sangola to the Jutt frontier (Rs. 15,000) would seem to be of at best remote necessity. Might it not be better to add the amount of these two lines (if required) to the road from Janoni to Wangi?

(*d.*) The metalling of the Hubli and Anigherry and the Hubli and Sunguttikop roads (Rs. 1,86,000) will probably be thrown away if the proposed line from Bellary to Karwar is constructed. Part of the amount would perhaps be better laid out, if required, on the road from Hubli towards Kaladgi. The same objection apparently is applicable, to some extent, to the line from Guduk to Hesrur; but, as this work is understood to be in progress, its abrupt suspension might cause embarrassment.

(*e.*) The metalling of the mail road in the Satara and Belgaum Districts (Rs. 6,43,000) would appear to be a measure of very doubtful expediency. The work is essentially provincial in its nature, and it will be distant from the homes of a great portion of the distressed population of these large districts. The same remark applies, though possibly with less force, owing to the conformation of the district, to the metalling of the mail road (Rs. 3,15,000) in the Dharwar District. Would it not be preferable, and perhaps more economical, to organise minor works in the several talukas?

(*f.*) The road from Dholkheir to the Bellary frontier (Rs. 2,00,000) would not appear to be very necessary as a thoroughfare, and it is a question whether feeders falling into the road from the Bhima to the Malpurba, or small local works, would not be preferable.

(*g.*) The account of the Khandeish District, given by the Collector's letter of the 12th ultimo, shows that the eastern talukas are the most distressed, those in the centre doing indifferently, and those to the west not suffering materially, except the Nirampur Peta. Under these circumstances, the necessity for devoting a large proportion of the proposed relief to the western talukas is not apparent. I am desired to request that, pending the submission of full explanation, none of the works referred to in this paragraph may be commenced.

	Rs.
Pimpalneir Tank -	2,50,129
Jakri Bari Road -	1,00,000
	3,50,129

4. Irrespective of the Neera Canal already referred to, and of the Mutha Canal, to the continuance of which there is no objection, the programme contains irrigation works amounting to Rs. 24,29,909. These are under scrutiny in the Irrigation Department of the Government of India, and I am to request that, pending a reference which will shortly be made and final decision thereon, no work of this nature may be commenced involving an expenditure of more than Rs. 30,000.

5. The President in Council would invite the attention of his Excellency the Governor in Council to the somewhat scanty nature of information contained in the statements which are now under consideration, and to the necessity which they indicate for the presence, especially in the Southern Marhatta country, of an

efficient and active controlling officer, both to report on the condition and wants of the several talukas, and to authorise the commencement of relief works in accordance with the policy which has been determined upon.

6. I am therefore to request that full particulars regarding, not only the works referred to in paragraph 3 of this letter, but the others in the programme, may be submitted at the earliest practicable date, explaining in the case of each road the present condition (if existing), or the objects it is to serve, the amount of total estimate, the amount expended already (if any), expenditure proposed, and the taluka or portion of taluka it is intended to relieve. Regarding other works analogous particulars should be supplied. In all cases correspondence with the Government of India should be quoted if any has taken place. Finally, the works should, as far as possible, be arranged in the order of their precedence or importance in the several districts, so that the least needed may only be taken up in the last resort.

7. While thus obliged to request the suspension, pending the receipt of fuller information, of a large number of the works comprised in the programme, the President in Council has no objection to the commencement of minor works in talukas actually distressed, like those already started in the Poona District, where this course may be deemed necessary.

8. In conclusion, I am to request that the Government of India may be favoured as soon as possible with an estimate of the proportion of failure of kharif and rabi crops in each taluka, and of the amount of land revenue which is expected to be lost.

Telegram, 11th November 1876.

From Secretary, Bombay, Public Works Department, to Revenue Secretary, Simla.

Your telegram of 9th. This Government wish to point out that, by their telegram of 16th October, the Government of India stated that the Government were authorised to incur such expenditure in providing work and relief in the distressed localities as they might consider necessary to meet the emergency, avoiding large projects which would involve the continuance of heavy expenditure after the emergency had ceased. This Government accordingly made a very careful selection of the works which would probably afford the greatest amount of relief, observing as far as possible the principle just adverted to; the essential conditions of geographical distribution and water-supply being kept in view. They stated distinctly that they had no intention of beginning all the works simultaneously, but that the scheme was sanctioned as a whole, in order that the local officers might be prepared to act as soon as the emergency arose. They likewise endeavoured, as they are still doing, to employ the people, as far as possible, on purely local works, but these have been in a great measure exhausted, whereas pressure for employment much increases. The President in Council now disallows specific works, some of which have, under the existing pressure, been already commenced. Every day brings urgent applications for others. Does the President in Council desire works which have been commenced to be stopped, and the applications for others to be refused? Does he withdraw the authority given by Government of India in the telegram 16th October?

Telegram, 17th November 1876.

From Revenue Secretary, Calcutta, to Secretary, Government of Bombay.

Your Government Resolution, No. 6,230, of 31st ultimo. If his Excellency in Council thinks it advisable to throw open, as free grazing grounds for the distressed districts, such forest reserves as may be conveniently situated, and not likely to be permanently injured thereby, the Government of India have no objection.

No. 1,599A.

From the Secretary to the Government of Madras to the Secretary to the Government of India.

7th November 1876.

1. In my telegrams of the 24th and 27th ultimo the distressed condition of Kurnool, Cuddapah, and Bellary, consequent on a scanty south-west monsoon, was briefly reported; with a short statement of the measures adopted, and those proposed to be carried out in future, in the event of the total failure of the north-east monsoon.

2. In the telegram of the 28th ultimo the Government of India ask for more specific and full information regarding the areas affected, the extent of cultivation, rainfall, prices, &c. These will be shortly submitted; in the meantime, I am directed to place before the Government of India such particulars as are already

to hand; and which will allow of a tolerably fair idea being formed of the extent of distress prevailing in this Presidency, and the measures inaugurated for affording relief.

3. In Bellary* the western taluqs—Harpunhally, Huvinhudgally, and Kudlighy—suffered severely from want of rain last year. The cholum crop, which is their staple, was barely saved from destruction by a late fall of rain. In the present year, the south-west monsoon, due to commence in the first week of June, failed to so great an extent that no water was received into the tanks, and the early dry crops were either left unsown or withered before they came to maturity. The failure was very general, and by the month of September the indications of distress were so clear that the Collector sought permission to open relief works. These were accordingly opened in several directions; and the resort of large numbers to them, including respectable ryots and heads of villages, notwithstanding the low rate of wages fixed, showed unmistakably that the distress was very severe. The distress gradually extended eastward to the neighbourhood of Bellary Town, and thence to the whole district, as the failure of the south-west monsoon became more and more apparent.

*Area.	Population.	Land-revenue.
11,182.	1,668,000.	25¾ lakhs.

4. In Kurnool†, where want of rain, with the consequent restriction of cultivation, has led, as usual, to scarcity of food and high prices, a marked increase in crime has manifested itself. In Markapur and Cumbum relief works have been set on foot, and it is hoped that the circulation of money by this means will cause grain-sellers to open their stores, as when money is scarce they are naturally disposed to hold back rather than sell on credit, as they would certainly be pressed to do if their shops were open. As far as present information helps to form an opinion, the general impression is that there is grain in Kurnool, is not absolutely deficient but it is at present withheld.

†Area.	Population.	Land-revenue.
7,676.	960,000.	15 lakhs.

5. Cuddapah‡ shares the general distress which prevails in the above-mentioned districts. The failure of the last north-east monsoon proved disastrous to the wet cultivation in the district, but the dry crops were to a great extent saved. The subsequent failure of the south-west monsoon rains of this year, however, has affected the latter most seriously. The sub-division, separated from the rest of the district by ranges of hills, and without any railway communication, is the most backward portion of the province, and every endeavour is being made to afford relief to the people by providing them with employment and encouraging importation of grain.

‡Area.	Population.	Land-revenue.
8,050.	1,351,000.	19½ lakhs.

Besides these three districts some distress has shown itself in portions of Salem, North Arcot, and Nellore.

6. In my letter, dated 4th July 1876, No. 900, the unfavourable character of the season last§ year, and the condition of some of the districts, were described. The accounts received for the last fasli year show that there was a falling off in land-revenue of upwards of 30 lakhs of Rs. as compared with the previous year, and that the decrease was apparent chiefly in Bellary, Chingleput, North and South Arcot, and Tinnevelly. More detailed information in regard to the revenue and agriculture of last year will hereafter be furnished. The subject is here referred to, to show that as the present bad season succeeds one which was by no means favourable, the effects now experienced are far more serious than they would otherwise have been.

§1875–76.

7. The measures adopted for affording relief in the districts where distress prevails are as detailed below:—

Before the failure of the south-west monsoon was definitely known, the unfavourable character of the previous season had served as a warning, and in view to be prepared beforehand in case the rains of June and July should happen not to fall as usual, lists of relief works were called for in April from the various districts, so that they might be fully considered and decided on, and the works selected set on foot on the shortest notice. Matters were accordingly put in readiness for prompt action in case of emergency, and the condition of the districts was being narrowly watched. On the first indications of distress being reported, Mr. Thornhill, senior member of the Board of Revenue, was deputed to the affected tracts. He returned, after a tour in Cuddapah, Kurnool, and Bellary, at

the close of last month. His report, and the order of Government thereon, are herewith submitted for the information of the Government of India. He has now started on a second tour through Cuddapah and Bellary; while another member of the Board, the Hon. David Arbuthnott, who is well acquainted with Kurnool, has been deputed on special duty to that district. These deputations leave the Board with one member at Madras; it has been found absolutely necessary to call up an additional member, and Mr. Puckle, Director of Settlements, has been selected for this duty; he will continue to carry on the work of his own department, and the expense will be small. The reports already received show that relief works have been organised on a sufficiently extensive scale to provide employment to the large number of people who flock to them. They are generally minor works of local utility, such as construction of wells, tanks, roads, repair of roads, &c., which do not require much skill. To control large bodies of men thus employed in various places, and to direct, guide, and pay them regularly, additional European officers* have been appointed; while native agency has been increased to relieve Tahsildars of their magisterial functions, in view to their giving undivided attention to the supervision of the relief operations entrusted to them. Crimes against property are, of course, prevalent; in Kurnool especially some very serious dacoities have occurred; the town is full of budmashes, to overawe whom a wing of a native regiment has been ordered to proceed there forthwith. The police force has, meanwhile, been strengthened where necessary; and large additions made to the staff of Public Works officers. The number of people employed on relief works in the Bellary District alone is returned at 95,100† per diem; while food is distributed to 7,000 paupers, who are physically incapable of labour.

G.O., 30th October 1876, No. 1,529.

*Mr. Price, C.S., for Bellary,
Mr. Spencer, C.S., for Cuddapah; and Mr. Swan of the Police.
Mr. Gibson, for Kurnool.

†Viz., at or near Bellary - 43,500
In the taluqs - - 51,600

8. The necessity for economy is kept in view; and every endeavour made to prevent expenditure from becoming unduly large or wasteful. Unfortunately, the state of the provincial funds in this Presidency does not permit of any outlay from that source to the relief of Imperial funds; while, as to local funds, the land-cess (the principal item) is entirely dependent on the land revenue, on which it levies a per-centage. The contributions from provincial funds, usually made to Local Fund Boards in consideration of the transfer to the latter of works which were formerly a charge on the general revenues, have been considerably reduced during the current year; and this has materially crippled the resources at the disposal of those local bodies. Already nearly $6\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of rupees have been sanctioned, of which upwards of four lakhs appertain to Bellary.

9. Hope is still entertained that the north-east monsoon may yet set in and take large numbers of the ryots back to their fields. Ten days' time is necessary before we can pronounce on the exact magnitude of the calamity that now threatens this Presidency. In many parts, all chance of the people deriving immediate benefit from the rains that may hereafter fall is believed to be lost; and it is now considered too late in some parts for the monsoon to do much good even if it did set in. It would appear that when the north-east rains fall, cholum can be sown in the black lands of the ceded districts up to November, and if a good crop is obtained considerable relief will follow; in the red soils it is too late for any dry crop, except horse-gram and other pulses. Mr. Thornhill writes: "Three months paddy or raggy may be sown where tanks of any capacity receive "a supply; this will afford employment to the people for some three or four "months; but, as the staple food-grains (cumboo and dry raggy) cannot be reaped "until the following August, it is possible that some relief may be required in the "red-soil taluqs during the next hot weather."

10. Mr. Thornhill's observations apply only to the ceded districts In the southern districts of Madura, North and South Arcot, Salem, Chingleput, the scanty fall of rain during the last monsoon has raised a partial crop of paddy. In some localities the usual average out-turn from cumboo and varagoo has been secured. This has operated to prevent real serious distress in the districts concerned up to date; but latterly the aspect of affairs is fast changing. High prices are ruling, and continued drought is leading to the gradual abandonment of cultivation. In Tanjore, with the commencement of the south-west monsoon on the west coast the Cauvery received its usual freshes; and, till recently, the agricul-

tural operations of this most important of our southern districts proceeded satisfactorily; but now famine prices have set in, and unless rain falls immediately, and the rivers receive accession of water, the standing crops must wither and die. The same is more or less the case in all river-irrigated eastern districts. On the west coast the south-west monsoon rains, although not so heavy as usual, have not produced any serious decrease of cultivation. The delta districts of Godavery and Kistna, with the exception of the uplands, are fairly prosperous, and supply grain to the greater part of the Presidency. Ganjam and Vizagapatam have not suffered from the last season, which was not particularly bad in those districts.

11. Floods have been reported from four districts, South Canara, Kistna, Vizagapatam, and Ganjam, but no serious damage has ensued from them to the crops.

12. The most noteworthy feature of the times, and one which intensifies distress wherever it prevails, is the series of prematurely high famine prices which has begun to rule everywhere. The last returns from the three districts of Cuddapah, Bellary, and Kurnool show the prices of the chief staples as noted below, but telegraphic information shows that they are still rising. The rates which prevailed during the famine year 1866 are shown for comparison. They are not available for Kurnool.

	Rice, Second Sort.			Cholum.			Raggy.		
	This Year.	Last Year.	1866.	This Year.	Last Year.	1866.	This Year.	Last Year.	1866.
Cuddapah -	$5\frac{1}{5}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{3}$	$17\frac{5}{8}$	9	8	$20\frac{1}{3}$	$9\frac{2}{5}$
Bellary -	$6\frac{2}{3}$	16	6	$8\frac{3}{4}$	$18\frac{2}{3}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$27\frac{1}{2}$	9
Kurnool -	6	$10\frac{1}{3}$	—	$8\frac{1}{6}$	17	—	$10\frac{5}{8}$	$19\frac{2}{3}$	—

NOTE.—The figures denote the number of measures per rupee.

13. Information giving the particulars regarding relief works, the areas cultivated, the loss of revenue anticipated, &c. will be shortly submitted.

I have the honour to be, &c.

No. 30 of 1876.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, 24th November.

1. In continuation of your Despatch of the 17th instant, relative to the scarcity in Western and Southern India, we beg leave to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of the communications specified in the margin.

Letter from Resident at Hyderabad, dated the 11th November 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 19th November 1876.
Telegram to Government of Bombay, dated the 15th November 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 17th November 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 18th November 1876.
Letter from ditto, dated the 11th November 1876.
Letter to ditto, dated the 24th November 1876.
Letter from the Government of Madras, dated the 13th November 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 20th November 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 23rd November 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 24th November 1876.
Memorandum from Foreign Department, dated the 16th November 1876.

2. The only matters in this correspondence to which we deem it necessary to draw your Lordship's special attention are the application made by the Government of Madras in their telegram of the 23rd instant, for permission to purchase a further supply of 20,000 tons of grain, and the orders reported by the Government of Bombay in their letter of the 11th instant, concentrating in the Public Works Department of their Secretariat, the whole of the correspondence relating to the scarcity. The reasons which lead us to regard the last-mentioned arrangement as open to grave objections are fully stated in our letter to that Government of this date.

3. Your Lordship will observe, on reference to the telegram which we have this day addressed to the Government of

Madras, that we have not considered ourselves justified in permitting that Government to make the large additional purchase of grain which they propose, without being furnished with more specific and detailed information as to the condition of the Madras Presidency than is at present in our possession. We find it impossible to reconcile their recent action and their present proposal with the great activity of private trade in grain, to which allusion was made in their telegram of the 9th instant, and which is the subject of daily notice in the local newspapers; and we cannot but regard it as very unsatisfactory, that while making such an application the local Government should have omitted up to this time to furnish us with the full explanation of their recent action, which was called for in our telegram of the 11th instant. The letter from the Madras Government of the 13th instant, which we enclose in this Despatch, and which must have been written after the receipt of our telegram of the 11th instant, contains no allusion to the telegram in question, and contains no statement of facts which, in our opinion, can be regarded as affording any justification of the local Government having committed itself, especially in the present state of the Imperial finances, to so heavy an expenditure without the permission, and indeed without the knowledge, of the Government of India; and, although we repeated our call for such explanation on the 20th instant, there is no indication in the present telegram that it has been responded to.

4. So far as we can judge from the information before us, we consider the course upon which the Madras Government have entered to be one of very questionable expediency, and we are satisfied that important measures of the nature of that recommended by the Governor in Council should not be sanctioned upon the comparatively imperfect information which can be supplied in a telegram.

5. We trust that the course which we have thought it right to take in this matter will meet with your Lordship's concurrence.

We have the honour to be, &c.

No. 47, 11th November 1876.

From the Resident at Hyderabad to the Secretary to the Government of India.

In continuation of my message dated 30th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, for the early consideration of Government, translation of a note from His Highness the Nizam's Government, soliciting a reduction in the railway charges on the transport of grain from the north-western provinces to Hyderabad.

2. The Minister has been informed that a reduction of quarter of the railway charge is ordinarily made in the case of consignments of grain under transport of not less than 5,000 pullahs (15,000 maunds), and he asks that a further reduction to the same extent may be made to meet the existing difficulties in this quarter; in other words, that consignments of grain to Hyderabad of the quantity above stated may be conveyed at half the fixed ordinary rates.

3. I venture to express an earnest hope that the question of facilitating, in the way proposed, the supply of grain to Hyderabad and the suffering districts generally in the tract between Madras and Bombay may be taken into early consideration by his Honour the President in Council.

4. Though there is reason to believe that the stores of grain in parts of this tract are not inconsiderable, in other parts there is undoubted scarcity, which can only be supplied by large importations from more favoured localities, the result of which has been a general and most alarming rise in prices, even in the latter, which is already causing very great suffering and distress.

5. In connexion with this subject, I beg to forward, for the information of Government, translation of an order issued under the Minister's directions forbidding the interference of the State officials with the free exportation of grain from the Hyderabad districts. I am informed that large quantities of grain have already been exported to the British districts from Hyderabad territory, and that the rise in prices in the latter is as much due to this drain as to the partial failure of the khareef crops and the fears anticipated regarding the failure of the rabi harvest from continued want of rain.

6. The Minister's request for a remission of the entire railway charge, on the Nizam's State railway, on consignments of grain of 5,000 pullahs and upwards, between Wadi on the Great Indian Peninsular Railway Line and Hyderabad, has been referred to the agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, as its adoption will affect the existing arrangement with that Company for working the State railway.

7. As the present communication is of an urgent nature, I have addressed a message to you on the subject, of which I beg to enclose a copy.

TRANSLATION.

No. 3,269, dated 9th November 1876.

From the MINISTER TO HIS HIGHNESS THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD to the RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

In continuation of my letter No. 3,220, dated 7th current, requesting to be supplied with a letter to the Benares authorities permitting the export of grain to the Hyderabad City, I have the honour to inform you that the scarcity of grain is being felt more day by day. The past season has been a very favourable one in Hindustan (Northern India), and large harvests have been reaped, and grain is very plentiful, and if assistance is rendered by Government large quantities will be imported. The merchants say, that according to railway rules a remission of one fourth fare is allowed when 5,000 pullas are being conveyed. They now submit for consideration the proposal to grant them a further remission of one fourth fare, thus reducing it to half, by which a greater impetus will be given to the importation. I would therefore request that, paying regard to the friendship existing between the two Governments, you will give this matter your favourable judgment; and taking into consideration the object in view, viz., the welfare of the suffering public, you will submit the proposal for the orders of the Government of India. Should that Government grant the prayer of the merchants it will confer a great obligation on His Highness' Government.

Should it not be found possible to sanction the remission now sought for by the merchants, I request that you will issue orders to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway authorities to remit the remaining three fourths of the fare on such consignments from Wadi to Hyderabad, charging to His Highness' Government the loss occasioned by such remissions.

I am of opinion that by adopting these measures the importation of grain into the country will be increased, and the present high rates will fall.

In conclusion, I beg that I may be favoured with an early reply, as it is my earnest desire to make some definite arrangements towards relieving the anxiety evinced by the public in connexion with the daily increasing high rates at present obtaining in the market before I start with His Highness for Delhi.

TRANSLATION of a RUBAKAR issued by the SECRETARY to the MINISTER in the REVENUE and MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS. (No. 2,006, dated 26th October 1876.)

In accordance with instructions issued by Madur-ul-Maham (Sir Salar Jung), the Minister of the Revenue Department, I have the honour to state, in consequence of the failure of rainfall, deficiency of water, dearness of grain, and scarcity of fodder for cattle, the public are very much distressed, and the removal of this direful calamity is entirely in the hands of a merciful Providence, as indeed there is no other help but that which comes from Him above. Yet it is incumbent on humanity to do something to alleviate, as far as lies in its power, the present far felt want. With this object in view, all officials of the Revenue and Public Works Department are directed to give special attention to the following orders of His Highness' Government in the matter of relief works, and it is earnestly hoped that the Revenue and Miscellaneous Minister will exercise an active supervision in carrying out to their fullest extent the wishes of Government on this subject.

ORDERS of the GOVERNMENT of the NIZAM OF HYDERABAD.

Government officials are hereby positively prohibited from interfering in any way with the fixing of prices of grain, &c., as it is found from experience that any interference in this direction tends to lessen the importation and sale of it.

Although it is the hearty desire of the Minister to see grain sold as cheap as possible, thus relieving the wants of those starving, yet he considers the practice of meddling with the rates of selling as highly objectionable. It is certain that if no interference is shown in fixing rates the grain merchants will, with greater confidence, expose their grain for sale, thus increasing the importation, whereby the prices will fall of themselves.

2. There is not the slightest doubt that the suffering public are anxious that the prices of provisions, which have risen high from failure of rain, should fall. It is, therefore, the duty of all officials to pacify them, as far as possible, and take proper steps to alleviate the immediate wants of such as are actually starving, as well as to relieve the anxieties of the public in general, as herein-after suggested.

3. In districts where the rainfall has been most scanty, and which are most famine striken, it will be necessary to organise such unskilled relief works as making of roads, digging of wells and drains, and heaping earth on the banks of tanks; early submission of plans and estimates are called for. These plans and estimates must, however, be submitted in each case before sanction of Government can be accorded.

4. In organising such relief works consideration must be given to the following points:—That the work thus carried out improves the cultivation of the surrounding country, or facilitates the transport of grain and other merchandise from one locality to another, more particular attention being paid to such roads as will lead to an easy communication with railway stations.

5. In such districts as are not much affected by the famine, and where the necessity of organising relief works does not exist, such works need not be undertaken during the current year, but, instead, such works of importance as will benefit the public in general should be gone on with. Full orders on the subject have been issued in the Public Works Department.

6. It will therefore be seen that it is the incumbent duty of all officers belonging to the Revenue, Public Works, and Municipal Departments to supply, as far as possible, food to the starving, as well as to attend to the water supply of such places where its want is felt. Officers of the Revenue

Department must address the Public Works and Municipal Departments in regard to carrying out such works as they may deem necessary, endorsing their opinion on the plans and estimates received on such works from the Public Works and Municipal Departments before submitting them for sanction, so that Government may be fully informed of the necessity and utility of the work thus undertaken.

7. It has come to the knowledge of the Government that certain Revenue officials have interfered with the exportation of grain, while others are of opinion that Government aid should be called for in importing grain into the afflicted district. Such opinions, being wrong, should at once be removed, as on consideration it will be apparent that if the inhabitants of other parts of the country were similarly selfish, how much inconvenience would be felt by the public. The same consideration should be shown to the wants of others in such a matter as is desired by ourself.

8. It is highly desirable that all grain merchants may be fully made to understand the wishes of Government in this matter, and that it now becomes incumbent on them to do their utmost in increasing the importation of grain, and that in proportion to the trouble taken by them in this matter will depend the obligation they will confer on Government, and to the furtherance of this object the Government are willing to give all possible and proper assistance, if required by any merchant.

9. All Revenue officers are warned in affording such assistance that no undue advantage is taken of the indulgence thus proffered by Government by unscrupulous merchants in having their private transactions settled through the intervention of Government, but that all legitimate aid, which is in accordance with Government orders, and incurring no inconvenience to the public, may be afforded.

10. Orders of Government have been conveyed by the Secretary to the Revenue Minister to Public Works Department and the amaldar concerned regarding the prohibition placed on the irrigation and cultivation of the land under the Mia Sagar Tank, which orders must be carried out without any delay.

11. Orders have also been issued to the Public Works Department and the suburban talukdar directing the discontinuance of cultivation under the Husen Sagar Tank, and for preventing the wastage of water contained therein. These orders, it is hoped, will be carefully carried out. The water required for wet cultivation must also be disallowed. Should any loss accrue to any ryot by this step, consideration must be given to the convenience afforded thereby to the public, as well as to the object in view, viz., of storing up of water for drinking purposes. The village officials will submit accounts and pay compensation for such loss.

12. It is apparent from the revenue settlement of some villages, which has recently been effected by Moulvie Mahdi Ali, that the present rent of land is not higher than that of the surrounding country, but, on the contrary, below the average, but there are cases in which complaints of heaviness of rent on land are true. This is due to the land not having been properly assessed the consequence being that some tracts are over assessed, while others pay much less than they really should. These circumstances should also be taken into consideration, with the fact of failure of rainfall during last season, when Revenue officers are making collections.

13. The procedure indicated above should not be adopted simply on the assertion of the village officers, but should be inquired into by the tahsildar and talukdar, whose reports should be submitted to the Sadar-ul-Maham for orders.

14. All officers of the Revenue, Public Works, and Municipal Departments will, within one month, submit detailed reports of the measures taken by them to ensure the proper management of the several districts under them in accordance with the wishes of Government.

Copies of above forwarded for information and guidance to the Miscellaneous Minister, all sadar talukdars, Nazim of the Sarf-e-kas, Amaldars in Nawab Mukhtar-ul-mulk's Jagirs, and Secretary to His Highness, Public Works Department, and for communication to those subordinate to them.

Telegram, 11th November 1876.

From RESIDENT, Hyderabad, Deccan, to REVENUE SECRETARY, Calcutta.

The Minister earnestly solicits that railway charge on consignments of grain of 15,000 maunds and upwards from North-West Provinces to Hyderabad may be reduced by one half, to facilitate importations by Hyderabad merchants from that quarter. I trust the question may receive early consideration; much grain has been exported from Hyderabad to suffering British districts, and Nizam's Government has forbidden any interference with, or obstruction to, such exportations. This drain has caused great rise in prices and much distress here.

Telegram, 19th November 1876.

From A. L. HOME, Esq., Simla, to REVENUE OFFICIATING SECRETARY, Calcutta.

Hyderabad Resident telegraphs to you: "My letter number 47, of 11th instant, and message "of 11th idem, explained to Minister, who quite accepts the decision of the President in "Council."

Telegram, 15th November 1876.

From REVENUE SECRETARY, Calcutta, to SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Your telegram of 11th. Please telegraph names of works already commenced which would be suspended under our telegrams of 9th.

Dated 17th November 1876.

From the SECRETARY, Government of Bombay, to REVENUE SECRETARY, Calcutta.

Your telegram 15th. Works already commenced; metalling Dhond-Nuggur Road, Sholapur, Sangola, and Sangola and Jutt Roads; metalling Hubli-Sunguttikop, Hubli-Anigherry Roads, Belgaum-Kaladghi Road by transfer from metalling Belgaum mail road. Irrigation works already commenced referred to in your telegram of 10th, Dumkul, Nehr, and Pingli tanks, Mhaswar and Ashtee tanks, and Krishna extension, urgently called for by local authorities, and on point of commencement. If Government of India will fix limit beyond which they are not prepared to supply funds in meeting present emergency in this Presidency, this Government will do the best they can up to that limit; but it is hoped that specific works may not be indicated by Government of India, either for stoppage or execution, for character and position of relief works must depend on local circumstances, which vary rapidly. No road-works proposed will entail serious liabilities after emergency has passed. And, though irrigation works are heavier, they will prevent recurrence of similar future emergency in their neighbourhood.

Telegram, No. 417, 18th November 1876.

From REVENUE SECRETARY, Calcutta, to SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, Public Works Department, Bombay.

Your telegram of 17th. The President in Council does not consider the information before him sufficient to enable him to give instructions until receipt of the full explanation by letter asked for in our letter of 9th instant. Pending a further communication the Mhaswar Tank and Krishna Canal should not be commenced.

No. 119 P., Poona, 11th November 1876.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed by his Excellency the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 4th instant, as well as that of the letter from the Financial Department, No. 3,741, of the 31st October, relative to the temporary appointment of a third Revenue Commissioner for this Presidency, in consequence of the present scarcity.

2. In reply to the telegram, I am to explain that it appeared to his Excellency in Council undesirable, for a mere temporary purpose, to unsettle all the existing arrangements of so important an office, when conducted by so able and experienced an officer as the late Mr. Havelock; but I am to state that since that objection was taken to the measure this Government have unfortunately lost the services of that excellent officer, and as fresh arrangements must be made, involving the employment of officers of less experience, and who are not at present so well acquainted with the districts affected by the scarcity and with their general condition, his Excellency in Council is not disposed to incur the responsibility of declining the additional assistance which in this respect the Government of India have been good enough to offer. His Excellency has therefore nominated Mr. E. P. Robertson, Collector of Dharwar, to the temporary office, and no time will be lost in giving full effect to the arrangement.

3. I am to take this opportunity of stating that before the receipt of your letter, No. 365, of the 25th October, his Excellency in Council had become aware that it was absolutely necessary to follow the example of the Government of India, and to concentrate the whole correspondence respecting relief operations in one Department of Government; and fortified by the recommendation contained in the 16th paragraph of your letter, he has directed that concentration to be effected in the Department of Public Works. His Excellency in Council has, I am directed to say, resolved to work through the Public Works Department, instead of through the Revenue Department, because, from the character of the present difficulty, it is clear that relief to the people will have mainly to be afforded by means of public works, and the arrangements that must be made, and the numerous questions that will arise in connexion with these works, could not, without great loss of time, and probably also loss of efficiency, be dealt with in any other Department than the Public Works Department.

4. His Excellency in Council, bearing in mind the great increase of correspondence and work of every description which must thus be devolved on the Government in consequence of the scarcity, and the necessity of strengthening the Public Works Department for the time with the services of an officer specially qualified for the purpose, has appointed as a Supernumerary Under-Secretary, Mr. C. Macpherson, at present assistant to the Collector of Poona.

5. His Excellency trusts this arrangement, which he believes to be indispensable, will meet with the approval of his Excellency the Governor General in Council.

No. 435.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Calcutta, 24th November 1876.

I have had the honour to receive your letter, No. 119P., of the 11th instant, which, having been directed to Simla, only arrived the day before yesterday. In reply, I am directed to state that the President in Council is glad to learn that his Excellency the Governor in Council has deemed it proper to appoint an

additional Revenue Commissioner as a temporary measure, with the view of augmenting the administrative supervision available for the distressed districts.

2. I am to add a few remarks on the other subject referred to in your letter. The Government of India regard the concentration in one Department of the Secretariat, as far as may be practicable, of all correspondence relating to the regulation of relief operations as a very necessary measure, but they consider the selection of the Department of Public Works for that purpose to be open to grave objections, and likely to lead to serious difficulties in the future.

3. The inexpediency of directing such operations through the Department of Public Works was fully exemplified in the case of the Rajputana famine in 1869; and during the Orissa famine of 1869, and the Bengal famine of 1873–74 the entire direction and control of relief operations was exercised by the Civil Department of the local and supreme Governments, the Public Works Department acting as adviser on purely professional questions, and carrying out specific works when called upon to do so. A similar course has invariably been followed in the several famines of greater or less severity with which the Government of Madras has had to deal.

4. To be intimately acquainted with the circumstances of the people in all parts of their charges, to decide in what particular localities relief is required, and what the extent and the form of that relief should be, is essentially the function of the Collectors of districts, aided by their assistants and deputies, and acting under the supervision and direction of the Commissioners. It appears to be far more likely that these officers will, in their several grades, perform their functions with zeal and alacrity if they are left under the Department of the Government under which they habitually act, than if they are placed under another, which they will not unnaturally consider to be in some degree wanting in the special qualifications necessary for a due appreciation of their difficulties and duties. From the latter course it appears to the President in Council that considerable friction, involving detriment to the public service, may be expected to arise, especially where, as may in some instances be the case, the relations between local officers and the Public Works Department are already more or less strained.

5. As regards the Government itself, I am to observe that the Civil Secretariat, which in Bombay is represented by the Chief Secretary and the Departments at present under him, may be presumed to possess special knowledge of the nature of that above adverted to, and to be better fitted to deal with the majority of the questions submitted by the Commissioners and Collectors than the Department of Public Works. The Civil Department may be expected to view such questions from a broader standpoint, embracing finance and general policy, while availing itself freely of the advice of the Public Works Department on any engineering points which may happen to be involved.

6. I am to express the hope of the President in Council that the foregoing observations will receive the careful consideration of his Excellency the Governor in Council.

7. The appointment of Mr. C. Macpherson as a temporary measure is approved. The pay and allowances which it is proposed to assign to him should be reported.

I have the honour to be, &c.

13th November 1876.

From the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras to the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department.

I am directed to confirm my cipher telegram of 4th instant, intimating that the very seriously threatening circumstances of part of this Presidency have compelled this Government to arrange for securing at present and holding a State reserve of 30,000 tons of grain, to guard against possible disaster and risk of great loss of life; and that the estimated cost of the transaction is 32 lakhs of rupees, of which the payment of five lakhs has been arranged by the Accountant General, under instructions of this Government, through the agency of the Madras Bank and the Calcutta Currency Office. While for the payment of 27 lakhs of rupees, by instalments of 4 lakhs a week for the following five weeks, including that of intimation, this Government rely on the Government of India; payment of the balance of seven lakhs being again undertaken by the Accountant General after the above period.

The purchase of the grain has been effected through the agency of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., who were confidentially employed by the Government of India in a similar manner in 1874, and the payments are to be made to their credit with the Bank of Bengal.

The transaction has been kept, as far as possible, a strictly secret one, and the reserve is intended to be held as an insurance, so far as it will go, against the possible catastrophe of failure of supply to the local market, by ordinary trade and private enterprise, or such an entire temporary withholding of stores by grain merchants as has already led to very serious inconvenience.

The bulk of the grain is intended to be used, if necessary, in payment of grain wages on relief works by the Collectors of the distressed districts, instead of their being forced to have recourse to the general markets where its supply may be inadequate or prices exorbitant.

Meanwhile, they are being encouraged to rely, as much as possible, on contracts with local dealers for the grain they require for relief wages, and are not informed of the existence of this reserve, which the Government trust it may not prove necessary to employ to the full extent for the special purpose, in which case any balance remaining in store will be resold.

The contingency of failure of supply is one which needs to be guarded against at all costs.

The letter addressed in the Revenue Department the Government of India to under date 7th instant, gives full details of the progress of this disastrous season, and the Government greatly regret to state that there is no longer room to doubt that distress, which is even now threatening to culminate in famine requiring extraordinary State measures, must for some months to come be experienced by the poorer portion of the population, and especially of the agricultural section in the district of Kurnool, Bellary, and Cuddapah, where the north-east monsoon rains have completely failed, after a very insufficient south-west monsoon fall and an inadequate north-east monsoon supply in 1875.

These three districts aggregate about 27,000 square miles of country, with a population of about 4,000,000, paying ordinarily a land revenue of about 60 lakhs, and throughout great part of them the crop has utterly failed, and the means of renewed cultivation are absolutely non-existent until sufficient rain falls.

The records of the meteorological observatory unfortunately preclude the hope that even if abundant rain fall on the east coast in the present month it will reach the distressed tracts in the Ceded Districts, and the Government are forced to the conviction that, until April next at earliest, large numbers of people who depend on agriculture for earning the means of daily life must be provided with work and wages by the State, on which also devolves the responsibility for ensuring the presence of a sufficient supply of food.

The numbers already employed on the State relief works are not less than 150,000 persons in round numbers, while there are some 10,000 more of aged and infirm folk and children, ordinarily dependent on these workmen, who are receiving from Government sufficient food to maintain life, under careful supervision to guard against fraud.

If it should unfortunately happen that the north-east monsoon rains finally fail extensively, the numbers dependent on State relief will very rapidly and largely increase to an extent which it is impossible to estimate, but which cannot fail to be of serious magnitude.

Telegram, No. 423, 20th November 1876.

From Officiating Revenue Secretary, Calcutta, to Secretary, Madras.

Your letter of 13th instant to Financial Secretary does not contain any explanation of the necessity for taking action without previous reference to Government of India. Please send full and immediate explanation by letter on this point. The action of the Madras Government seems inconsistent with the alleged activity of private trade as stated in your telegram of 9th instant.

Telegram, 23rd November 1876.

From Chief Secretary, Madras, to Revenue Secretary, Calcutta.

In Ceded Districts quarter million already depend State relief. Serious distress arising in other districts. Distress increasing, and will increase for four or five months. Relief number will largely increase. Having considered capacity and capital of local trade and transport, and uncertainty of direction of trade with other contingencies, this Government considers provision

of moderate State reserve obtained at reasonable price essential to safety. No interference with trade contemplated, except in some pressing emergency.

Grain payments impossible on relief in many places, and reserves necessary where large accumulation of labourers remote from communications. Do not fear our allowing State stock to accumulate beyond absolute necessity.

We are, therefore, arranging purchase of 20,000 tons; delivery and payment in equal portions, January, February, March. Arrangements to be decided Saturday.

We estimate can now secure this purchase not exceeding seven rupees six annas per bag, delivered Madras. Price last year five rupees, present price nearly ten. Every day now increases cost of even new crop, as magnitude of difficulty publicly realised. Cipher acknowledgment.

Telegram, 24th November 1876.

From Revenue Secretary, Calcutta, to Chief Secretary, Madras.

Your telegram of yesterday. The Government of India cannot sanction any further purchases of grain until furnished with far more explicit and detailed information than that now before them regarding the condition of the Madras Presidency, and with the explanation called for in telegrams of 11th and 20th instant. Present telegram by no means clear, but it is not desirable that such important measures should be carried out on telegraphic information. A full and detailed explanatory statement should be sent by post. Government of India cannot reconcile present proposals with activity of private trade as reported in your telegram of 9th instant and in newspapers. Purchase contemplated must be postponed. Arrangement already made with Gillanders, Arbuthnot and Co., is known in Calcutta.

Extracts from the Diary of the Agent to the Governor-General in Central India, for the week ending 14th October 1876.

Native Department.

No.	Date of Issue.	Abstract of Indore Durbar Intelligence.
22	8th Oct. 1876	The Sooba of Rampoora reported that 2,600 head of cattle had died in his district, and that the cultivators stood in need of some pecuniary assistance. The Maharaja sanctioned a grant of Rs. 9,000.
23	9th Oct. 1876	An apprehension of the rise in the price of corn owing to the famine in the Deccan induced His Highness to convene a meeting of corn-dealers, who were advised to lay in grain sufficient for the consumption of the whole year. The Maharaja expressed his willingness to advance them a lac of rupees, but the dealers said they had made their own arrangements and stood in no need of this aid.
		* * * * * * *
25	12th Oct. 1876	His Highness contemplates affording relief to the starving population of the Deccan through the Agent to the Governor-General. Raojee Gooria was directed to lay in grain to the value of one lac. An advance of Rs. 30,000 was sanctioned to be made to the cultivators of the Depalpoor District, on condition of their repaying the amount within three years, the cultivators having lost 3,160 head of cattle.

Revenue Despatch, No. 3, 5th January 1877.

From the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General of India in Council.

1. The Despatch of your Excellency's Government, dated 24th November, No. 30 of 1876, relative to the scarcity in Western and Southern India, has been received and considered in Council.

2. Attention is specially drawn in this Despatch—

1st. To the intention of the Bombay Government to concentrate in the Public Works Department of its Secretariat the whole of the correspondence relating to the scarcity;

2nd. To the proposal of the Madras Government to purchase 20,000 tons of rice.

3. Your Excellency's Government has stated its objections to the course which the Government of Bombay wishes to follow, but, before expressing a final opinion on the subject, I will await the reply of that Government to your Secretary's letter of the 24th November, No. 435 of 1876. It may possibly happen that the views expressed by your Lordship's Government may induce the Government of Bombay not to persevere with the proposed arrangement, but in unusual emergencies of so serious a character I should be indisposed to interfere with the discretion of the local Government, which seems, by the manner in which it has

addressed itself to the arduous and difficult work, to deserve all possible support and encouragement.

4. With respect to the action of the Government of Madras, I do not understand whether the 20,000 tons of rice which that Government proposes to purchase are in addition to or a part of the 30,000 tons which are alluded to in your Despatch of the 17th November. But, under any circumstances, I am of opinion that your Excellency's Government was right in suspending its sanction to the proposed measure in the absence of the complete information as to the state of the Presidency for which it had previously called.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 31 of 1876.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, 1st December.

IN continuation of our Despatch of the 20th ultimo, relative to the scarcity in Western and Southern India, we beg leave to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of the communication specified in the margin.

Letter to Government of Madras	dated	25th Nov. 1876.
Do. from ditto	„	19th „
Do. to ditto	„	29th „
Letter from Chief Commissioner of Mysore	„	8th „
Do. to ditto	„	27th „
Telegram to ditto	„	27th „
Do. from ditto	„	28th „
Letter from Government of Bombay	„	18th „
Do, to ditto	„	30th „
Telegram to ditto	„	25th „
Do. from ditto	„	25th „
Statistical statements regarding famine districts in the Bombay Presidency.		
Letter to Government of Bombay, dated 30th Nov. 1876.		

2. The Government of Madras has now, in reply to our calls of the 22nd and 25th October, furnished certain information regarding the condition of the distressed districts in that Presidency, which is under consideration; but as sufficient details of the relief works in progress or contemplated have not been supplied, the reasons which, in our opinion, make it necessary that such details should be furnished have been explained in our Secretary's letter of the 25th ultimo. We have also requested that a complete review of the condition of affairs may be prepared and forwarded to us by the 15th of January next, similar to that which has, as will be presently explained, been called for from Bombay.

3. Your Lordship will observe that we have received a communication from the Government of Madras suggesting that their efforts to keep secret their operations for the purchase of grain will have been rendered futile in consequence of our telegram to them of the 11th ultimo not having been sent in cipher. In reply, we have explained that the course which was taken was, under the circumstances of the Government of India being in process of moving from Simla to Calcutta, unavoidable, and that there are no grounds for supposing that the transaction has become public from any other cause than its being in its nature practically incompatible with secrecy. Previous to the receipt of the letter in question from the Government of Madras, but after it was despatched, we had learnt, and had informed that Government, that the fact of their purchases had become known in Calcutta.

We may here take the opportunity of correcting an error of date which occurs in the 6th paragraph of our Despatch of the 17th ultimo, where we stated that the Madras telegram of the 4th had reached us on the 9th ultimo. This was a mistake. On the 9th ultimo our President received a telegram from the Financial Secretary, then on his way to Calcutta, communicating the fact of the Madras purchases, but the copy of the actual telegram from Madras did not arrive at Simla until the 11th ultimo.

4. The Chief Commissioner of Mysore has submitted an important correspondence, showing the measures which have been adopted under his orders for relief in that Province. We have approved generally of the instructions which he has issued, but have deemed it necessary to draw his attention to the objections to concentrating large bodies of labourers at a distance from their homes. We have also requested him to prepare and forward a general review, similar to that called for from Bombay, as will be presently explained. Your Lordship will observe that a statement made in the newspapers to the effect, that the Chief Commissioner had made large purchases of grain at Madras, turns out to be without foundation.

5. With reference to our letter, No. 806, of the 3rd instant, which we reported to your Lordship with our Despatch of the 9th, the Bombay Government state that they consider the general orders which they have issued regarding remissions to be sufficient; but we have pointed out that those orders do not provide for the cases to which our suggestion was directed, in which, if the existing law were enforced, the ryot's occupancy right and his necessary movables might be sold for arrears of land revenue attributable to the drought.

6. The transport of grain upon all the railways continues to be in excess of the capabilities of transport possessed by the various lines. The Government of Bombay state, in answer to our inquiries, that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are doing everything in their power to meet the emergency. A similar inquiry addressed to Madras has not yet been replied to, but from a statement which appeared a few days ago in one of the local newspapers we gather that this subject has also engaged the attention of the Madras Government.

7. Our examination of the statistical statements submitted by the Government of Bombay having been completed, we beg leave to forward them for your Lordship's information, together with the instructions which, on consideration of them and of the weekly progress statements (which are submitted to your Lordship by the Bombay Government direct), we have deemed it advisable to issue. We believe a thorough review of the present position, and of the prospects for the future, up to the time when fresh harvests may be reaped, to be indispensable, in order to prevent either undue expenditure or unforeseen distress among the people.

8. We may remark, in conclusion, that the situation is such as to cause very serious anxiety from a financial point of view. From a telegram which has reached us from the Bombay Government since the preceding paragraphs were written, and a copy of which we enclose, it appears that the outlay on relief works is estimated at no less than 54 lakhs for the months which remain of the current financial year, and at 86 lakhs for the first seven months of the ensuing financial year. We trust that this estimate will prove to be greatly in excess of the actual expenditure, and we shall not relax our endeavours to limit that expenditure, as far as possible, to the necessities of the case; but the matter is one in which a great deal must be left to the discretion of the local Government, and we cannot now entertain any expectation that it will be possible to avoid an outlay, which in the present position of the finances will necessarily be most embarrassing. We have not yet received any estimate of the probable expenditure in Madras, nor any statement from either Presidency of the probable loss of revenue; but we fear that in both the loss of revenue will be very serious; and, in regard to Madras, we have now reason to apprehend that the area of distress will be considerably extended by the almost entire failure, up to the present time, of the north-east monsoon. The information which we have received from the latter Government has been hitherto much more scanty than that which has been furnished by the Government of Bombay; but we trust that the requisitions which we have addressed to the Government of Madras will lead to our being kept in future more fully and more regularly informed as to the state of affairs in that Presidency. It is probable that the local Government have kept your Lordship fully informed as to their proceedings; but, if so, they have not supplied us with copies of any of their Despatches. We have requested both Governments to send us, in future, copies of these documents as they are despatched. While the emergency is a very serious one in a financial point of view, and while it cannot fail to cause much distress, suffering, and loss to the people of the affected districts, we are glad to think that there is no reason to apprehend any serious difficulty in regard to the importation of food supplies into the places where they are needed, the grain trade in all parts of the country being most active.

We have the honour to be, &c.

No. 439, 25th November 1876.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

With reference to your telegram of yesterday, and my reply of this date, regarding the details of relief works sanctioned and in contemplation, I am directed by the President in Council to explain that, as the relief expenditure will eventually, to such extent as provincial funds may be deemed unable to bear it, be supplied from Imperial resources, the Government of India consider

it necessary that they should be supplied from time to time with the fullest information on the subject, and that the operations should be conducted in general accordance with principles which meet with their approval.

2. In the similar case of the Bombay Presidency, the Government of India have directed that large projects which will involve heavy ultimate expenditure after the necessity for relief has ceased, as also such as will collect large bodies of persons at a distance from their homes, should be avoided. It is obvious that the works ought also to be proportioned in number or extent to the relative wants of the several taluks, and that they should be of such a nature as to employ a large proportion of unskilled, as compared with skilled, labour.

19th November 1876.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Financial Department.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of Sir Alexander Arbuthnot's telegram of 11th "en clair" from Simla, requesting that no further purchases may be made without previous reference to the Government of India.

I am to state that it is feared this abandonment of the cipher system will have rendered futile all the efforts this Government have made to keep their operations secret, so as not to discourage private dealers.

No. 456.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Calcutta, 29th November 1876.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Financial Department, expressing the apprehensions of the Madras Government that the abandonment of the cipher system in the case of the telegram addressed to you by Sir Alexander Arbuthnot on the 11th instant from Simla, will have "rendered "futile all the efforts this Government have made to keep their operations secret, so as not to "discourage private dealers."

In reply, I am directed to inform you that the telegram in question was necessarily despatched in words and not in cipher. Your telegram of the 4th instant did not reach the President in Council at Simla until the 11th idem. By that time nearly all the offices had left Simla, and when Sir A. Arbuthnot's telegram was despatched no copy of the cipher code was available at that place. The President in Council was clearly of opinion that in the absence of stronger grounds than those assigned by the Madras Government, it was necessary to prevent, without a day's loss of time, any further expenditure of the nature of that which had been reported, and, under the circumstances, this could only be done by despatching a telegram "en clair." If any inconvenience has resulted from what has occurred, it is due to the action of the Government of Madras in carrying out, without any previous reference to the Government of India, and without, as would appear, any reasons for urgency, a measure which obviously required the previous sanction of this Government.

But the President in Council does not see the slightest grounds for supposing that any knowledge which may have been obtained by the public of the recent operations of the Madras Government has been communicated from the Telegraph Department. Experience shows that the contents of telegrams very rarely become public in this way. In the present case, as intimated in my telegram of the 24th instant, the fact of the purchases arranged for by the Madras Government, and several details connected with them, which could not have been learnt from Sir A. Arbuthnot's telegram, were known in Calcutta some days ago. The fact is that the nature of the transaction was incompatible with secrecy. Large purchases of grain cannot be made without their destination becoming known.

I have the honour to be, &c.

No. 7,958–132G., Bangalore, 8th November 1876.

From OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department.

In continuation of my letter, No. 6,524–104G., of 3rd ultimo, I am desired by the Chief Commissioner to submit a further report on the condition and prospects of this province and Coorg, and the measures taken to alleviate the existing and anticipated distress.

2. In paragraph 5 of my letter above quoted, the Chief Commissioner expressed the hope that with the fall of rain which was then looked for, on the change of the monsoons, the loss of the standing crops of ragi, which were ordinarily harvested in this month, would be to some slight extent averted, and the ryots would be enabled to raise such minor crops as horse-gram, dhall, &c. This hope has unfortunately, however, not been realized, and no rain whatever having fallen in the interval, the result has been a total failure of the dry crops, except in a few isolated patches, where a moderate crop of 2 to 4 annas in the rupee may be harvested. The area of the tract affected has in consequence been largely extended, and may be said now to comprise the whole province, with the exception of the western taluks of the Nagar Division, where a fair rice harvest is anticipated, the taluks of the Mysore and Hassan districts, which are watered by irrigation channels, and a portion of two taluks in the south-west of the Mysore District, where the ragi crops have fared better.

3. To the distress arising from the failure of the dry crop cultivation is to be added that occasioned by the failure of water supply for the cultivation of the wet land crops (rice) under

tanks. These crops, which are known generally as "vyshak," are sown about October and reaped in May and June, and are dependent wholly on the larger tanks, which as yet, however, have received no supply of water.

4. A serious feature in the present circumstances of the country is the absence of pasturage and fodder for cattle, and the mortality among these has been disastrous; the loss in one district (Tumkur) in a single month being estimated at 11,400.

5. The distress has been greatly aggravated at the present time by the circumstance, which was adverted to in my previous letter, of this being the second year in which the country has suffered from a greatly diminished rainfall, and from a more or less general deficiency in the grain harvest. The Chief Commissioner has reason to believe, however, that there is a fair quantity of grain stored by the wealthier ryots, and available for purchase by Government for distribution in lieu of wages to labourers on relief works; but there are necessarily large numbers of the people who have been rendered destitute by a succession of bad seasons, and for the relief of these works of a suitable character have been for some months past in operation in several districts, and funds are now being allotted for the grant of the additional lakh of rupees sanctioned in your telegram of 20th October for carrying out similar works in the other districts.

6. With regard to the measures which have been adopted to meet this state of things, I am desired to enclose printed copies of the Chief Commissioner's proceedings marginally noted. These papers will apprise the Government of India of the steps which have been taken as regards the alleviation of the distress and famine in one division (Nundydroog), and the general principles which have been laid down for the guidance of the executive officers, and also as regards the extent to which it has been found necessary at present to relax the Government demands on the ryots. On the latter point I am to observe that in the continued absence of rain the Chief Commissioner apprehends that it will be necessary to forego the claims of the Government, as regards the land revenue, to a further extent than here indicated; but, in view of the wide-spread character of the drought, and the disastrous loss of revenue which may be apprehended, the Chief Commissioner desires to act with deliberation, in the hopes that events may prove more favourable than can at present be predicted.

No. 7,414–167, dated 27th October 1876.
No. 7,501–172, dated 31st October 1876.
No. 7,675–35, dated 2nd November 1876.

7. In the district of Coorg there has been hitherto no cause for apprehension, as up to September last the rainfall, though somewhat deficient, had sufficed for the standing rice crops. The failure of the rains subsequently, however, has affected these crops, and the Superintendent of Coorg reports that much loss has already occurred among them, and if no rain falls shortly the consequences will be very serious. Distress from high prices of food grains has already appeared among the people, and the necessity of commencing relief works in that locality will probably become necessary.

8. Among the measures of relief which the Chief Commissioner has found it necessary to adopt has been the grant of an extra allowance of Re. 1 per mensem to every salaried official on the permanent establishment of this province who is in receipt of Rs. 15 and under, and with respect to the local troops (Silladars and Barr Infantry) a compensation which has been fixed at 1 seer of ragi and 3 seers of horse-gram per diem, when such articles are selling above a fixed rate, was granted to all below the rank of commissioned officers. In both cases the concession has been limited, so as not to extend beyond the 31st December next; but the Chief Commissioner has no expectations that the price of food will fall sufficiently to admit of its being withdrawn for some months to come. I am desired to solicit the sanction of the Government of India to these measures, which the circumstances of the time has rendered inevitable.

9. Lastly, I am to state that, at a public meeting convened by the Chief Commissioner at this station on the 1st instant, it was resolved to organise famine relief committees, whose operations would extend to the outlying districts, and in accordance with the instructions of his Honour the President in Council communicated by telegram, the local Government has promised to supplement the amount of private subscriptions by an equivalent grant.

No. G. 298, Bangalore, 26th October 1826.

From the COMMISSIONER OF THE NUNDYDROOG DIVISION to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

In continuation of my letter, No. G. 290, of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to transmit copies of the reports received from the Bangalore and Kolar districts.

2. Mr. Ricketts did not send a tabular statement. So I have, to some extent, tabulated his report for more ready reference.

3. As matters are daily getting worse, and the ragi crop may be said to have almost entirely failed, there is every probability of the most serious scarcity throughout this division. I will not use the word "famine" yet, as a heavy fall of rain would bring on the later crops, and would give forage for the cattle and water for the population, but, in the absence of some additional rainfall within the next week or ten days, I shall begin to fear the worst. I have therefore drafted a number of proposals, which will, I hope, meet with the early and favourable consideration of the Chief Commissioner.

I. Permission to be given to sow cholam in the beds of all dry tanks, and to allow ryots to sink wells for irrigating the crop. The Government share to be one fourth, and to be at the disposal of the District Officer for distribution to the poor.

II. Wells to be sunk in the beds of all dry tanks, in the hope of obtaining thereby a supply of water for domestic purposes. These may be relief works.

III. The Irrigation Department to be directed to proceed with projects on as large a scale as their means will admit of in all taluks where they are now working.

IV. Railway embankments to be started on the line to Mysore, and at such points as may be decided on, without fear of taking up a bad line, between this and the border of the Shimoga District, viâ Tiptur, as the crops have utterly failed along nearly the whole of that line of country.

V. Permission to be given me to allot to the taluks, marginally noted, sums of Rs. 5,000, 3,000, 2,000, and 1,500 respectively per mensem, to be expended on relief works until such time as matters improve.

	Rs.
Bangalore	5,000
Hoskote	3,000
Devanhalli	3,000
Dodballapur	3,000
Srinivaspur	3,000
Sidlagatta	3,000
Magadi	2,000
Anekal	2,000
Closepet	2,000
Kankanhalli	2,000
Nelamangala	2,000
Malur	2,000
Chikballapur	2,000
Gumnayakanpalya	2,000
Kolar	1,500
Mulbagal	1,500
Gudibanda	1,500
Goribidnur	1,500
Betmangala	1,500
Total	43,500

VI. To permit me, if the necessity should arise, to purchase grain through merchants at Madras or elsewhere and contract for its being laid down at certain central points where large relief works are going on for the purpose of paying in kind the poor who are employed thereon.

VII. If matters do not improve, the Munsiffs' Courts to be closed in the outlying localities, and the establishment to be placed under the Deputy Commissioners for the purpose of supervising relief works, each of these establishments being under the general supervision of their own Munsiffs.

Mr. Krishnaiengar has made some excellent suggestions on this point.

VIII. A liberal allowance to be granted monthly towards the maintenance of public kitchens at each taluk head-quarters for the purpose of feeding the very old, very young, and in fact those among the poorer classes who are unable to work. Half of all chattram and other feeding allowances in each taluk where feeding chattram, &c. exist to be transferred to the public kitchens.

IX. In the case of tank repairs, I would further advocate that authority be given to suspend for this season taking "mutchalkas" from ryots for contributions.

4. Captain Ludlow's report will be transmitted as soon as it is received. In a demi-official he gives a bad account of the Túmkúr District, and has asked for 48 hours time to send in his report.

No. 741, Camp Krishnarajpur, 24th October 1876.

Fom the Officiating Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, to the Commissioner, Nundydroog Division.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date calling upon me to report, within 24 hours of receipt of your letter, very briefly to the best of my ability, regarding the actual position of matters in each taluk of my district, and in reply to state as follows :—

II. Matters are beginning to assume such a critical aspect throughout the whole district that what has to be said of one taluk applies almost equally to all the other taluks.

III. In every taluk, save perhaps Dodballapur, there are or have been patches of fair cultivation, alternated by patches of entire failure, and on the whole the ragi crop of the entire district may be estimated at not more than one eighth of an average year.

IV. Hopes were entertained that late rains might save much horse-gram, tuvar, ballar, and the like grains ; but it would seem that these hopes are fated to be disappointed, and if this unhappily turns out to be the case we shall, in addition, have no such crops at all, and consequently the people will be liable to all the horrors of a water famine if suitable measures be not taken at an early date.

V. It has been stated by good authority that the Indian labourer and petty ryot live almost from hand to mouth, and consequently there is hardly a line of demarcation between scarcity and actual famine. Such scarcity, almost synonymous with famine, has in my deliberate opinion already set in, and the continuous absence of rain forbodes a far worse state of affairs ere long. If further proof of this statement be wanted, I submit it is plainly indicated in the present ruling price of the chief foodgrains.

VI. In my opinion relief works are urgently required in every taluk, and that from 2,000 to 3,000 rupees at least will be required monthly in each taluk, to begin from the 1st of November and to end when next year's rains have fairly set in to an extent to restore confidence and lower prices.

VII. The first thing, as soon as money is available, is to sink numerous wells in places where there is scarcity of water, or even none at all. Then earthwork labour of a kind at which all can work will be required to be furnished, and minor work, such as collecting and heaping gravel for road repairs and the like.

VIII. If, however, the district be not favoured with rain ere long, even the above suggestions and money expenditure will be far from sufficient, and some large works must be inaugurated which will give daily wages to thousands of people. Such works cannot be carried out by the district officer. He is already being overwhelmed with criminal work, and his free moments hampered by the necessity of trying large gangs of dacoits only in such places where they can be conveniently guarded, fed, and lodged.

IX. As very large sums of money will have thus to be expended to give such employment to the destitute as will serve to keep them and their families alive, it would seem highly advisable to utilize the labour as far as possible on some work that will be permanently useful. A work of this nature, and which will be national in its benefits, is the commencement of the earthwork for the Mysore Railway. This undertaking admits of thousands being employed on it. The rumour of the starting of the work will attract the poor and starving to it from miles around, and with labour and supervision so concentrated, grain payments and other famine relief operations

can be systematically carried out. At present along the proposed line there is much scarcity, especially at and around Bidadi. The money expended on this work will be gain rather than loss. In fact, I know of no work which will enable the Government to grapple so satisfactorily, both as regards extent of country and number of people to be benefitted, with the famine which is now steadily but surely setting in.

X. Kitchens have been established at some of the kasba towns, and in which thousands have been fed, but some of these are now being closed, just as they are most wanted, for lack of funds. It will be necessary for Government to encourage the revival of the same by promising contributions to the extent of the money raised by private efforts. And, as regards the town and cantonment of Bangalore, the initiative, I humbly conceive, should be soon made by convening a public meeting.

XI. It will not be advisable, in my opinion, to purchase in the local markets and make grain payments; for if this were generally resorted to local traders would considerably enhance their prices. In the event of a large work of great magnitude being undertaken, then it would be expedient to import the necessary grain from foreign markets and distribute it through means of a suitable agency.

XII. There are certain other comparatively minor, yet still important, points in connexion with the famine which require special consideration. It is particularly necessary to restore confidence among the monied and influential classes who reside in kasba and other large towns in the interior. At present the lawless and even the poorer classes are aggravating the existing scarcity by demanding loans of money or of grain of these well-to-do men; and, in alarm, the latter lessen their transactions, or even begin to leave their homes for Bangalore. This is a serious evil, and can be best met, I think, by strengthening the hands of each Amildar by the location of a Biradari of Siledars at each kasba, where there are none now, and also by the addition of 10 or 12 sepoys to each Kasba Treasury Guard.

XIII. In addition to this, I would beg strongly to recommend the very early, if not immediate increase of the police force by some 30 men in each taluk. Already the number of gang robberies that are being committed tax the energies of the police to the utmost, especially in guarding and escorting such large numbers of prisoners. Prevention is at all times better than cure; and even in an economic sense the money will be well expended, as being the means of deterring gang robberies, and which, when committed, end in the sending to jail of a large number of men there, not only to be fed at the cost of Government but also to be guarded.

XIV. Village Totis and Talaris in ordinary seasons are fairly trustworthy; but as famine goes on the police cannot expect much aid from them, as many of their number, it is feared, will be conniving at crime, whilst the remainder will be pinched from want and partial starvation.

XV. I have issued a circular to Amildars which I trust will meet with your approval, viz., to do all in their power to induce ryots to sink temporary wells or ponds in tank beds, so as to be able to raise some cholam crop, &c., for food as well as fodder. This to be done on "Batayi," but Government only to take one fourth, instead of the usual half, in consideration of the ryot's labour in sinking such wells.

XVI. I have also issued another circular to the effect that ryots can hardly promise contributions at this season, and that Amildars should send in as many estimates for tank repairs as they can, without the usual preliminary of taking contribution "mutchalkas."

XVII. I have necessarily had to write in haste, but the subject matter of this letter has been under my consideration for some time past.

No. 1,577–504, Kolar, 24th October, 1876.

From the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, to the Commissioner, Nundydroog Division.

As directed in your circular, No. 329, of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to submit a tabular statement, in the form prescribed by you, showing the condition of the different taluks of the district, the relief works already started, the amount required for those to be started hereafter, and the number of poor at present fed in each taluk.

2. I exceedingly regret to state that though ragi was extensively sown in this year it has almost failed in every part of the district, and if it can be at all harvested in any locality it will be so scanty and insufficient even for the consumption of the grower himself for a few months. The wet crops have been cultivated under very few tanks, and these too have almost hopelessly withered, except those irrigated by wells and river channels, which are very limited.

3. Ballar, tuvar, and kulthi (horse-gram) are up to this date in a pretty fair state, but their out-turn depends upon future rain and dew.

4. The water supply for domestic purposes is also very scarce, as all the tanks are dried up, and much difficulty is already felt in procuring forage.

5. It therefore appears to be necessary that relief works should be started on a large scale in every taluk of the district, and measures should be adopted for water supply. Several projects having been submitted by the Irrigation Department for works in the taluks of Kolar, Betmangala, and Srinivaspur, I beg that early sanction may be accorded for commencing these works without delay, and for employing on them the able-bodied poor, instead of giving them to anybody on contract. In other taluks also it appears to be advisable to undertake the tank repairs as relief works, for it will not only give employment to the able-bodied poor and improve the tanks, but also enable us to provide water for domestic purposes by sinking large wells in the beds of tanks where springs could be found generally.

6. In his order, No. 6,960–162, dated 14th instant, the Chief Commissioner has been pleased to direct that in those taluks where the pressure of want is already severely felt, no time should be lost in procuring supplies of grain (ragi) for issue to the labourers at the equivalent of one

seer for two annas in cash, and in your Circular Memorandum, No. 320, of the 17th idem, it has been directed that payment in kind should be started without a moment's delay wherever practicable. In order to carry out these instructions it appears to be necessary to import grain, as there is very little of it in the country, and what is exposed for sale in the local markets is mostly imported. If we purchase such imported grain from the local merchants in large quantity we will have to pay exorbitant price demanded by them, and the public may also suffer, as the merchants' store will be soon exhausted. Under these circumstances, it appears to be desirable to make arrangements for the grain required by the Government for issue to labourers to be imported from such places where it could be had cheaper than in the local markets, and stored in one or two localities in each taluk where relief works are extensively carried on.

7. These relief works will be so numerous and scattered all over the taluk that it is next to impossible for the Amildar, with his ordinary establishment, to manage them properly, and it is therefore necessary that some special arrangements should be made. In doing this it would be advisable to utilize the services of some other permanent establishment, instead of entertaining temporary hands, on whom it is difficult to place much reliance in matters of considerable expenditure, and the establishment which may be employed on these works without any inconvenience is, in my opinion, the civil. At this time of scarcity people would not mind resorting much to the civil courts, and there would therefore be no harm if the civil work is put off for a time.

8. I would, under these circumstances, beg to submit for consideration whether the Munsiffs may not be vested with 2nd class magistrate powers, and authorised to transact the headquarter duties of the taluks where they are now located, superintending the relief works and feeding kitchens started therein, and attending at the same time to any urgent duties of their own courts. This arrangement, if approved of, will obviate the necessity of any extra expenditure to the State in the shape of establishment, place at our disposal several of the clerks and members of the process establishment for employment on relief works, and enable the Amildars to move about constantly in the country, which is very necessary not only for superintending the relief works, but also for ascertaining correct information about the state of crops in different parts of the taluks where we may have occasion to grant remissions.

9. As regards the feeding of the poor who are unable to work, the people have hitherto very liberally contributed to the public kitchens, and maintained them; but I fear that they will not be able to continue long, and therefore the Government will have to undertake this charity, for which purpose it would be necessary for the present to give a monthly grant at least of Rs. 200 to each taluk.

10. if the north-east monsoon also unfortunately fails there is no hope of improvement in the condition of the country till June next, by which time we may expect kambu or sajje crop, if the succeeding south-west monsoon or mungar rain sets in early. I have in the meantime issued orders, as a precautionary measure, to have javari sown at once in such beds of small tanks incapable of containing water for Vaisak as are still wet enough to admit of the seed being sown, and to do the same as regards other tanks, the beds of which are now quite dry and hard, as soon as some rain falls sufficient to moisten the ground. This, if all goes well, as I hope, will supply javari about February, and might mitigate the present distress to some extent.

No. 7,414-167, Bangalore, 27th October 1876.

ORDER thereon by the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

The Commissioner of the Nundydroog Division submits reports from the Deputy Commissioners of Bangalore and Kolar Districts, describing succinctly the present condition of those districts, and the measures proposed for mitigating the effect of an almost complete loss of the ragi (dry) crops, as well as of the rice crops under tanks.

2. The failure of the north-east monsoon at a time when it may have been looked for has proved most disasterous, and the Deputy Commissioners apprehend that, if no rain falls shortly, the loss of the ragi crop will be followed by that of gram and other minor crops which have been sown. The water-supply for domestic purposes is reported to be failing, and forage for cattle difficult to obtain.

3. The measures with which it is proposed to meet the existing scarcity and impending famine are embodied in the Commissioner's letter, and will be considered *seriatim*:—

I. Permission to be given to sow cholam in the beds of all dry tanks, and to allow ryots to sink wells for irrigating the crop. The Government share to be ¼, and to be at the disposal of the District Officer for distribution to the poor.

II. Wells to be sunk in the beds of all dry tanks in the hope of thereby obtaining a supply of water for domestic purposes. These may be relief works.

III. The Irrigation Department to be directed to proceed with projects on as large a scale as their means will admit of in all taluks where they are now working.

IV. Railway embankments to be started on the line to Mysore, and at

4. The Chief Commissioner approves of this measure, excepting as regards the disposal which Colonel Pearse proposes to make of the Government ¼ share of the batayi crops. It is observed that the Deputy Commissioners have already taken steps to have water-holes excavated in tank beds wherever practicable.

5. This proposal is apparently embraced in the preceding one. The Chief Commissioner considers that relief works should not at this time be too scattered, but should be selected with reference more particularly to the means available for effective supervision.

6. This proposal will be referred to the Secretary, Department Public Works, for disposal under the Chief Commissioner's orders, which have already been issued in the spirit of the recommendation here made.

7. This proposal, which has already been considered by the Chief Commissioner, has much to recommend it,

such points as may be decided upon * * between this and the border of the Shimoga District *viâ* Tiptur * * *

V. Permission to be given (to the Commissioner) to allot to the taluks marginally noted sums of Rs. 5,000, 3,000, 2,000, and 1,500 respectively, per mensem, to be expended on relief works.

VI. To permit the Commissioner to purchase grain, if the necessity should arise, through merchants at Madras or elsewhere, and contract for its being laid down at certain principal points where large relief works are going on for the purpose of paying in kind the poor who are employed thereon.

in affording employment for large bodies of those who are willing to work, and in concentrating relief works to a great extent. But, even if the preliminary difficulties to such an undertaking be removed, the Chief Commissioner entertains considerable doubts whether it will give relief to those who are more especially in need of it, *i.e.*, the ryot classes, who will not leave their villages and fields and seek work at a distance. The subject will, however, receive further consideration in the Public Works Department.

8. The proposed allotments, amounting for two districts only to Rs. 43,500 monthly are, altogether excessive, and the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that such sums, if granted, would not be properly expended. The Government of India have been asked, by letter some time since, and again very recently by telegram, to sanction a further grant of one lakh of rupees for relief works, and on receipt of sanction, appropriations will be made, either in renewal of assignments recently made when the amount is nearly expended, or on fresh projects, on the Commissoner's application. In the meantime the Chief Commissioner will be prepared to make a suitable grant of funds for relief works in taluks, on receiving from the Commissioner some detail of the manner in which it is proposed to expend them. The grants recently made for works in the division must still be unexpended, but the necessity has clearly arisen for extending the area of these operations.

9. This proposal raises an important question, viz., the extent to which the Government can interpose to buy grain in the market for expenditure on its relief works. The Chief Commissioner learns that rice and other food grains are being imported into Bangalore at the rate of 700 to 1,000 tons per diem, chiefly for removal into the districts. The principal markets are understood to be well supplied, but in out-lying taluks there is, undoubtedly, a difficulty in bringing grain to the market, owing to a general feeling of insecurity among dealers, as well as owners of grain, and the fear of their stocks being broken into by bands of desperate men. The Chief Commissioner has reason to believe that these stocks are available for purchase at moderate rates, if suitable measures be taken to protect the holders against violence, and to remove the grain to places where it can be securely stocked for distribution either on relief works or at public kitchens, where such have been opened under Government or other adequate supervision, and conducted on proper principles.

10. In order to effect the object in view, the course that best commends itself to Mr. Saunders is, that tenders should be invited by the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner for delivery of a specified quantity of grain, whether rice or ragi, or both, at certain centres in each district, in proximity to large relief works in progress or in contemplation. The tenders should be notified also in the taluks, and should be accompanied by a promise to afford due protection to the conveyance of the grain while *en route*. It will be necessary that the localities where the Government granaries may be established should be selected with regard to the means of transport and other considerations, to be considered by the Commissioner, in conference with the Deputy Commissioners, and no delay should occur in carrying them into effect. The amount required for the purchase of the grain will be advanced from the Public Treasury, on application to this Office, and adjusted hereafter as an allotment from the relief grants.

11. Mr. Saunders is desirous that no measures should at this crisis be adopted which will in any way militate against the principles of free trade; for if the idea should get abroad either that the Government have taken upon itself the direct responsibility of regulating the demand and supply of grain, or that they have any intention of buying up grain on an extensive scale to sell it a lower rate to the ryots than the local merchants can afford to do, and thus to compete with them in the exercise of

VII. If matters do not improve, the Munsiffs' courts to be closed in the outlying localities, and their establishments to be placed under the Deputy Commissioners for the purpose of supervising relief works, &c.

their legitimate commercial functions, it is needless to say that the result will be of the most pernicious character, and have a very direct and certain effect in checking the importation and proper diffusion of grain throughout the country.

12. This measure may be adopted by the Commissioner under the orders of the Judicial Commissioner, who is authorised to place the services of the Munsiffs and their establishments at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioners, wherever and whenever they may be needed for the supervision of specific relief works.

13. The Judicial Commissioner is requested to submit the names of those Munsiffs upon whom it is proposed to confer magisterial powers temporarily.

VIII. A liberal allowance to be granted monthly towards the maintenance of public kitchens at each taluk head-quarters for the purpose of feeding the very old, very young, and in fact those among the poorer classes who are unable to work. Half of all chattram and other feeding allowances in each taluk * * * to be transferred to the public kitchens.

14. The Chief Commissioner is not prepared to sanction this proposal at present, excepting to a limited extent, as he is not satisfied that sufficient safeguards exist for the proper distribution of the benevolence. To aid, however, the local efforts that are being made for this object in particular localities, the Chief Commissioner authorises a sum of Rs. 1,000 being distributed monthly for gratuitous distribution of food to supplement private subscriptions at large towns where the services of Assistant Commissioners and Munsiffs can be made available for superintending the work. The distribution of the amount may be left to the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner.

IX. In the case of tank repairs the Commissioner advocates that authority be given to suspend for this season taking "mutchalkas" from ryots for contributions.

15. Approved.

16. The proposal of the Deputy Commissioner to increase the police force in every taluk is not adverted to by the Commissioner. Such an increase will be needed to a small extent, probably, where granaries may be located, or where large bodies of labourers are employed on relief works. For purposes of protection generally, the Mysore Siledar Horse must be held available, and the Chief Commissioner desires that the Military Assistant will, in communication with the Commissioners, take steps to detach small bodies of Siledars, from regimental or Risala head-quarters, to a few well selected points in each district, where their presence will serve to allay alarm, and, if necessary, repress disorders. It must be understood that they cannot be employed in apprehending dacoits or police duties generally.

No. 301G., Bangalore, 27th October 1876.

From the COMMISSIONER OF THE NUNDYDROOG DIVISION to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE, General Department.

In continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, No. 298 G., I have the honour to enclose, for the Chief Commissioner's information, copy of the report just received from the Deputy Commissioner of the Túmkúr District.

I would bring to notice that this district seems worse off than either of the others, and large payments in money will doubtless have to be made and grain payments also resorted to ere long. The Deputy Commissioner suggests expenditure in taluks as marginally noted; but probably Rs. 3,000 for each of the first five taluks will suffice.

	Rs.
Túmkúr - -	3,000
Moratagere - -	5,000
Maddagiri - -	5,000
Sira - - -	5,000
Chiknayakanhalli -	5,000
Kunigal - - -	1,500
Kadaba - - -	3,000
Honnavalli - -	5,000

If a State railway from Bangalore to Tiptur, and on through Shimoga to the Bombay side, should be decided on, a work of this kind would not only open up the country and repay Government in the end, but large gangs of people could be employed on the embankments, and their work would ultimately prove a highly remunerative investment. I would strongly urge this proposition on the consideration of the Chief Commissioner, as in the present state of the line of country through which this railway will pass Government would not, I should think, refuse consent to such an excellent and suitable method of turning the labour of the population to profitable account.

No. 7,501-172, Bangalore, 31st October 1876.

ORDER by the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

The report of the Deputy Commissioner of Túmkúr District, which has been received subsequent to the issue of the Chief Commissioner's Proceedings, No. 7,414-167, dated 27th October 1876, shows that, excepting in a few hoblis of the Kunigal Taluk, where the yield may amount to a 4-anna or even a 6-anna crop, the crops on dry and wet lands alike have been completely lost; and, as no rain has since fallen, there is little or no prospect of raising the subsidiary crops, such as gram, dál, &c.

2. It is evident that relief works must be actively commenced in this district, and the Commissioner will be authorised to place such sums at the Deputy Commissioner's disposal as may be required in addition to the funds already allotted from the relief grant.

3. The other special measures authorised in Chief Commissioner's Proceedings, No. 7,414–167, dated 27th October 1876, should be carried into effect at once in the Túmkúr District, as well as in the districts of Ashtagram and Nagar divisions, the circumstances of which are reported to be equally critical.

No. 7,675–35, Bangalore, 2nd November 1876.

ORDER by the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

In continuation of proceedings No. 7,414–167, dated 27th October 1876, the Chief Commissioner directs it to be intimated that, as a further measure of relief called for by the circumstances of the present time, the following modifications of the Government demand have been prescribed for the current official year, and will be carried into effect by the Deputy Commissioners of districts under the orders of Commissioners of divisions.

I. The number of instalments (kists) of land revenue will, as in last year, be extended from 4 to 7, and fixed as follows:—

December.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.
Annas 2	3	3	2	2	2	2

Exception.—This concession is not applicable to the Malnad Taluks of the Nagar and Ashtagram divisions.

II. The orders directing interest at ½ pie per rupee per diem on all arrears of land revenue, mohatarfa, &c. are suspended for the current year.

III. The sale of grazing on unoccupied lands (Hulbanni) will not be enforced during the present year in those taluks or parts of taluks which have been seriously affected by drought. The Commissioners will notify within their divisions the areas which under this order will be wholly exempted from the Hulbanni sales.

2. The measures above detailed will be notified in the "Mysore Gazette," and the Chief Commissioner desires that every means may be taken by District Officers and Assistant Commissioners in charge of sub-divisions to make them generally known.

3. As the season advances, and extent of the failure of the north-east monsoon can be fully ascertained, the Chief Commissioner will be able to determine what further measures of relief may become necessary in respect of remissions or suspensions of land revenue. The Deputy Commissioners of districts may be authorised, however, to grant remission of one half the assessment on all wet lands under tanks which have received no supply of water this year. This remission will comprise the kists from March to June inclusive.

No. 445, 27th November 1876.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter, No. 7,958, of the 8th instant, and to inform you that the President in Council approves generally of the orders which you have issued to meet the existing and anticipated distress in Mysore. The observations contained in paragraphs 9, 10, and 11 of your order of the 27th ultimo, regarding the expediency of abstaining from any measures likely to interfere with private trade in grain, have in particular his Honour's entire concurrence.

2. With reference to certain remarks contained in the 5th, 7th, 10th, and 16 paragraphs of the order above referred to, I am desired to inform you that the President in Council considers it undesirable to concentrate large bodies of labourers on relief works at a distance from their homes, and would much prefer that minor work should, as far as practicable, be carried on at numerous places throughout the distressed localities. The Governments of Bombay and Madras have, some time ago, received instructions to this effect.

3. I am directed to request that a narrative, showing concisely the condition of each district and the measures of relief in progress, may be submitted once a fortnight to this Department.

Telegram, 27th November 1876.

From OFFICIATING REVENUE SECRETARY, Calcutta, to CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Mysore.

Is statement made in Calcutta "Englishman" that you have bought two hundred thousand bags of grain at Madras correct? President in Council considers it most important not to interfere with private grain trade, and desires that no large purchases of grain be made without sanction of Government of India.

Telegram, 28th November 1876.

From CHIEF COMMISSIONER, Mysore, to OFFICIATING REVENUE SECRETARY, Calcutta.

Statement in Calcutta "Englishman" referred to is devoid of foundation. Mysore Administration has bought no grain, but Central Relief Committee have purchased five hundred rupees worth of ragi and five hundred bags of rice for charitable distribution in kitchens and on works.

No. 6,655, 18th November 1876.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

In reply to your letter, No. 106, dated 3rd instant, I am directed to state, for the information of the Government of India, that this Government were fully alive to the considerations which

have prompted the suggestions therein made, and believe that the instructions* recently issued by them regarding remissions, a copy of which is now forwarded herewith, will fully provide for all the cases entitled to consideration. If, however, it were generally made known that the ordinary laws regarding compulsory process were to be held in abeyance, then the danger would be great that many who could and ought to pay would withhold payment.

* Government Resolution, No. 6,557, dated 15th November 1876.

No. 6,557, 15th November 1876.

RESOLUTION by the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

READ.—Letter from the Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, No. A-16, dated 5th November 1876, forwarding with reference to Government Resolution, No. 6,007, dated 21st ultimo, a letter, No. 3,450, dated 2nd instant, from the Collector of Násik on the subject of the principles on which remissions are to be granted; and stating that he thinks that patels and kulkarnis should prepare an asámiwár statement of each man's kháta, showing (1) name; (2) caste and occupation; (3) acres of bagáyat, jiráyat, kharif and rabi, with the crops in each, and the amount of produce in annas which they consider each crop has yielded; and (4) the amount which he has to pay to Government; that Mámlatdárs should test 20 per cent. of these returns and Assistants 5 per cent.; that the Collector should then fix, in consultation with Assistant Collectors and Mámlatdárs, the maximum remission that is to be granted to each village or group of villages, and that panchávats should then be appointed, who should decide the amount to be granted to each cultivator within the maximum limit, and also in which cases final remissions should be granted, and those in which the collections should only be postponed for one or two years.

RESOLUTION.—The Revenue Commissioner is to be referred to Government Resolution No. 6,414, dated 9th instant.

2. In a season like the present much liberty of action must be left to Collectors, and it is not the wish of Government to hamper them by detailed rules and instructions.

3. Where, as is the case in a large number of villages in the Sinnar Taluka, there has been what practically amounts to an entire failure of crops, there the revenue is to be wholly remitted.

4. Where the crop of the village has been an average one, but where there are isolated instances of failure, then individual inquiries must be instituted under such arrangements as the Collector may think best. Broadly speaking, where the loss has been less than eight annas no remission should be granted, where it is more than eight and less than twelve one instalment may be remitted, and where it is above twelve then the whole may be remitted, as the Collector and his assistants think proper.

5. It is the wish of Government to show the people the utmost consideration, but at the same time not needlessly to forego public revenue.

6. In estimating the amount of loss, entire holdings and not separate numbers should be considered.

7. These instructions may be considered generally applicable to all the districts in both divisions in which there has been a failure of crops.

No. 458, 30th November 1876.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No 6,655, dated the 18th instant, forwarding a copy of the instructions * issued by the Government of Bombay on the subject of granting remissions of land revenue during the failure of crops in certain districts in the Bombay Presidency.

* Resolution No. 6,557, dated 15th November 1876.

2. In reply, I am to point out that those instructions do not appear to provide for the cases intended to be met by the suggestion contained in my letter No. 806 of the 3rd instant, which had reference to (1) sale of land in distressed districts for default of payment of land revenue, and (2) exemption of necessary movables in case of any sale of movable property for such default. The difficulty felt by the Government of Bombay is undoubtedly worthy of consideration, but perhaps it might be met by instructions of a confidential nature.

Telegram, 25th November 1876.

From the OFFICIATING REVENUE SECRETARY, Calcutta, to the SECRETARY, Public Works Department, Bombay.

Is statement in "Pioneer" 24th, that there are three miles and a half of wagons of grain at Kallian Junction correct? If so, and this be owing to insufficient railway establishment, there or elsewhere, the company should be pressed to make ample increases.

Telegram, 25th November 1876.

From the SECRETARY, Public Works Department, Bombay, to the OFFICIATING REVENUE SECRETARY, Calcutta.

"Pioneer's" statement exaggerated, but there is great block on Great Indian Peninsula Railway, owing not to want of establishment, but to deficiency of wagon stock, station, and siding accommodations. Railway company repeatedly urged to do all in their power to clear their line; have borrowed stock wherever available, increased their traffic staff, and are doing all they can. Agent suggested booking no more grain, but this Government did not approve, as the measure was likely to check trade.

STATEMENTS regarding the FAMINE DISTRICTS in the DECCAN and the SOUTHERN MAHRATTA COUNTRY, called for by the Government of India by Telegram, dated 22nd October 1876, and furnished by the Government of Bombay in their Letters, Nos. 6,331, 6,406, and 6,561 of the 4th, 8th, and 15th November 1876.

KHANDESH.

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realizable Revenue in 1875-76.	Rough Proportion of Kharif to Rabi cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.	Ordinary Price of Staple Food of the Taluka at this Season.		Actual present Price of the same.		Probable extent of Failure of Crops.	Amount, if any, sanctioned for Relief.
								Per Rupee.		Per Rupee.			
				Kharif.	*Rabi.*			*Bájri.*	*Jowári.*	*Bájri.*	*Jowári.*		
			Rs.	Acres.	Acres.	Inches.	Inches.						
1. Dhulia	759	66,929	1,69,915	159,239	6,319	23·83	12·73*	14 seers.	18 seers.	6½ seers.	8 seers.	The Collector states that he will be able shortly to submit trustworthy information, but that he is not able to state with certainty what the probable failure of crops may be till the officers who are now engaged in searching examinations of the different villages have completed their work. At present he does not expect a crop of more than 4 or 6 annas in the rupee.	
2. Amalner	529	79,863	2,58,024	173,204	20,022	21·93	15·15	16 „	20 „	8 „	10 „		
3. Erandol	467	76,689	2,30,127	158,192	18,073	30·4	14·79	16 „	19 „	8 „	9 „		
4. Páchora	542	84,880	2,86,181	170,697	6,906	28·31	12·86	17 „	21¾ „	8 „	10 „		
5. Chálisgaon	511	44,568	1,27,905	91,373	8,837	28·19	13·21	14 „	18 „	7¼ „	9½ „		
6. Pimpalner	1,039	60,125	1,19,345	109,393	12,891	26·78	16·81	13 „	18 „	8 „	0 „		
7. Nundurbár	647	45,285	1,25,676	46,333	22,502	24·74	16·57	14¾ „	16 „	7½ „	9 „		
8. Taloda	1,135	35,278	59,304	9,370	17,510	29·4	28·32	12 „	12½ „	8 „	9½ „		
9. Sháháda	468	46,228	2,05,913	65,943	40,865	21·36	16·6	17½ „	17½ „	9 „	10½ „		
10. Virdel	507	63,350	2,41,838	153,056	27,593	18·57	7·95	16 „	19 „	8 „	9 „		
11. Shirpur	780	34,642	1,29,830	58,625	17,235	20·55	11·24	16 „	16 „	8 „	11¼ „		
12. Chopra	495	51,581	1,60,482	86,912	11,622	Information not available.	11·97	16 „	16 „	8 „	9½ „		
13. Sauda	867	124,519	2,78,744	182,518	27,206		13·4	16 „	17 „	8 „	10 „		
14. Bhusáwal	570	84,245	2,46,223	154,127	11,264	26·47	8·41	14 „	16 „	7 „	10 „		
15. Nasirabad	319	60,109	2,11,532	83,326	30,307	Information not available.	12·31	16 „	18 „	7 „	10½ „		
16. Jámner	527	70,351	1,75,088	140,514	744		13·26	17½ „	21¼ „	8 „	10½ „		
Total	10,162	1,028,642	30,26,127	1,842,822	279,896								

NÁSIK.

				Kharif.	*Rabi.*			Per seer of 80 Tolas per Re.	Per seer of 80 Tolas per Re.		Kharif crops fair in parts of Násik, Niphar, Dindori, Chándor, Kalwan, Báglán, Málegaon, Nándgaon, and Igatpura. Kharif crops failed in Sinnar, eastern part of Niphar, Yeola, and partially in all the district. Nagli crops largely failed. Rabi unsown, except in a few places towards the western districts; therefore entirely failed. Kharif under half crop.	
			Rs.	Acres.	Acres.	Inches.	Inches.	*Bajri.*	Rice.	*Bajri.*		
1. Násik	445	89,377	39,802	79,764	33,567	29·41	15·97†	26	12¾	13⅓		
2. Sinnar	507	64,872	1,37,078	141,876	44,003	22·49	10·65	28	9¾	15		
3. Igatpura	672	57,735	81,778	71,274	25,383	109·59	114·57	23	12	12½		
4. Dindori	560	68,626	1,15,823	81,618	47,909	25·57	17·65	25	12	15		
5. Niphar	370	86,017	2,16,202	90,345	63,551	17·94	12·39	26	10½	16½		
6. Chándor	299	50,130	88,509	85,239	20,907	32·55	12·58	27	10½	15		
7. Yeola	482	59,313	59,744	68,877	48,600	26·62	14·96	27	9¾	13½		
8. Nándgaon	424	30,230	55,782	69,825	11,743	26·15	13·66	25	9	12		
9. Málegaon	774	62,716	1,59,091	111,864	57,495	24·60	10·42	28	9¾	14		
10. Báglán	1,420	59,051	1,24,835	174,736	56,092	38·6	14·32	25	7¾	12		
11. Kalwan	1,200	54,152	75,780				16·10	28¼	10	13		
12. Peint State	960	47,033	45,571	—	—	38·2	77·40	—	13½	13		
Total	8,113	729,252	12,48,995	974,918	409,250	—	—					

* This is the return as shown by Collector. The Public Works Department shows 13·14 as the total fall.
† This is the fall as registered by the Revenue authorities, but that shown by the Sanitary Commissioner, as registered by the Public Works Department, is 12·98.

AHMEDNAGAR.

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realizable Revenue in 1875–76.	Rough Proportion of Kharif to Rabi cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.	Ordinary Price of Staple Food of the Taluka at this Season.		Actual present Price of the same.		Probable extent of Failure of Crops.	Amount, if any, sanctioned for Relief.
								Quantity obtainable per Rupee in seer of 80 Tolas.					
				Kharif.	*Rabi.*			*Bájri.*		*Bájri.*			
			Rs.	Acres.	Acres.	Inches.	Inches.	Seers.	Tolas.	Seers.	Tolas.		
1. Nagar -	548	109,888	1,32,838	73,855	120,903	27·99	8·64	31	6	10	77	Taking 12 annas as the average yield, the failure will be,— 6 annas in 12 villages, and 12 annas in the rest.	
2. Párner -	731	82,422	1,12,500	133,433	102,298	23·8	8·28	30	57	12	34	Do. do. 9½ annas.	
3. Shrigonda -	610	64,936	1,17,726	56,491	176,968	28·12	15·29	35	8	12	5	Do. do. 10½ „	
4. Karjat -	567	48,766	} 2,07,464 {	49,242	127,795	21·38	6·70	35	8	14	50	Do. do. 12 „	
5. Jámkhed -	550	72,994		81,054	62,266	28·76	8·77	38	2	16	65	Do. do. 6 „	
6. Sheogaon -	682	83,226	1,52,406	95,282	125,506	29·34	20·0	36	45	16	7	Do. do. 2 „	
7. Newása -	621	62,418	1,29,815	47,875	149,271	24·57	13·49	33	51	17	44	Do. do. 4 „	
8. Ráhuri -	469	59,093	1,34,536	68,836	104,373	23·6	10·57	35	8	13	43	Do. do. 8 or 9 „	
9. Kopargaon -	505	60,839	1,32,831	90,534	143,159	23·57	10·5	26	26	14	50	Do. do. 7 „	
10. Sangamner -	688	68,765	1,24,110	154,679	56,879	20·16	6·45	32	14	12	48	Do. do. 10 „	
11. Akola -	676	60,591	77,814	136,984	11,925	21·33	8·98	31	35	11	56	Do. do. 8 „	
Total -	6,647	773,938	13,22,040	988,215	1,181,343								

Note.—The above information has reference to the yield of the kharif only; rabi for the present must be considered to be a failure; it has not been sown generally, and where sown, will not produce anything, except probably in some parts of Sheogaon.

POONA.

								Per Seer of 80 Tolas per Rupee.				Per Seer of 80 Tolas per Rupee.					
								Jowári.		*Bájri.*		*Jowári.*		*Bájri.*			
			Rs.	Acres.	Acres.	Inches.	Inches.	Seers.	Tolas.	Seers.	Tolas.	Seers.	Tolas.	Seers.	Tolas.		
1. Junnar -	600	106,876	1,58,586	154,483	48,986	22·34	17·9	33	66	25	61	12	19	10	72	One half to three-fifths.	
2. Indápur -	567	62,392	1,01,025	233,156	26,642	21·76	4·82	33	54	29	6	14	75	14	15	The whole, except in irrigated land, of which there is very little.	
3. Khed -	799	139,152	1,68,961	206,413	22,306	23·50	18·9	—		—		13	8	11	65	One half to three fifths.	
4. Sirur -	558	76,984	1,40,392	115,501	116,538	17·3	10·94	33	31	26	60	14	5	13	8	Three fifths.	
5. Purandhur -	442	75,732	83,934	70,984	58,308	23·24	17·54	—		—		13	8	10	0	One half to three fifths.	
6. Bhimthari -	1,002	115,297	2,17,499	43,872	300,389	20·73	5·97	—		—		11	20	11	20	The whole, except in irrigated land, of which there is very little.	
7. Haveli -	766	155,082	1,89,197	182,857	9,402	33·10	14·90†	28	35	21	55	13	65	11	66	One half.	
8. Máwal -	357	56,834	70,362	52,555	9,108	*	76·79	—		—		12	37	10	71	Ditto.	
9. City of Poona	8	118,886	—	—	—	—	—	—		—		—		—			
Total -	5,099	909,235	11,29,956	1,059,821	591,679												

* No data available, rain gauge having only lately been established.

† The remark made regarding Násik applies here also. The fall registered by Public Works Department is 14·80.

SHOLAPUR.

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realizable Revenue in 1875–76.	Rough Proportion of Kharif to Rabi cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.	Ordinary Price of Staple Food of the Taluka at this Season.	Actual present Price of the same.	Probable extent of Failure of Crops.	Amount, if any, sanctioned for Relief.
				Kharif.	*Rabi.*			Seers of 80 Tolas per Rupee.	Seers of 80 Tolas per Rupee.		
			Rs.	Acres.	Acres.	Inches.	Inches.	Seers.	Seers.		
1. Sholapur	841	180,587	2,58,357	63,121	343,593	28·35	8·68*	*Jowári* - - 16	*Jowári* - - 5	The failure of crops may be said to be entire. If any is saved it will be so little as to be hardly worth taking into calculation. If the rain which fell in some talukas had fallen at one time, or at all seasonably, there would have been an average crop in parts of the district; but as it is, the early crop was burnt up, and the people have not been able to sow for the late crop, or where they have sowed the seed has for the most part failed, and what remains will now share the same fate.	
2. Bársi	605	130,853	2,01,863	79,848	198,596	29·4	11·14	„ - - 19	„ - - 5½		
3. Karmála	762	105,291	1,70,615	31,235	364,325	22·37	8·41	„ - - 16	„ - - 7		
4. Mádha	612	103,981	1,51,797	36,436	266,412	25·32	6·45	„ - - 20	„ - - 7		
5. Pandharpur	455	79,314	1,17,336	28,489	194,826	24·64	6·8	„ - - 20	„ - - 6½		
6. Sángola	647	62,960	85,207	162,704	111,738	21·76	4·29	„ - - 16	„ - - 7		
7. Málsiras	574	55,048	88,730	43,258	169,734	—	11·78	„ - - 19½	„ - - 6¾		
Total	4,496	718,034	1,078,905	445,091	1,649,224						

SATARA.

								Per Seer of 80 Tolas per Rupee.				Per Seer of 80 Tolas per Rupee.					
								Jowári.		*Bájri.*		*Jowári.*		*Bájri.*			
			Rs.	*Kharif.* Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	Inches.	Seers.	Tolas.	Seers.	Tolas.	Seers.	Tolas.	Seers.	Tolas.		
1. Karád	391	133,122	2,46,531	75,449	34,396	27·97	19·75	16	51½	15	42	11	51	11	78	4 annas in the rupee.	
2. Wálwa	595	156,089	3,25,902	117,991	28,360	25·24	12·85	17	20	14	68	12	0	10	64	5 annas and 4 pies in the rupee.	
3. Satara	330	115,113	1,33,659	46,935	13,998	40·4	33·59	20	77	18	29¾	10	52	9	4	3 annas and 2 pies in the rupee.	
4. Wai	389	86,095	1,13,551	73,738	21,391	32·88	25·34†	17	8½	19	26	11	56	10	68	4 annas in the rupee.	
5. Jauli	412	59,836	60,299	41,759	5,741	74·3	59·84	20	63	20	57¾	9	34	8	70	5 annas and 4 pies in the rupee.	
6. Khánápur	508	76,783	1,22,269	156,079	21,015	23·34	11·4	20	32	18	2	8	40	8	0	12 annas in the rupee.	
7. Koregaon	333	82,344	1,69,554	79,032	27,707	27·77	20·19	18	44	18	30	10	48	10	40	4 annas in the rupee.	
8. Mán	640	62,198	72,260	184,487	51,700	20·89	9·35	24	0	20	0	8	32	8	60	12 annas in the rupee.	
9. Pátan	510	115,491	92,433	61,809	2,975	61·71	48·82	17	44½	18	17½	10	48	10	25	5 annas and 4 pies in the rupee.	
10. Khatau	530	81,950	1,03,047	141,542	15,929	22·38	11·51	23	76¼	20	32	11	65	10	16	12 annas in the rupee.	
11. Tasgaon	345	87,975	1,11,467	108,563	16,100	25·77	9·79	18	18	18	18	10	64	9	36	Ditto ditto.	
12. Mahableshwar	5	4,006	3,357	451	25	273·22	243·18	19	42½	17	2½	11	20	8	10	8 annas in the rupee.	
Total	4,988	1,061,002	15,54,329	1,087,835	239,337												

* See remark about Satara, which applies to this district. The Public Works Department return is 8·81.
† The statement above given is that of the Revenue authorities. The Public Works Department make the rainfall 30·79.

KALÂDGI.

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realizable Revenue in 1875-76.	Rough Proportion of Kharif to Rabi cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.	Ordinary Price of Staple Food of the Taluka at this Season.	Actual present Price of the same.	Probable extent of Failure of Crops.	Amount, if any, sanctioned for Relief.
			Rs.	*Kharif.* Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	Inches.				
1. Indi - -	837	105,475	1,97,090	70,192	272,579	27·32	3·98	Staple food jowári. The ordinary price throughout the district is about 28 seers per rupee.	25th Oct., 11 seers per Re. 24th „ 12 „ 25th „ 11 „ 26th „ 10½ „ „ „ 8 „ „ „ 11 „ „ „ 10 „ 25th „ 10¾ „	In a few villages in talukás Bádámi, Sindgi, Hungund, there was a sufficient fall of rain to produce a very scanty kharif crop, but throughout the rest of the district the whole kharif crop has perished. There is no rabi crop sown in the district as yet, and unless heavy rain falls there is no hope of any. Scarcely any "baghayet" in the district. The yield of present season is estimated at $\frac{1}{16}$th only.	
2. Muddebihál -	552	83,848	1,25,681	102,846	100,123	24·46	5·14				
3. Sindgi -	792	99,798	2,12,567	30,613	328,824	20·83	6·53				
4. Bágewári -	757	93,738	1,84,134	99,003	194,701	23·98	6·18				
5. Bágalkot -	684	110,185	1,30,839	86,230	69,188	22·77	8·87*				
6. Bádámi -	690	130,816	1,04,476	84,600	37,940	22·0	7·17				
7. Hungund -	518	105,866	1,19,694	69,357	96,714	20·22	7·49				
8. Bijápur -	865	86,311	1,33,635	227,845	84,602	17·90	3·71				
Total -	5,695	816,037	12,08,116	770,686	1,184,671						

BELGAUM.

								Seers of 80 Tolas per Rupee.					
							Up to 30th October 1876.	Nipani—	Seers.	Tolas.	Nipani—	Seers.	Tolas.
			Rs.	*Kharif.* Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	Inches.						
1. Belgaum -	607	134,621	1,48,611	72,194	3,959	41·88	35·78†	Jowári -	23	70	Jowári -	8	0
2. Sampgaon -	409	131,504	2,39,918	132,852	11,784	32·52	17·97	Rice -	12	60	Rice -	6	0
3. Bidi - -	632	78,875	1,19,770	66,245	1,778	59·44	50·64	Wheat -	14	75	Wheat -	7	0
								Belgaum—			Belgaum—		
4. Chikóri -	848	248,685	2,64,841	142,157	26,491	19·86	15·56	Jowári -	19	3	Jowári -	8	0
								Rice -	13	14	Rice -	6	40
5. Parasgad -	638	120,691	1,86,441	106,047	51,535	21·38	15·77	Wheat -	14	15	Wheat -	8	40
6. Gokák -	668	109,697	1,34,519	87,280	54,801	19·72	6·94						
								Nandgad—			Nandgad—		
7. Athni -	789	114,677	1,59,817	76,100	143,041	18·57	6·74	Jowári -	20	76	Jowári -	8	40
								Rice -	17	20	Rice -	7	40
Total -	4,591	938,750	12,53,917	682,875	293,389			Wheat -	16	43	Wheat -	7	40

Probable extent of Failure of Crops.	Amount, if any, sanctioned for Relief.
In Belgaum there will be an average yield of six annas in the rupee. This applies also to Sampgaon and Bidi.	
In Chikóri and Parasgad about ¾th of the crop has perished, while in Gokák and Athni there is almost entire failure, except in a very few villages, where, perhaps, a four-anna crop may be yielded. So far as rabi is concerned no crops have been sown.	

* Kaládgi is the head station, and is in the taluka of Bágalkot. The actual rain-fall there up to date, as shown by the returns prepared from the Sanitary Commissioners record, is 14·26.
† This represents the fall as shown by the Revenue authorities; that registered at the Civil Hospital and submitted by Sanitary Commissioner is only 31·28.

Note.—The prices at Nipani, in Chikóri taluka, Belgaum Town, and Nandgad, in Bidi taluka, only are given; but being taken from the principal market towns they very fairly show the prevailing prices of grain throughout the district. The average prices prevailing during the past three years in the month of October are given.

DHARWAR.

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realizable Revenue in 1875–76.	Rough Proportion of Kharif to Rabi cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.	Ordinary Price of Staple Food of the Taluka at this Season.	Actual present Price of the same.	Probable extent of Failure of Crops.	Amount, if any, sanctioned for Relief.
				Kharif.	*Rabi.*						
1. Dharwar -	460	123,730	Rs. 2,12,351	Acres. 75,056	Acres. 30,453	Inches. 32·34	Inches. 20·71	Jowári per Rupee. 21 seers of 80 tolas per seer	Jowári per Rupee. 7½ seers of 80 tolas per seer	Kharif—Less than 4 annas crop in 79 villages, and from 4 to 12 annas expected to be reaped in remainder. Rabi—Less than 4 annas expected in 103; 8 annas expected in 5.	
2. Hubli -	310	101,238	2,19,355	41,562	74,669	27·83	14·18	Not given - -	Not given - -	Kharif—Four annas crop expected. Rabi—None sown.	
3. Navalgund -	565	104,700	3,54,333	3,542	226,080	22·22	6·65	24 seers of 80 tolas per seer	8 seers of 80 tolas per seer	Kharif—One anna crop expected. Rabi—Ditto ditto.	
4. Gadag -	701	120,655	2,55,267	74,584	170,794	25·67	11·1	28 „ „ -	6¼ „ „ -	Kharif—Less than 4 annas crop expected. Rabi—No rabi, unless rain fell shortly.	
5. Bankápur -	341	83,175	1,49,052	61,985	19,274	21·83	15·23	22 „ „ -	8 „ „ -	Kharif—Less than 4 annas crop expected. Rabi—Rain falling would give 6 annas cotton crop.	
6. Hángal -	298	67,390	1,42,783	55,809	5,480	34·83	22·39	21 „ „ -	8 „ „ -	Kharif—In 33 villages from 8 annas to 12 annas expected; in rest, 4 annas or less. Rabi—None.	
7. Karajgi -	439	95,217	1,49,830	81,268	32,434	25·23	13·33	38 „ „ -	9 „ „ -	Kharif—Less than 4 annas, except in 5 villages, where 6 annas may be got. Rabi—One to two annas crop expected.	
8. Ránibennur	403	86,601	1,33,472	82,820	27,281	22·53	10·9	Not given - -	Not given - -	Kharif—Very small; kharif estimate not received from mámlatdár. Rabi—No rabi, unless rain fell shortly.	
9. Kod -	399	79,099	1,53,384	92,188	4,738	21·26	15·46	26 seers of 80 tolas per seer	10 seers of 80 tolas per seer	Kharif—Less than 4 annas expected. Rabi—No rabi, unless rain fell shortly.	
10. Kalghatgí -	279	52,729	1,01,844	50,750	730	33·09	20·23	30 „ „ -	8 „ „ -	Kharif—Four annas expected. Special inquiry on foot. Rabi—None sown.	
11. Ron -	369	73,503	1,61,620	17,424	140,296	23·48	4·70	28 „ „ -	6 „ „ -	Kharif—None. Rabi—Rain falling might save the crop.	
Total -	4,564	988,037	20,33,291	636,988	732,229						

No. 459.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Calcutta, 30th November 1876.

I am desired to inform you that the statements which accompanied the letters from the Government of Bombay quoted in the margin, as also the weekly progress statements up to No. III., have been carefully considered by the President in Council.

No. 6,331, dated 4th November 1876.
„ 6,406, „ 8th „ „
„ 6,561, „ 15th „ „

2. The object of the Government of India in obtaining general and periodical information of the condition of the districts affected by the scarcity is two-fold. It is necessary to ascertain that the expenditure which is taking place is neither excessive nor contrary to the principles which have been laid down for the selection of relief works, and also that a sufficient and safe forecast has been, and is being, made of the exigencies of the situation, up to the time when the reaping of fresh crops at the close of the next rains will, it is hoped, bring relief. This object is thus partly financial and partly administrative, and its attainment evidently depends entirely upon the soundness and the sufficiency of the forecast.

3. His Honour the President in Council fully recognises the difficulties by which the ascertainment of facts and the preparation of programmes are surrounded, and the efforts which have been, and are being, made by the Government of Bombay to ensure the correctness of the returns now under consideration, and to obtain more complete information hereafter on the points they comprise, and others equally important. At the same time he is constrained to observe, and his Excellency the Governor in Council will probably be glad to be made aware of the fact, that the data at present available are still far from free from obvious contradictions and inaccurracies, and are by no means so complete as those which the Government of India has had before it on previous occasions of scarcity in other parts of India. They do not, moreover, in most cases, comprise the opinions of the mass of local officers, to which, when given deliberately, fully, unreservedly, and promptly, considerable value has always justly been attached.

4. Seeing, therefore, that the materials for a forecast which may be safely relied on have not yet been obtained, I am to request that a more complete review of the situation may be submitted, comprising—

(*a.*) A careful estimate of the amount (if any) of the crop which has been saved, calculated in annas, on the assumption of an average yield being represented by 12 annas; kharif and rabi should be shown separately. If there be any prospect of further sowings it should be mentioned.

(*b.*) An estimate, as close as may at the time be practicable, of the amount of revenue to be remitted.

(*c.*) Information as to the mortality, past and anticipated, among cattle and agricultural stock; the measures already adopted by Government and the people, their result, and suggestions for the future.

(*d.*) The nature of the water supply, extent of its failure, further anticipated failure up to next rains, and remedial measures possible, if any.

(*e.*) The course of prices, weekly, of each of the principal food-grains from October 1st up to the date of report in each case, and six years' averages.

(*f.*) The local stocks, as far as ascertainable; the centres, railway stations or otherwise, whence further supplies are being, or may be, drawn, and the probability of private enterprise being sufficient to maintain them, as also of a fall in prices owing to ample importation.

(*g.*) The character of the population, whether high or low caste, poor or well-to-do, purely or only partly agricultural, and if the latter, in what proportions urban or artisan; also the character of the landholders, whether large, wealthy, able to aid their tenants and likely to do so, or the reverse.

(*h.*) The movements of the people; how far emigration has taken place, and with what result (have the people bettered themselves, or merely gone elsewhere to starve, or are they returning), and whether further emigration is probable.

(*i.*) The relief works already started, their sufficiency or otherwise, and the further works which are considered practicable, arranged in the order of their necessity.

(*j.*) The nature and amount of charitable relief given to travellers, and to the aged, infirm, &c., who are unable to work.

(*k.*) The number of persons whom the Government has on its hands, at date of report, for relief (1) by works, (2) by charitable measures, and the number, roughly estimated, which it is likely to have on its hands on March 1st, May 1st, and July 1st.

5. The above information, I am desired to say, should be given for each taluka separately, and should be, in the first instance, prepared by the Mamlatdars, the permission already given to place them on special duty being freely availed of for the purpose. The Assistant or Deputy Collector in charge should test, verify, or supplement the statements of each Mamlatdar, and then submit as his own, and in his own language, a complete report for the taluka on the points indicated, with full and free expression of his own opinions. Each taluka report should be passed on by the Collector, with his remarks, to the Commissioner, and by him similarly to the Bombay Government, who will forward it to this Department. No report of any one taluka should be detained anywhere because others have not come to hand, and the whole of the reports should have reached the Government of India by the 15th of January next. As many of the details above specified have already been partially collected, or are in process of collection, and the welding of the whole, including the new matter, into a complete form will be of obvious use to both Governments, the President in Council trusts that the call now made will not prove especially difficult or irksome.

6. In conclusion, I am desired to remark that no information has yet reached the Government of India as to the condition of the political territory comprised in the distressed tract, and to request that full information, as above, may be submitted in the case of all states under British management, and such details as may be procurable in the case of the others.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Telegram, 30th November 1876.

From Secretary, Public Works Department, Bombay, to Officiating Revenue Secretary, Calcutta.

Population distressed talukas 5,000,000. Estimated maximum number who will require assistance at worst season one fifth, or 1,000,000. On this basis, and allowing, as well as can be calculated, for increase to and decrease from the maximum, also for cost of organization, supervision, and all attendant expenses, outlay up to 31st March next will probably be 54 lakhs, from 1st April to 31st October 86 lakhs.

Revenue Despatch, No. 4, 5th January 1877.

From the Secretary of State for India to the Governor General of India in Council.

1. The Despatch of your Excellency's Government, dated 1st December, No. 31 of 1876, relative to the famine in Western and Southern India, has been received and considered in Council.

2. I approve of the orders issued by your Lordship's Government, and I desire that the complete reviews of the condition of affairs which the Governments of Madras and Bombay have been directed to submit by the 15th of January may be forwarded to me with all practicable despatch.

3. I have been kept informed of the progress of the scarcity by the Government of Bombay, but, until the present mail, I have received no Despatch on the subject since July last from the Government of Madras. My only knowledge of the condition of affairs in connexion with the famine in that Presidency has been derived from the Despatches of your Lordship's Government. I have now, however, received a comprehensive Despatch, with copies of a considerable correspondence with the Board of Revenue, from the Government of Madras, and I feel bound to record that the Governor in Council of that Presidency seems alive to the gravity of the situation which is presented to his attention, and has addressed himself to the duty of dealing with it with vigour and promptitude. He also appears to have been well supported by the Board of Revenue and the local authorities. I have impressed upon the Governments both of Madras and

Bombay the necessity of being guided by the instructions which they may receive from your Lordship in Council as to the construction of such relief works as may involve a large expenditure.

4. I approve generally of the measures adopted in this emergency by the Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 32 of 1876.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, 8th December.

1. In continuation of our Despatch of the 1st instant, we beg leave to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of the communications specified in the margin, relating to the scarcity in Western and Southern India.

Letter from the Government of Madras, dated the 24th November 1876.
Telegram from the Madras Board of Revenue, dated the 1st December 1876.
Letter from the Accountant General, Bombay, dated the 28th November 1876.
Letter from the Government of Bombay, dated the 30th November 1876.
Telegram from the Government of Madras, dated the 1st December 1876.
Telegram to the Government of Madras, dated the 2nd December 1876.
Telegram from the Government of Madras, dated the 5th December 1876.
Letter to the Government of Madras, dated the 8th December 1876.

2. With reference to the concluding paragraph of our Despatch above quoted, your Lordship will observe that we have now received estimates from both Madras and Bombay of the loss of revenue and the relief expenditure which is anticipated during the current and the coming years. According to the latest Madras estimate, the loss of revenue is calculated at 97 lakhs and the expenditure at 89 lakhs for the current year, and at 26 and 20 lakhs respectively for the coming year, thus making a total of 2 crores and 32 lakhs as the cost to the State of the famine in Madras. The estimate for Bombay is 46 lakhs loss of revenue and 54 lakhs for relief expenditure for the current year, and 20 and 86 lakhs respectively for the coming year, making a total of 2 crores and 6 lakhs. The aggregate for the two Presidencies thus reaches 4 crores and 38 lakhs, or, converted at two shillings per rupee, no less than 4,380,000*l*. The prospect is very alarming, but we are not without hopes that the anticipations of both local Governments may prove to have been exaggerated. The only data for forming an opinion regarding Bombay are those furnished by that Government in their letter of the 30th instant, which appear to be based on so excessive an estimate of the proportion of the population likely to be dependent on the State for relief as to give reason to hope that, if due care and economy be exercised, the actual expenditure will fall considerably short of the estimate given. What the loss of revenue will be it is impossible to predict until we receive the detailed review for which we recently called. In the case of Madras we have even still less upon which to base our judgment. In regard to expenditure we have hardly any information beyond the amounts already sanctioned and estimated, which are 14 and 75 lakhs respectively, up to the end of the current year. As to the nature of the relief works which have been or are to be set on foot, the localities where they are to be undertaken, or the data on which the necessity for this large outlay has been assumed, we have no knowledge whatever. As the requisitions which we have made continue to be disregarded, we have thought it necessary to call the earnest attention of the Madras Government to the subject.

3. The Madras Railway being unequal to carry the grain consigned to it, we have approved of a notification issued by the Government of that Presidency that food-grains shall, for the present, have preference over other classes of goods.

4. Consequent on a report from the Madras Government of a large influx of people from the Nizam's territories into the Kurnool District, and of much embarrassment having been caused thereby, we have requested the Resident at Hyderabad to address the Minister with the view of obtaining the organization of relief works by the Nizam's Government.

5. We have received from the Bombay Government a letter, No. 220, C. W.—904 of the 27th ultimo, in reply to our's of the 9th idem, No. 412, affording certain information regarding their programme for relief works. Our remarks on this letter, which is still under our consideration, will be communicated to your

Lordship in our Despatch of next week. We are glad to learn, from the weekly progress report of the 29th ultimo, that the question of water supply is not considered by the Bombay Government to be a cause of very grave apprehension at present.

We have the honour to be, &c.

No. 1,797, 24th November 1876.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FORT ST. GEORGE to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

With reference to your telegram, dated 20th instant, requesting me to send the best estimate obtainable of the loss of revenue during the current and ensuing years under the several heads so as to reach Calcutta by the 1st December, I am directed to give you the under-mentioned estimates, framed on the latest information obtained from the districts, and to state that should it be found necessary to revise these estimates materially on receipt of later information, which has been called for from the district officers, the figures will be telegraphed to you on the 1st December.

	1876–77.		1877–78.
	As per sanctioned Estimate.	Regular Estimate.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue - - - -	4,49,00,030	4,19,00,000	4,46,45,000
Excise on spirits and drugs - - -	63,80,000	62,39,000	64,18,000
Sea customs - - - - -	25,40,000	26,48,000	26,23,200
Land customs - - - -	2,60,000	2,21,150	2,28,200
Salt - - - - - -	1,36,50,000	1,33,90,000	1,34,16,000
General stamps - - - -	17,44,000	17,38,000	17,25,000
Court fee stamps - - - -	32,56,000	32,39,100	32,66,000
Total - - -	7,27,30,000	6,93,75,250	7,23,21,400

Telegram, 1st December 1876.

From BOARD OF REVENUE, Madras, to COMMERCE, Calcutta.

Your telegrams 20th and 21st ultimo. Latest revised estimates of receipts for the current year are, land revenue 3,52,68,000; excise, spirits, and drugs 53,32,500; sea customs 25,40,000; land customs 2,08,300; salt 4,10,58,500; stamps 48,00,000; total 6,12,07,200. Estimates for 1877–78 on latest data are, land revenue 4,23,12,000; excise, spirits, and drugs 61,99,400; sea customs 6,23,200; land customs 2,28,200; salt 1,33,69,300; stamps 49,00,000; total 6,96,12,100. Expenditure on famine relief works already sanctioned 14,27,000, estimate direct relief works up to end current year 74,45,000, total 88,72,000, exclusive of extra establishments, tools, and plant, police, &c. Considerable reduction in above estimate anticipated. About 15 lakhs will be required in first six months, 1877–78, for relief works in Ceded Districts. In other districts expenditure will be necessary to end of May only, if next south-west monsoon prove favourable. Estimate this expenditure five lakhs.

No. 13,102 B., Bombay, 28th November 1876.

From the ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, Bombay, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Under instructions from the local Government, I have the honour to forward a copy of my revised estimate for the current year, on account of the several heads of Imperial revenues and receipts, the original of which was submitted to the Government of India, in the Financial Department, on the 21st current. From this return it will be seen that the net loss of revenue during the current year would amount to Rs. 36,39,000.

2. The anticipated probable loss of land revenue in the coming year is estimated at Rs. 20,19,000. This result has been arrived at by comparing the amounts estimated by the Collectors of the drought-stricken districts for the next year with the amounts actually realised in last year, 1875–76. A similar comparison of excise and stamp revenues exhibits a decrease of Rs. 2,386 under the former, and an increase of Rs. 70,000 under the latter, head. I am disposed to doubt the correctness of these last figures, and think that there will be a considerable falling off under "IV, Excise" and "IX. Stamps"; but, in the absence of more reliable data, it is impossible to ascertain the probable loss under these heads.

3. The Conservators of Forests, Northern and Southern Divisions, were telegraphed to, on the 21st ultimo, to report the loss of revenue of their respective circles. No reply has yet been received from them.

The realization under the other heads of Imperial receipts for the coming year will not, it is believed, be materially affected by the present scarcity.

REVISED ESTIMATE of the REVENUE and RECEIPTS of the BOMBAY PRESIDENCY for the year 1876-77.

Revenue and Receipts.	Budget Estimate for 1876-77.	Revised Estimate for 1876-77.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Land revenue	3,71,00,000	3,25,00,000	—	(1) 46,00,000
II. Tributes and contribution from native States	9,08,000	9,08,000	—	—
III. Forests	12,26,000	12,96,000	(2) 70,000	—
IV. Excise on spirits and drugs (3)	39,50,000	39,50,000	—	—
V. Assessed taxes	—	—	—	—
VI. Customs	67,00,000	66,00,000	—	(4) 1,00,000
VII. Salt	89,00,000	87,00,000	—	(5) 2,00,000
VIII. Opium	2,61,00,000	2,70,00,000	(6) 9,00,000	—
IX. Stamps	46,80,000	45,00,000	—	(7) 1,80,000
X. Mint	4,70,000	7,20,000	(8) 2,50,000	—
XI. Post office	—	—	—	—
XII. Telegraph	—	—	—	—
XIII. Law and justice	2,80,000	2,80,000	—	—
XIV. Marine	6,30,300	6,30,000	—	—
XV. Interest	10,40,000	9,14,000	(9) 1,26,000	—
XVI. Receipts in aid of superannuation, retired and compassionate allowances	13,18,000	13,20,000	2,000	—
XVII. Gain by exchange on transaction with London	75,000	1,78,000	(10) 1,03,000	—
XVIII. Miscellaneous	1,50,000	1,40,000	—	(11) 10,000
Total receipts	9,35,27,000	8,98,88,000	14,51,000	50,90,000

1. The decrease is due to (*a*) the failure of crops in the Deccan and Southern Maratha country, (*b*) abandonment of land in Ahmedabad and Surat, (*c*) damage to crops in various talukas of the Shikarpur Collectorate in consequence of heavy flood passing through the Khesmore and Jhalli Bund, (*d*) a sum of Rs. 45,000 included in the original estimate on account of Gerass allowance due by the Baroda State having been excluded in accordance with instructions conveyed in Government of India's Financial No 3,747, dated 2nd current, and (*e*) the transfer to "IV, Excise," under orders from the local Government, of fees for tapping toddy trees in the Rutnagiri Collectorate hitherto credited under this head.

2. The amount proposed by the Conservator of Forests for the Regular Estimate has been adopted.

3. *Excise.*—The Collectors of Nasik, Shikarpur, and Karachi propose an increase of Rs. 29,000 owing to better rates at which Abkari farms have been taken up by contractors, adding to this amount Rs. 18,000 on account of fees for tapping toddy trees transferred from "Land Revenue." These cause a gross increase amounting to Rs. 47,000. On the other hand, the Collector of Puna anticipates a decline of Rs. 13,000 ; this, plus Rs. 7,000, the probable amount of reduction on account of Khat license fees made over to the Aden Municipality, *vide* Financial No. 1,000 of the 17th June last, causes a total decrease amounting to Rs. 20,000, deducting this amount from the gross increase the result is a net increase of Rs. 27,000. The Accountant General does not, however, consider it advisable to raise the original estimate, as he doubts whether the original estimate will be realized in the present distressed state of the country.

4. One lakh of rupees were over estimated by the Collector of Customs, Karachi, on account of import duty, owing to his having calculated the receipts at the old tariff rates.

5. The Collector of Salt Revenue has proposed a reduction of Rs. 13,00,000 from his original estimate of one crore of rupees, owing to the recent orders of the Supreme Government regarding the issue of free salt to British Malabar and the Native States of Travancore and Cochin, but Rs. 11,00,000 have already been reduced by the Government of India, the balance of Rs. 2,00,000 has therefore been now reduced.

6. The actual realization up to the end of last month has amounted to Rs. 1,61,62,000. The opium officers at Malwa and Ahmedabad anticipate that the number of chests which would pass through their agencies during the remaining five months of the year would be 18,400, yielding a revenue of Rs. 1,10,40,000, thus the total for the year would be Rs. 2,72,02,000. We have therefore raised the original estimate by Rs. 9,00,000, anticipating that a balance of Rs. 2,02,000 will remain outstanding at the close of the year.

7. Reduced in consequence of the distressed state, of people in the Deccan. We expect a larger falling off on this account, but the extent cannot be correctly ascertained so early in the year.

8. Raised at the instance of the Mint Master, who states that owing to the India Office having raised a sterling loan of 4,000,000*l.* there will be a larger exportation of bullion to India than originally expected.

9. Raised in consequence of the larger amount of interest having been realised than originally estimated on the loan to the Bombay Port Trust.

10. Increased, in reference to the actuals of the six months of the current year, which amounts to Rs. 1,04,000. This sum includes an amount of Rs. 14,000 recovered in excess from the Bombay Port Trust, but subsequently refunded and charged to "3 Refunds and Drawbacks."

11. Reduced on account of the transfer of revenue from the Shiek Ottoman waterworks at Aden to the Public Works Department under the orders of the local Government.

No. 638 A.–932, 30th November 1876.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 25th instant, requiring that the best estimate obtainable of expenditure on famine relief in this Presidency during this and the next year may be sent, so as to reach Calcutta by the 1st December.

2. I have to-day sent you a telegram as quoted in the margin,* and I am now directed to explain in more detail how the results reported in that telegram have been obtained.

* Population, distressed taluqas, five millions. Estimated maximum numbers who will require assistance at worst season, one fifth, or one million. On this basis, and allowing, as well as can be calculated, for increase to, and decrease from, the maximum, also for cost of organisation, superintendence, and all attendant expenses, outlay up to 31st March next will probably be 54 lakhs. From 1st April to 31st October, 86 lakhs.

3. The population of the affected portions of the Collectorates of this Presidency is, in round numbers, 5,000,000. It is manifestly impossible to say, with any degree of accuracy, how many of these persons will come upon the hands of Government, or for what time; but it may be sufficient to assume that it will not, at any time, be necessary to afford relief in any shape that will take the form of a direct expenditure of Government money to a greater number than 20 per cent. of the above population, *i.e.*, to 1,000,000 of people. This is altogether exclusive of any demands which the Government may be compelled to meet in consequence of the inability or failure of any of the small Native States to do what may be necessary to preserve the lives of their people.

4. There are now about 150,000 persons employed on relief works of different descriptions, but the cost of their employment up to the present time will, in a great measure, be met from ordinary resources, provincial and local, and there has as yet been little or no almsgiving by Government. The heavy expenditure calculated as coming against the extraordinary grant for relief may, therefore, be considered as commencing from the 1st of December.

5. The state of the people will probably be worst in April next, just before the May showers, which usually usher in the monsoon, begin to fall. In this month it would be prudent to provide for the maximum number requiring relief in some shape or another; and the numbers, on this supposition, will increase from the present time up to April, will remain stationary during that month, and will decrease as agricultural operations are resumed on the commencement of the monsoon; and, if all goes well, a normal state will probably be reached by the end of September 1877.

6. Proceeding on the above assumption, a calculation, which can at the best be only very rough and approximate, may be made as follows:—

7. There are now, as stated, nearly 150,000 persons receiving relief, and these are assumed to have been so far provided for.

	Persons.
In December their number may be - - -	200,000
„ January 1877 - - - - - -	300,000
„ February - - - - - - -	450,000
„ March - - - - - - -	750,000
„ April - - - - - - -	1,000,000
„ May - - - - - - -	800,000
„ June - - - - - - -	500,000
„ July - - - - - - -	300,000
„ August - - - - - - -	100,000
„ September - - - - - -	50,000
Total - - -	4,450,000

Of these, probably one tenth will have to be supported by alms, and nine tenths by employment on relief works, and the number will therefore be—

	Rs.
4,005,000, or say 4,000,000, at Rs. 3 each per month (average cost)	1,20,00,000
445,000, or say 450,000, at Rs. 2 each - - - -	9,00,000
Total Rs. - - -	1,29,00,000

or say 13,000,000 of rupees=1,300,000*l.* at 2*s.* the rupee.

8. To this must be added a further sum of, say, 10 lakhs of rupees, or 100,000*l.*, to cover the extra expenditure incidental to organization, establishments, medical attendance, extra police, transport of grain to particular points, if necessary, loss on sale of grain when supplied by Government, compensation for land taken up for works, transport of cattle, compensation for grazing, damages, &c. &c., and the total will, in this way, be raised to, say, 1,400,000*l.* This will not include any advances it may be necessary to make to cultivators to enable them to subsist while preparing their fields, or to furnish them with seed-grain; but if, as will probably be the case, the decrease in numbers after the 1st April next be more rapid than has been estimated, outlay on this account will have been to some extent at all events provided for.

9. His Excellency in Council will be glad if the above should prove to be an outside estimate, but it cannot be materially reduced at the present time, and with the present knowledge in the possession of Government, without running the risk of misleading the Government of India as to the liabilities which are probably before them. It is quite possible, however, that by the close

of the year a much more accurate estimate may be framed of the expenditure which will have to be incurred.

10. On the data assumed above, the probable outlay to 31st March next will be 54 lakhs of rupees, and subsequent till 30th of September 86 lakhs of rupees.

Telegram, 1st December 1876.

From GOVERNOR, Madras, to PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, Calcutta.

Prices and scarcity of food continuing; famine in ceded districts, while railway unequal to carry the grain consigned; have notified that food shall have preference on railway until further notice.

Telegram, 2nd December 1876.

From PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL, Calcutta, to the GOVERNOR, Madras.

Your Excellency's telegram of yesterday; the Government of India quite approve of your orders about carriage of food on railways under the circumstances.

Telegram, 5th December 1876.

From SECRETARY, Madras, to COMMERCE, Calcutta.

Large numbers of people in distress flocking from Nizam's territory into Kurnool District, aggravating our difficulties. This Government hope immediate measures may be taken to obviate mischief by Hyderabad establishing relief works near our frontier.

No. 488.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Calcutta, the 8th December 1876.

I have the honour to receive your letter No, 1,797, of the 24th ultimo, and the telegram from the Board of Revenue of the 1st instant, according to the latter of which the total loss to the State by the famine in Madras is computed at 2 crores and 32 lakhs of rupees, as shown in the margin.

	1876–77. Lakhs.	1877–78. Lakhs.
Loss of revenue	97	26
Relief expenditure	89	20

2. In reply, I am directed by the President in Council to observe that the Government of India are still uninformed as to the nature of the relief works which have been or are intended to be set on foot, the localities where they are to be organized, and the data upon which the necessity for so large an outlay has been assumed, as also regarding the grounds on which so large a loss of revenue is anticipated. Moreover, the full explanation called for, so far back as the 11th ultimo, of the grounds upon which the Government of Madras deemed themselves justified in incurring an expenditure of 32 lakhs in the purchase of grain, without any previous consultation with the Government of India, has not been received. Finally, if the proceedings of the Government of Madras in regard to the famine have been reported to the Secretary of State, as is presumed to have been the case, no copies of the Despatches have been furnished, as required by the standing orders on the subject.

3. I am to solicit the earnest attention of the Governor in Council to these omissions, and to request that they may be supplied without further delay. A complete and detailed programme of such relief works and operations as have been already sanctioned, or are contemplated, should be submitted; and, pending the approval or revision of this programme, no work which involves a total expenditure of more than Rs. 30,000 should be commenced without the previous sanction of the Government of India. If any works which, with reference to their magnitude and cost, are inconsistent with the above condition, have been already set on foot, the fullest explanation of their nature, and of the grounds upon which it has been deemed expedient to select them, should be furnished. The President in Council trusts that he need hardly assure His Grace in Council that the Government of India do not under-rate the difficulties with which the Government of Madras have to contend, or the necessity of according to the local Government a large measure of discretion in dealing with the distress which has visited a considerable portion of the territory under their charge; but it is absolutely essential that the authority which is responsible for the financial safety of the Empire, should be kept fully informed of the actual state of things,

and that no measures involving heavy expenditure should be carried out without its knowledge and approval.

I have the honour to be, &c.

No. 33 of 1876.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, 15th December 1876.

In continuation of our Despatch of the 8th instant, on the subject of the scarcity in Western and Southern India, we beg leave to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of the communications specified in the margin.

Letter from the Government of Bombay, dated the 27th November 1876.
Letter from ditto, dated the 8th December 1876.
Letter to ditto, dated the 15th December 1876.
Letter from the Government of Madras, 30th November 1876.
Telegram from ditto, dated the 12th December 1876.
Telegram to ditto, dated the 13th December 1876.
Letter to ditto, dated the 15th December 1876.

2. We have given our most careful consideration to the observations made by the Government of Bombay in their Secretary's letter of the 27th ultimo, in which exception is taken to the interference which we have deemed it necessary to exercise, and the requisitions which we have made for information in connexion with the expenditure on relief works in that Presidency. We should be very unwilling in any way to hamper the discretion which must necessarily be entrusted to a local Government called upon to deal with and, as far as possible, to avert the results of a grave disaster, but we conceive that it is clearly our duty to lay down and enforce general principles of action, to keep ourselves supplied with such information as is necessary to enable us to ascertain that the principles laid down by us are being duly followed, and to interpose in those cases in which it may appear that our orders have not been observed. In such a matter as that with which we are now dealing the entire financial responsibility rests upon the Government of India, and of that responsibility it is not in our power to divest ourselves. We have now deemed it necessary to repeat our instructions as to the policy which should be acted on, to state somewhat more in detail than had previously appeared requisite the mode in which effect should be given to that policy, and to exemplify it by instances taken from the returns which we have received. Our view has been that at the commencement of a scarcity rendering it necessary for the State to set on foot relief works, such works should be, as far as possible, of a local character, so arranged as to admit of the employment of the people in the immediate neighbourhood of their homes, and of such a character as not to commit the Government to an expenditure in excess of the requirements of the case, postponing the commencement of large and extensive projects until such petty works as are available have been exhausted. The expediency of acting on this policy at the beginning of a scarcity was remarkably exemplified last year during the scarcity in North Behar, which proved to be far less severe than was at first expected. At the same time we fully recognize the possibility, in the case of scarcity so wide spread as that which now afflicts the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras, of its being necessary before very long to fall back upon larger projects, and this question is engaging our careful attention.

2. The Madras Government, in their letter of the 30th ultimo, explain the reasons which led them to make the large purchases of grain adverted to in our Despatch of the 17th idem, without previous consultation with the Government of India. We regret that we cannot regard the reasons adduced as at all satisfactory, or as affording any sufficient justification of the course taken by the local Government. The case was one involving, not only principles of the utmost importance, but a financial liability of the first magnitude, and in our opinion there was nothing in the circumstances to necessitate the Government of Madras taking upon themselves to dispose of it. Your Lordship will observe that we have negatived a fresh proposal to purchase a further supply of grain. Whether this supply is intended to be merely an additional reserve for the payment of wages in kind to labourers on relief works, or for sale to the general public, so as to bring down the rates of the local grain sellers at principal markets, and to supply their deficiencies and want of enterprise in remote ones, is not very clear from the terms of the telegram, but the proposition appears to us inadmissible on either supposition, as we have no information to show that the large supply

already purchased is insufficient as a reserve, and the assumption by Government of the functions of the grain-traders would be, under present circumstances, wholly indefensible.

4. With reference to paragraph 6 of our Despatch of the 17th ultimo, your Lordship will observe that we have addressed a letter to the Government of Madras on the subject of the information regarding the condition of that Presidency which is afforded by the letter of the 7th ultimo, and certain statements subsequently received, as also by the Despatch of the Madras Government to your Lordship, No. 20, of the 2nd instant, and its accompaniments. We view the position of that Presidency with much anxiety, and are reluctant to remain without such information as may be available until the 15th proximo, when the general review referred to in paragraph 2 of our Despatch of the 1st instant will become due.

5. We would take this opportunity of explaining that the estimates of loss of revenue in Madras referred to in the 2nd paragraph of our last Despatch related to land revenue only. Besides this there will be a loss, estimated at nearly 20 lakhs, under the other heads mentioned in the accompaniments, which may be in some measure attributed to the famine.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN, &c.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

27th November 1876.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 412, of the 9th instant.

2. Before replying in detail to your remarks regarding the system of relief works in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country contemplated by this Government, and authorised by them to be undertaken from time to time, as the necessity for affording relief arises, I am directed briefly to recapitulate the circumstances under which this Government found themselves when they passed their Resolution No. 6,152, of the 27th October 1876, in the Revenue Department.

3. The monsoon crop had failed over a large area, comprising the whole or parts of nine Collectorates, and owing to the absence of the latter rains the rabi crops had not been sown. The prices of food-grains throughout the country had risen to almost famine rates. The cultivators who were in possession of grain stocks would not part with them, either waiting for higher prices or fearing the future on their own account, and the Marwarrees, Bunias, and grain dealers were not only holding out for exorbitant rates, but refusing altogether to give credit to the poorer classes of the people, who were without food or the means of purchasing it. Little or no field labour was available to this latter class to admit of their earning wages, either in money or in grain, for the support of themselves and families. This state of things, though prevailing more or less in six other districts, was, at the time referred to, understood to be more specially severe in the three Collectorates of Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur.

4. On the 4th October last Government had despatched the Revenue Commissioner Southern Division, and the Superintending Engineer Central Division, to the three districts above referred to, with orders to report in what condition they found the country to be, and to recommend such relief works as might be found to be most suitable on which to employ people who were unable to find means of support in any other manner; such works to be in addition to the numerous small local works which Government had at that date from time to time authorised as charges against provincial and local funds grants, and as advances against the local funds future revenue.

5. The late Mr. Havelock and Colonel Finch, R.E., reported the result of their observations under date the 10th October last, and the information thus obtained from these officers and from other sources was made known to the Government of India in letter No. 5,890, dated 16th October, from this Government.

6. On the 27th of October, the date of their Resolution No. 6,152, this Government, so far from having received any assurance that the situation described in letter No. 5,890, of the 16th idem, had become or was becoming less serious, were then in the receipt of reports showing that not only was the distress increasing, but that all hope of rain likely to be of any use to the country had

passed away, and there was nothing for it but to face and be prepared for a difficulty which, in all probability, would augment from day to day, and which could not disappear until the arrival of the monsoon of 1877.

7. In addition to the failure of crops, which involved the loss of fodder, the rainfall had been so scanty over the affected districts, even as far as the crest of the Western Ghauts, that all but the large rivers and streams at this early period of the season had almost ceased to carry water; village tanks were empty, and wells were rapidly drying up.

8. It was, however, believed that there were considerable stocks of food-grain in the country, though they were not brought to market; and it was confidently anticipated that the ordinary laws of demand and supply would begin immediately to operate, and that there would be large importations of foreign grain. This anticipation has been fully justified. At this moment the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has much more grain offering than it can carry, the Bombay market is full, and the imports can hardly be dealt with on the wharves and bunders. The ports of the Southern Mahratta Country are choked with grain, and the roads leading from the ports to the interior are covered with grain carts. Prices have fallen both at the great central market and at the more distant points, and there is no present reason to anticipate any insufficiency of grain.

9. The fact, however, remained and still remains, that at the date of this Government Resolution No. 6,152, although grain was beginning to come more freely within reach of the people, large numbers of them were entirely without the means of purchasing it; and only two courses appeared open to this Government, either to give alms to people who had no means of support and by pauperising to demoralize them, or to find them work, and thus to enable them to earn wages with which to buy food.

10. In arranging a system of works to effect this it was not open to this Government absolutely to select those which, under ordinary circumstances, might be best, or those which from their intrinsic value they would most desire to see carried out. Their choice was limited by various considerations, among the chief of which were the following:—

1. That the works should be so geographically distributed that each district should to some extent be provided for.
2. That they should be arranged with reference to the general water supply, *i.e.*, that while works should be provided for in the eastern or driest district as near as possible to the homes of the people who were the greatest sufferers, provision should be made to the westward for giving employment to the people as soon as the more eastern works became unavailable for large bodies of men from failure of water supply or other causes.
3. That they should be of such a character as to impose as little liability as possible on Government after the present emergency has passed away.
4. That they should, as far as possible, be defined works which had been considered and estimated for and previously contemplated on general grounds, rather than that they should be mere impromptu efforts of possibly doubtful after-utility, and, therefore, involving waste both as regards construction and maintenance.

11. It will at once be seen by a reference to the statements of works which were provisionally sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 6,152, of the 27th October, how these principles were applied. In addition to the various shorter pieces of roads, and to the larger tanks in the Sholapur, Nagar, Poona, Satara, and Dharwar Districts, all situated to the eastward, and in the driest portion of the country, the improvement of the long line of road from Sholapur to Hubli, passing through the most eastern districts, was provided for, and also the improvement of the road from near Sholapur to the frontier of the Kaladgi districts in the direction of Bellary. These roads constituted, so to speak, the eastern line of operations, and passing westward various intermediate works, both roads and irrigational, were arranged for until to the westward the great mail line is met with, the metalling of which throughout is much needed, and has been going on for several years with such scanty means as have been available.

12. This road, which runs for a length of 350 miles through the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country to the westward (as the road from Sholapur to Hubli to the eastward traverses 208 miles of the same part of this Presidency), with its branch feeders, may be considered to be the reserve of the whole system, and to be capable of giving employment to large numbers of people when water or food

supplies fail in the eastern parts of the affected districts. Along this line water is always available, and on it, and by its feeding westerly branches, grain can always be passed with facility.

13. It may be here observed that none of the road operations included in the scheme involve the construction of bridges, drains, or masonry works. The intention is merely to improve existing fair-weather roads or tracks, and to metal the better class of roads. On any of the roads, therefore, work may be suspended without any great loss as regards what may have been done, and without imposing on the Government of India any great liability for after outlay in completion.

14. I am now directed to notice specially the remarks contained in your letter under reply. The Malsej Ghaut has already been opened out as a narrow track, and the useful expenditure of one lakh of rupees upon it can be arranged for without necessarily committing Government to any larger outlay after the present emergency has ceased. This Ghaut and its approaches have been strongly advocated by the Collector and the Revenue Commissioner, but this Government does not regard it as a work to be immediately commenced, but as one that will probably be required later on in the season, when water fails to the eastward; the water supply upon it and in its neighbourhood is not likely to fail, and the locality is a particularly healthy one.

15. The Neera Canal was not set down in the scheme for immediate execution, but it was alluded to as a work which might possibly be required, and which, if needed, would give employment to large bodies of men. It passes through one of the most arid tracts of the Deccan, with this peculiarity, that the line is never far distant from the Neera River, in the bed of which water can always be found.

16. I am, however, to observe that there are now many indications that it will be necessary very shortly to commence the Neera work, or some other large work, such as the Dhond and Manmar earth-works in this locality. Already the force of the labourers on the Mutha Canal amounts to about 14,500 persons, and is day by day increasing. At this rate the Mutha works will not afford sufficient employment for the whole season to the force likely to come upon it, and if any outbreak of disease were to occur, necessitating the breaking up of the labour parties, unless some other large works were ready to which to transfer them, the only alternative would be to camp them in suitable localities, and feed them.

17. (*a.*) The Government of India have been misinformed as regards the Poona and Pour Road; this road has not been disused of late years, on the contrary, the traffic along it is very considerable, and the Local Funds Committee of the district have long had it in contemplation to metal the line as far as Pour, and to improve the portion of it westward of the latter place as far as the Pimpree Ghaut; the local officers have strongly urged the work, and it is one that can be carried out without imposing additional liabilities.

(*b.*) When this Government proposed to the Government of India the construction of the earth-works of the Dhond and Munmar Railway, they suggested a work which, in their own opinion, and in that of their responsible officers, was more suitable than any other that could be named to afford relief to large bodies of labourers in three of the most affected districts. The section had been made from Dhond to Ahmednagar, the line had been thus far carefully located and marked out, the quantities had been calculated, and everything was ready for commencement at a day's notice. The Government of India did not, however, approve of this proposal, on grounds of general policy, and his Excellency in Council at once accepted their decision. As a substitute, in some small measure, for the work thus disallowed, this Government then arranged to undertake the improvement (metalling) of the existing road from Dhond to Ahmednagar, a mail road, and a line carrying a very considerable traffic. The Government of India now object to the work on the ground that it may be rendered useless by the railway which they have refused to allow to be commenced, and they suggest that the money it is proposed to expend upon it should be transferred to other roads in the neighbourhood. It is not known how the Government of India have arrived at any opinion as regards the relative merits of these local lines, but I am to explain that on the road from Kandi to Kashti, on the branch from that line to Deksal, and on the road from Ahmednagar to Karmala, it is not considered that more than the sums set down can, with advantage, be expended, or without commencing the works on a scale disproportionate to their importance, with the

risk of leaving them in an unfinished state at the close of the present emergency, and the certainty of throwing on the local resources a burden for the maintenance of the works which they are not in a position to accept. On the other hand, by undertaking the metalling of the Dhond Road as a relief work, no additional after-liability will be incurred, except as regards the maintenance of the improved parts, and the work itself can be stopped at a day's notice, with the advantage that all that may have been done will be useful. Further, the work, if done, will probably pay for itself, should the railway from Dhond to Ahmednagar, and thence to Manmar, be hereafter undertaken, by the facilities it will afford to the construction of the railway. I am to add that the metalling of the road under reference is now in progress. The consideration is not, however, now so much whether this or that road is better upon its merits as an undertaking, as how relief can best be given to certain people who are in need of help; and it is impossible that this Government can make satisfactory arrangements for relief works if they are to be met by objections such as those now put forward by the Government of India; if they are to be told that a certain railway should not go on as a relief work on grounds of general policy, and that a road substituted for it cannot be permitted to proceed, because this railway may eventually be constructed. This remark applies with equal force to the similar case of the road in the Dharwar Collectorate noted under paragraph (*d.*) of your letter. If the Government of India will sanction the construction of the earth-works of the Hubli and Belgaum Railway, this Government will not ask to be allowed to employ destitute people on metalling the Dharwar roads, but they trust that their efforts may not be frustrated by a ruling that these roads should not proceed, because there may, at some distant day, be a railway; for what is now wanted is the means of affording immediate relief in the way of employment to people who must otherwise be supported by alms, or must starve.

(*c.*) As reported in my telegram of the 15th, the roads from Sholapur to Sangola, and that from Sangola towards Jutt, have already been commenced. But other similar works will, undoubtedly, be required immediately in the Sholapur Collectorate, and this Government will bear in mind the suggestions made by the Government of India as regards the road from Janoni to Wangi; the selection of the particular works most suited for relief must, however, to a great extent, depend upon the reports and recommendations of the local officers.

(*d.*) In paragraphs 11 and 12 ante, the subject of the metalling of the mail road in the Satara and Belgaum Collectorates has been touched upon, and it has been advanced that, owing to the circumstances of this road, as regards water and food supplies, and looking to the nature of the work itself—breaking metal— the undertaking is one particularly suitable for affording relief; and the intention was, and is, that it should be regarded as a reserve work to be commenced when the more eastern lines have been completed, or when the water supply upon them fails. I am, however, to state, with reference to the provision made for metalling in the Belgaum District, that on the urgent requisition of the Civil and Public Works Department local officers, a transfer of Rs. 1,00,000 has been authorised from the sum of Rs. 4,00,000 set down for metalling the mail line, to the improvement of the road from Belgaum to Kaladgi, an existing fair-weather road greatly in need of improvement, and on which a considerable traffic already exists; this road passes through a part of the district where relief is greatly needed.

(*e.*) In answer to the inquiry made under this section of your letter, "whether "it would not be preferable, and perhaps more economical, to organise minor "works in the several Talukas," I am to draw attention to the assurance from this Government in telegrams of 3rd October and 11th November, and in letter No. 5,890, dated 16th October, that, as regards minor and local works, the resources of this Government have already been virtually exhausted. Apart from the question of funds, it must also be apparent to the Government of India that this Government, and their local officers, cannot, at a moment's warning, improvise local works that would be of any real value, and if an extensive system of petty works scattered all over the surface of the country were undertaken without consideration, and without sufficient superintendence, a waste of public funds would undoubtedly ensue, which it is the desire of this Government to avoid, and which they think may, to a great extent, be avoided by the plan they have adopted. Already in the districts affected, outlay on minor works, as shown in the margin, has been authorised and is in progress, and from the corresponding statement which is attached to this letter, the Government of India

Rs. 12,88,930

will learn the details of the proposals, and will see that this Government endeavoured to cope with the difficulty that has arisen at its commencement, in the hope that it would pass away without necessitating the greater efforts on the part of the Imperial Government which must now inevitably be made. I am to add, however, that this Government has not overlooked the question of minor works, and is from day to day authorising their commencement in different localities; but such works must not be regarded as in substitution of the larger operations that have been determined on, but in addition to them.

(*f.*) The road from Dholkeir to the Bellary Frontier already exists as a fair-weather road, but admits of great improvement; it is not, it may be allowed, very urgently necessary to improve it as a thoroughfare, but that, it is submitted, is not the entire question; the road passes through that part of the Kaladgi District which is most affected by the drought; it is locally very useful, and its improvement was suggested and very strongly advocated by the late Mr. Havelock as a work particularly needed to afford relief. No feeders falling into the road from the Bhima to the Malprabha have been projected, and none are known to be required by the local officers; at all events, there is no time to search for or to discuss them, and, if put in hand, they would not, in the opinion of this Government, be such good relief works, or prove of so much permanent value, as the line already selected, which traverses the eastern parts of the district from end to end.

(*g.*) It is quite true that the drought has been most serious in the eastern parts of the Khandesh Collectorate, but it has been serious also in the western parts; the Nagli crop, on which the Bheels for the most part subsist, has, in a great measure, failed, and it is absolutely necessary that Government should be prepared to provide work for the hill-men near their homes; in this view, and looking to the necessity that will probably arise, the Jakria Bari Road was set down as a part of the general scheme, but it will not be commenced until it is really needed.

18. As regards your paragraph 4, the further communication as regards irrigation works will be awaited; in the meantime, it is observed that several works whose estimated cost is in excess of the limit assigned by the Government of India have been commenced, and cannot be suspended without causing very great distress.

19. It is admitted that the information which this Government has hitherto been able to place before the Government of India as regards the scheme of works contemplated has not been as full as it is desirable that it should have been, but it is hoped the Government of India will understand that the efforts of this Government, and of its officers, have been directed heretofore, and must continue to be directed, to coping with the practical difficulties of the situation in which they find themselves. By your telegram of the 16th, and your letter No. 365, of the 25th October, the Government of India were pleased to authorise such expenditure in providing work and relief as this Government might consider necessary, and expressed their "fullest confidence that His Excellency the Governor in "Council would exercise the discretion vested in him, so as to prevent any loss "of the lives of Her Majesty's subjects, without incurring an expenditure of pub-"lic money in excess of the necessities of the case." It has been my duty to show in this communication in what way this Government have endeavoured to prove themselves deserving of the confidence thus reposed in them. The district officers have cordially co-operated in giving effect to their instructions; and this Government, I am to say, are not aware up to this moment that their measures have failed in any way, or have been attended by any evil results. The emergency has arisen very suddenly; it applies to a large area; the difficulty of getting returns and information from, and of directing operations at, remote points is very considerable; there is little time for correspondence or discussion; and if this Government is to be subjected to the necessity, before taking any action, of proving its position step by step to the Government of India, and of making clear to them the intrinsic and relative merits of every local road or work, and the opportuneness of the time selected for its commencement, his Excellency in Council, I am desired to say, does not see how the necessary operations are to be sufficiently, promptly, or successfully carried out, for circumstances alter suddenly, and materially, from day to day.

20. If the Government of India desire to withdraw their expression of confidence in this Government in regard to the selection of relief works, or think that this Government are disposed to adopt needlessly extravagant measures, it would, as stated in my telegram of 15th instant, be better that the Government of India should name some specific amount beyond which they are not prepared to sanction

outlay, and this Government will then endeavour to meet the difficulty in the best way that they can, without exceeding any limit that may be laid down; but I am to remark that in all probability the sum that is already contemplated by this Government will be insufficient to deal successfully with the case, even in the manner that this Government propose to deal with it, *i.e.*, by organising and carrying out relief works, and if it were decided to deal with it in the only other possible way, *i.e.*, by organising relief circles, and feeding that portion of the population who are in want with grain purchased or imported by Government, the outlay would, undoubtedly, be very much larger, while there would be less to show for it.

21. When the scheme of relief works which has, to a great extent, been objected to by the Government of India was devised, there were present, in addition to his Excellency the Governor and his colleagues, and the Secretaries in the Revenue and Public Works and Irrigation Departments, the Revenue Commissioner of the Southern Division, the late Mr. Havelock, and the Collectors of Poona, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, and Satara; and it was in consultation with these officers, and especially with the late Mr. Havelock, who had great experience in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country, and who was an officer of recognised ability and judgment, that the plan of relief was laid down. His Excellency in Council has now availed himself of the permission of the Government of India to appoint a third Revenue Commissioner of the Southern Mahratta Country, and the officer who will fill the appointment is a gentleman of experience and ability, and whose advice and assistance will, no doubt, be very valuable to this Government at this juncture in carrying out the arrangements that have been made in accordance with the policy that has been determined on.

22. Attached to this letter is a statement, which will supply, to a great extent, the information called for in your 6th paragraph. It has not been found practicable to obtain all the details asked for in time to accompany this communication, but the rest will follow as soon as they can be collected.

23. The information called for in your concluding paragraph has already been furnished to you in part, with letter from this Government, No. 6,331, dated 4th November, in the Revenue Department. This information will be revised and completed in another communication, and every endeavour will be made to keep the Government of India thoroughly informed of the state of matters in this Presidency.

I have, &c.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

8th December 1876.

I have the honour to acknowledge your telegram of yesterday's date, in which you state that the reference alluded to in paragraph 4 of your letter No. 412, of the 9th ultimo, "necessarily awaits information urgently called for in paragraph six" of the same letter.

2. In reply, I am directed to observe that, after commenting in considerable detail on the road works of relief proposed by this Government, in paragraph 4 of your letter, you state, as regards irrigation works—

> "These are under scrutiny in the Irrigation Department of the Government of India, and I am to request that, pending a reference, which will be shortly made, and a final decision thereon, no works of this nature may be commenced involving an expenditure of more than Rs. 30,000."

Looking to the context of your paragraph 6, which appeared especially to refer to roads, and also to the nature of the inquiry, and suggestions contained in your 3rd paragraph under letters from (*a*) to (*g*), it was understood by this Government that, as regards irrigation works, inquiry and criticisms similar to those which had reference to roads, would be forwarded by the Government of India to this Government, after a previous reference to the Irrigation Department; and on this interpretation of your letter, the information regarding irrigation works was withheld by this Government, as reported to the Government of India in the 18th paragraph of my letter No. 220 C.W.—904, dated 27th ultimo.

3. I am, however, directed to submit to the Government of India, a statement of the irrigation works in question, and to add that, as reported in my telegram of to-day, the following works, estimated to cost over Rs. 30.000, have been commenced, viz.:—

In the Dharwar Dambul Tank.
Do. Medleri. „
In the Satara Nehr Tank.
Do. Pingli „

I have the honour to be, &c.

No. 521.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

SIR, Calcutta, 15th December 1876.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your letters quoted in the margin, and in reply am directed by the President in Council to communicate the following observations for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

No. 220 C. W.-904, dated 27th November 1876.
„ 257 C. W.-986, „ 8th December „

2. The President in Council regrets to observe from various parts of your letter first quoted, that the Government of Bombay are disposed to consider the requests for full information regarding relief works which have been made, and the orders suspending certain works, and works above a certain money-limit, pending the receipt of explanation, as indicative of a withdrawal of the expression of confidence in the Bombay Government which was conveyed in the telegram of the 16th October and the letter of the 25th idem, and of an intention to subject that Government to the "necessity, before taking any action, of proving its "position step by step to the Government of India, and of making clear to them "the intrinsic and relative merits of every local road and works, and the oppor-"tuneness of the time selected for its commencement." With reference to this impression on the part of the Government of Bombay, nothing was further from the intention of this Government than the withdrawal of the confidence which was formerly expressed. The Government of India has laid down certain principles upon which relief works are to be organised, and has given to the local Government full authority to organise works on those principles, with an expression of confidence that they will be borne in mind. Within the broad lines of the policy which it deems necessary to prescribe, the Government of India has every desire to leave to the local Government the greatest practicable freedom, and has no intention of entering into detailed criticism of individual works, otherwise than under wholly exceptional circumstances. But the Government of India has not divested itself,—and cannot, in view of its own responsibility to the Secretary of State in Council, and its duty to the tax-payers of India, divest itself—of the duty of obtaining full information of what is going on, and of interposing, if it should appear that the limitations placed on the authority conferred are not being duly observed.

3. The general principles which were laid down in October last, on the information then before the Government of India, while there was still doubt in regard to the extent of the scarcity with which we should have to deal, may be very efly summarised as follows:—

(*a.*) That provincial resources should in the first instance be fully utilised (*vide* letter of September 29th, No. 350).

(*b.*) That local works near the homes of the people should be organised, and large projects avoided. On this subject the following instructions may be noted:

Telegram, October 4th.—"Local relief works and other relief operations may be started, selecting such works as can be found near the homes of the people, in preference to committing Government to commencement of large projects."

Telegram, October 16th.—"Local works of a character to give employment for some months should be organised. * * * The district officers ought to have had no great difficulty in organising such works. * * * It is not deemed advisable to embark on any large project which will involve the continuance of heavy expenditure after the emergency has ceased."

Telegram, October 29th.—"In works for relief, those should be preferred which can be completed or far advanced towards completion by the outlay which the scarcity demands, and which will not collect large gangs at a distance from their homes."

(*c.*) That the administration should be strengthened at the outset, in order to give early assistance and obtain full information: *vide* letter of October 25th, No. 365, by which sanction for an extra Commissioner and for an extra officer in every distressed district and taluka was conveyed.

(*d.*) That the Government should abstain from making purchases of grain in the general market on its own behalf, except in the last resort: *vide* letter of October 25th, No. 365.

(*e.*) That the Government of India must be supplied with full information in order to enable it "to estimate with accuracy what may be the exigencies "of the situation, or to do justice to the proposals for relief which are "submitted."

4. The President in Council is here glad of the opportunity of recognising the efforts which have been made by the Bombay Government to utilise provincial resources and to avoid interference with the grain trade, as well as the success by which those efforts have hitherto been attended.

5. In order to carry out the policy of minor local works in the several distressed talukas, it would have been desirable to explain it clearly to the Collectors, and to direct them, in the first instance, to commence at once such works within a certain limit, as were *then* urgently required, and subsequently to submit as soon as possible, for regular sanction, programmes of further works in order of utility, which it would be practicable to carry out at future successive periods if the pressure increased. The feasibility of finding such works is shown both by the examples of the Poona and Sholapur districts, in which they have been ably and fairly spread by the Collectors over the more distressed portions of their charges, and by the recent applications of the Collectors of Satara, Belgaum, and Kaládgi to be allowed sanction for them in preference to the mail road metalling, and other single works, which had been proposed. As auxiliary to, and equally important with the above, was the immediate division into two of the unwieldy charge of the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, in order to control and stimulate the action of the Collectors, and the increase of the district and taluka staff, with the view of early and accurate information being procured, and of minor works being rapidly started and efficiently supervised.

6. Upon the receipt of the programme which accompanied the Resolution of the Bombay Government, No. 6152 of 27th October 1876, it appeared to the Government of India that the principles above referred to had not been fully borne in mind in the case of several districts, and of some specific works; that a large tract, such as the east of Khandesh, was almost unprovided for, while Satara, though nearly the lowest in the scale of distress, obtained the largest money assignment; that works, such as the Nira Canal, were in contemplation which would involve a heavy future responsibility; and that in large areas, such as Belgaum and Kaládgi, the minor works proposed were not sufficient to meet the requirements of the districts. Certain roads, moreover, were set down for metalling, which would be superseded if railway projects, still under consideration, were ultimately carried out.

7. Under these circumstances, the President in Council deemed it his duty to point out two projects which he considered ought not to be undertaken; to request explanation regarding certain works which seemed to be of doubtful expediency, and to suspend in the meantime the commencement of those works, as also that of all irrigation works of magnitude, without the previous sanction of the Government of India. As the Government of Bombay were expressly left free to substitute smaller and more strictly local works for those which have been stopped or suspended pending enquiry, it is hoped that no practical inconvenience can have resulted.

8. I am now directed to communicate the instructions of the Government of India on the explanations afforded in paragraphs 14 to 17 of your first-quoted letter under reply.

(*a.*) *Malsej Ghât.*—This project still appears of doubtful expediency under existing circumstances, both as being a large work likely to involve heavy expenditure during a series of years, and as regards the locality. A further representation may be made hereafter, if it be still considered necessary.

(*b.*) The *Nira Canal* project may be submitted to the Government of India in this Department, with special explanations as to (1) the feasibility of undertaking distinct portions of it without committal to the whole, which the Bombay Government are understood to affirm, and (2) the proportion of earthwork or other employment for unskilled labour which it will afford. If the Public Works Department, to whom it will be referred, should be satisfied with it in all respects, its commencement may be sanctioned, if that measure be hereafter thought necessary. In the meantime no work should be begun upon it.

It may here be explained that the Government of India has never intended to affirm that minor works will be sufficient to afford relief

during a famine of prolonged duration, but it considers they should be drawn on almost entirely at the first while doubt remains in regard to the actual amount of relief that will ultimately be required. Larger works should be held in reserve, and should be undertaken when it becomes certain that provision must be made for the support of the large numbers of the able-bodied poor.

(*c.*) *Poona and Pour Road.*—Under the explanation given, the objection is withdrawn. The work may be commenced when absolutely required.

(*d.*) *Dhond and Nagar Road and Anigherry to Sungutticop Road.*—As these works are on the lines of railways, neither of which have been condemned by the Government of India, and which may eventually be constructed, expenditure on metalling appears undesirable. It is open to the Government of Bombay to make any complete proposition regarding either line which they may think necessary. The amounts in the programme should be appropriated to other local works, and operations suspended as soon as practicable, without throwing labourers out of employ. It is observed that the Government of Bombay has lately found one transfer from the first-mentioned work practicable.

(*e.*) *Sholapur—Sangola-Jutt Road.*—It is hoped that a transfer to the Janoni-Wangi or other roads may be practicable. In any case, no further assignment should be made without reference.

(*f.*) *Mail Road metalling* in the Satara, Belgaum, and Dharwar Districts (nine lakhs). This assignment cannot be approved, and should be reduced to two lakhs in all, to be expended on such portions of the road as may actually traverse distressed talukas.

A thorough organisation of local relief works should be substituted when and to such extent as may be required.

(*g.*) *Dholkheir-Bellary Road.*—As the work has been begun it may proceed, but the grant should be reduced to one lakh at most, and minor works substituted, such as tank clearances, which it appears the Collector is able to start. There could be no better and more ultimately useful work throughout the whole of the distressed districts than clearing, repairing, or deepening the tanks, and digging new ones. There are also doubtless many cross roads in the Collectorate capable of improvement.

(*h.*) *Pimpalner Tank.*—This should not be commenced till full explanation of the project has been afforded, and the necessity for so large a work in West Khandesh has been established. A revised programme for the whole of Khandesh is evidently required.

9. With reference to irrigation works, I am directed to observe that the telegram from the Government of India of the 10th ultimo was intended to shew that the statements were not to be delayed. The statement now received does not, as already explained in my telegram of the 12th instant, contain sufficient information to enable the Government of India to accord sanction either generally or in specific instances. The principle on which it is framed is moreover uncertain, as it would appear from the records of the Government of India that the estimate for the Bhokur tank is not Rs. 56,945, but Rs. 6,03,815, and that the work is difficult, involving much masonry. I am to request that a revised statement may be submitted, showing in each case the full estimate, proportion of unskilled labour the work will afford, locality it is intended to relieve, *probable* period when it may be required if a reserve work, and any other details necessary for a decision, including whether the sanction of the competent irrigational authority has been obtained.

10. The President in Council also requests that full effect may be given to the objects which the Government of India had in view in sanctioning an additional Commissioner, by requiring both the Commissioners to visit at an early date all the important points of their charges, and investing them with such discretionary powers of sanctioning or transferring grants for specified objects, within suitable limits as may ensure effective and prompt action in accordance with the policy which it has been determined to follow.

11. In conclusion, I am to add that whenever complete information has been submitted and the review called for in my letter of the 30th ultimo, together with the proposals of the Government of Bombay based on it, has been received and considered, the President in Council contemplates leaving the local Government perfectly free in carrying out the plan of operations which may be decided

on. It is hardly necessary to urge the paramount importance, not only on financial but on other grounds equally serious, of undertaking no relief works, whether great or small, which the Government of Bombay is not satisfied are absolutely required to save the lives of the people, or to prevent excessive and dangerous suffering.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. C. HOPE,
Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

30th November 1876.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, Madras, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt this day of yonr cipher telegram intimating that the Government of India have arranged to meet the draft of this Government on them for the part purchase of the reserve of grain which they have found it imperatively necessary to secure.

In previous telegrams explanation has been asked of the action of this Government without prior communication with the Government of India, and in reply I am directed to lay before the Government of India the circumstances which, in the opinion of His Grace the Governor in Council, rendered prompt action indispensable.

The public conviction of the absolute failure of the north-east monsoon was, necessarily from the nature of the event, arrived at suddenly. The result was that prices sprang at a bound to a point which they have scarcely ever been known to reach before, and from which they have hardly, even now, at all receded. The rise was so extraordinary, and the available supply, as compared with well-known requirements, apparently so scanty, that merchants and dealers, hopeful of enormous future gains, appeared determined to hold their stocks for some indefinite time, and not to part with the article which was becoming of such unwonted value. It was apparent to the Government that the facilities for moving grain by the rail were rapidly raising prices everywhere, and that the activity of apparent importation and of railway transit did not indicate any addition to the food stock of the Presidency, or really afford security from temporary disaster. So it speedly proved. Grain was hurriedly withdrawn by rail and sea from the more remote districts, to their serious prejudice, and poured into central depôts, but retail trade up-country was almost at a standstill. Either prices were asked which were simply beyond the means of the multitude to pay or shops remained entirely closed. Grain riots by hungry mobs of men, women, and even children, and more serious dacoities, accompanied by violence, followed in many parts of the country, and elsewhere outbreaks occurred in the hope of checking exportation, and thus preventing dreaded scarcity. These disorders, though speedily and effectually suppressed, added another element of confusion and danger.

The Government found themselves suddenly confronted with this position, that a large proportion of the labouring population of a wide tract of country had become at once dependent on State relief works for the means of earning their daily food, but that that food was not obtainable with whatever money they could earn.

In this emergency, and to meet these peculiar circumstances, the Government decided at once that a reserve of grain was indispensable. The objection to interference with ordinary trade was not for a moment absent from the consideration of Government, nor was the possibility of the crisis being of short duration, although liable to constant recurrence, left unnoticed. But the Government could not wait for the restoration of a more normal condition of trade. They had to secure the supply of food for vast numbers, daily increasing, who could not purchase grain, at any rates of wages it would have been prudent to issue, for the local grain merchants raised their prices daily, with the special object of forcing up the rate of wages. Payment in grain, and direct purchases from the local markets by the Government, was the only course left. The Government know that the purchase of grain would have to be continued for months, and it seemed to them that there was an absolute necessity that they should not be entirely dependent on a most uncertain condition of the grain trade, insufficient from indisposition to sell regularly, and extravagant in its demands when willing to sell. While the Government were satisfied that a moderate reserve was an essential resource on emergency, they were very desirous to avoid their transaction being immediately known. A knowledge that Government was in the market would immediately alarm the native trade, and cause an immediate rise in prices. It was for this reason that they employed Mesers. Arbuthnot and Co. confidentially, whose purchases of grain and re-sales at Bellary, where matters were most critical, had the effect of inducing other English firms to enter actively into the grain trade, with the greatest advantage as regards the supply of grain where it was dangerously deficient, and in promoting some activity in the retail trade and a slight downward tendency in prices.

On this occurring, the Government ceased to draw to any considerable extent on their reserve and have since resorted mainly to the local markets.

The idea of a Government reserve to meet the various difficulties arising from the caprices of native trade, and the actual insufficiency of local capital, was not novel or original. It had been advantageously adopted in the North-West Provinces in 1873–74, and was the main feature of the policy of Lord Northbrook's Government during the Bengal famine.

The Government did not much count on secrecy being long secured, but they hoped—and in this have not been disappointed—that they should be able to purchase their first reserve without any considerable adverse influence on the foreign or home markets, and in this they believe they have succeeded.

There was no time prior to action to discuss the policy of holding a reserve of grain with the Government of India. A disaster from failure of food supplies occurring in the distressed districts was in the opinion of Government imminent, which opinion was confirmed by subsequent facts, and the responsibility for this could not, even had it been desired, have been placed on the Government of India. At the same time the Madras Government felt they could count on the generous support and confidence of the Government of India, which they are assured will be continued.

The Government have every inducement to husband the reserve carefully. The real prospect before them is in no wise improved, and for months to come growing numbers must remain dependent on the State works for wages, whether in cash or grain, and many of these works will be in places where the means of private trade are small, and transport difficult and costly.

They may hope, with even their present reserve, to tide over the interval which must elapse before they obtain a large share of a future abundant grain crop in Burma. But the condition of a large portion of the Presidency causes them the very greatest anxiety. Throughout the Presidency the last year's seasons were unfavourable, causing a reduction in the stocks of food in store, and in this year the rains of the south-west monsoon, on which the cultivation in the ceded districts especially depends, failed; and now there is the certainty that the rains of the north-east monsoon, on which the greater portion of the Presidency relies, are no longer to be expected. Cultivation cannot now be resumed until the heralding rains of the next south-west monsoon fall, and even then many weeks must elapse before any crop can be grown and reaped. The impending inevitable loss of cattle will sorely aggravate the distress of the small ryot, who, it must be remembered, derives but little benefit from the high prices which the merchants obtain from grain.

The Government are, however, sanguine as to the capacity of the country to recover from the disaster when this extraordinary season of drought shall have passed, and meanwhile are relieved from their most pressing anxiety by the knowledge that they hold in their hands the means, to some extent, of meeting any sudden emergency in the grain market, and of averting the catastrophe of localised famine. As a financial transaction they are satisfied that their swift action was a most wise economy.

Of the pressing need for its immediate adoption on the present occasion, the Government are now more than ever convinced.

12th December 1876.

Telegram from GOVERNOR OF MADRAS, to the PRESIDENT IN COUNCIL.

Emergency great and serious; markets rising; auction price at Kurnool yesterday eleven three quarters; private trade does not supply remote districts; grain payments on relief works essential; unless exorbitant wages paid and many local works abandoned, must either purchase at high rates in local market, or purchase prospectively as proposed from growing crops; the first course will cost nine or ten rupees, the second will cost seven eight a bag or thereabouts; unless otherwise directed shall adopt latter course.

13th December 1876.

Telegram from SIR A. ARBUTHNOT, to GOVERNOR, Madras.

Your cipher telegram of 12th instant. We cannot sanction large expenditure in further purchases of grain without more full and complete information than can be given in a telegram. Your proposal to purchase growing crops is new to us and is not understood. As at present advised, we think it better to incur the risk of paying highly in local markets for such grain as may be immediately required than to incur immediately the heavy liability which appears to be contemplated.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Calcutta, the 15th December 1876.

I AM directed to convey to you the following remarks upon the communications of the Madras Government specified in the margin, with their respective enclosures, which have been considered by the President in Council.

Letter to the Government of India, No. 1,599 A., of November 7th.
Letter to the Government of India, No. 1,648 A., of November 14th.
Letter to the Under Secretary of State for India, No. 40, of November 18th.
Despatch to the Secretary of State for India, No. 20, of December 2nd.

2. On the 25th of October the Government of Madras were requested, by telegram, to forward, at the earliest practicable date, statements showing the condition of each Taluk in the distressed districts and the amounts sanctioned for relief works, and on the 24th ultimo explanation was given, by telegram, of the particulars regarding relief works which were required.

3. These requests have as yet been complied with only to the extent of some of the particulars in the case of the ceded districts, but the extent of failure of crops and the details of relief works in those districts, as also specific information under all heads for the remaining districts understood to be distressed, are still wanting. As it appears from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 184, of November 7th, that the Collectors of the ceded districts

were called upon to supply what was wanting, and as a similar requisition will no doubt have been made in the case of other Collectors, I am directed to request that such information as may have been received may be submitted with the least practicable delay. It will be understood that this will not supersede the complete review which will be due on the 15th of January, in accordance with my endorsement of the 30th ultimo.

4. I am further directed to request that for the future the Government of India may be regularly furnished with weekly reports of the same general nature as those which are furnished by the Bombay Government, and which it would appear from paragraph 7 of the Despatch of the Madras Government, No. 20, of the 2nd instant, to be intended to forward to the Secretary of State. As an introduction to these reports the President in Council would be glad to have a brief review, like that issued for Bombay, of the scarcity and the measures taken to meet it, down to the date of the first weekly report.

5. In continuation of my letter No. 439, of the 25th ultimo, and in further explanation of the imposition of a pecuniary limit by my letter No. 488, of the 8th instant, I am to state that the President in Council, while fully recognising the probable necessity of eventually falling back upon large works, as a reserve for relief purposes at a certain advanced stage of a famine of prolonged duration, considers that they should not be resorted to until extensive use has been made of minor projects which do not involve risk or future expenditure, and do not draw the people to a distance from their homes, and which usually afford ampler scope for unskilled labour.

Revenue Despatch No. 6, 12th January 1877.

From the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General of India in Council.

1. I have received and considered in Council the Despatch of your Excellency's Government of 15th December last, No. 33, on the subject of the famine in Western and Southern India.

2. This Despatch, together with other Despatches from your Government and the Governments of Bombay and Madras received by this and preceding mails, which have for the most part been separately answered, but more especially your Excellency's telegram of the 5th January, have now enabled me to form a more adequate estimate of the present and probable future extent of the calamity with which your Government and those of the two Presidencies have to deal.

3. I have been informed, by successive Despatches of your Government and of the Government of Bombay during the months of October and November, of the increasing failure in the crops which had become apparent in several districts of Southern and Western India, as well as of the measures which had been taken to relieve distress and to provide employment for the people. Reports had indeed been previously received indicating that in some parts of Madras the failure of the rain had, as early as July, been such as to involve local failure of the crops and some loss of revenue. But it was only on the receipt of the Despatch of the Government of Madras of the 2nd December that I was made fully aware of the vast area in that Presidency which has been more or less affected by the prevailing drought, and the magnitude of the operations which it has become necessary to undertake in order to preserve the population from extreme distress.

4. It now appears that in Madras the scarcity more or less affects the districts of—(1) Cuddapah, (2) Bellary, (3) Nellore, (4) Kurnool, (5) Madura, (6) North Arcot, (7) Salem, (8) Chingleput, (9) Coimbatore, (10) Kistna. It apparently also threatens (11) Trichinopoly, and (12) Tanjore. It should further be added that distress has made itself felt in Mysore, and in some parts of the Nizam's country, a further element of difficulty which I cannot exclude from my consideration. I observe also that the area of the distressed districts of Madras amounts approximately to 80,000 * square miles, and the total population amounts to nearly eighteen millions.

* These figures are given from general statistical tables, exact details not having been yet received.

5. The drought in Bombay has extended to nine districts in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta country, including the districts of—(1) Khandeish, (2) Nasik, (3) Ahmednuggur, (4) Poona, (5) Sholapur, (6) Sattara, (7) Kaladgi, (8) Belgaum, and (9) Dharwar. It must be added to this that some adjoining Native States, such as Kolapore, Phultun, Akulkote, and Sawunt Waree have also been affected. The area of this territory, exclusive of Native States, comprises about 54,000 square miles, and the total population amounts to eight millions, of which five millions are reported to be included in the tracts immediately affected.

6. Such being the case, both Governments have, as reported in correspondence with your Excellency's Government, organised with great activity relief works, the particulars of which are stated in the Despatches noted in the margin.† Large gangs have been employed in making roads digging wells, and constructing and clearing tanks. Greater works, such as railroads and canals, are, as I understand, in contemplation, and, should necessity arise, they will be undertaken with the sanction of your Lordship in Council. By the last accounts, the very large number of 840,000 men are reported as employed on the relief works of Madras, and 250,000 on those of Bombay.

† Madras, 2nd December 1876.
„ 9th December 1876.
Bombay, 6th November 1876.
„ 13th November 1876.
„ 27th November 1876.
„ 4th December 1876.

7. I gather from a letter from the Government of Bombay, dated 30th November last, that it is anticipated by that Government that the distress will increase in intensity until the month of April, and from that date will gradually diminish, as the crops raised in the monsoon of this year are matured, until its cessation may be expected about the month of September next. The numbers for whom relief will have to be provided in the Bombay districts, by public employment, in each month during that period, were estimated (though, of course, on data to some extent conjectural) by the Government of Bombay, in the letter above referred to, as follows:

	Persons.
In December their number may be -	200,000
„ January 1877 „ „ -	300,000
„ February „ „ „ -	450,000
„ March „ „ „ -	750,000
„ April „ „ „ -	1,000,000
„ May „ „ „ -	800,000
„ June „ „ „ -	500,000
„ July „ „ „ -	300,000
„ August „ „ „ -	100,000
„ September „ „ „ -	50,000

8. No similar table or estimate is to be found in the papers which have been received from Madras, but as it must be assumed that the intensity of the distress in that Presidency will increase as the season advances, it is alarming to find that the number of persons already employed on relief works amounts, as before stated, to 840,000.

9. The impossibility of applying adequate tests to applicants for relief on such occasions is unfortunately notorious, but I trust that there will be no practical difficulty in checking any serious abuse which may arise out of the measures adopted by Government for the present and pressing relief of destitution.

10. I observe with satisfaction that, although the price of grain has advanced in the affected districts in some cases to three times the ordinary rate, the operations of private trade appear, at all events in Bombay, to have been also considerably stimulated, and that the supply of food imported from other districts not affected by the present drought has been hitherto apparently sufficient to support the population.

11. On the other essential condition to the success of the relief operations, namely, effectual means of transport, the reports are somewhat more reassuring, and the Governments of Bombay and Madras do not appear to entertain any apprehension of an inability to carry the necessary supplies to the affected localities. I cannot, however, regard without uneasiness the consequences of imperfect communications in districts which cover so wide an area, and some of which lie at so great a distance from the lines of railway.

12. I have instructed your Excellency, by telegram of the 29th December, to cause me to be furnished regularly, week by week, with a telegraphic summary of the leading facts as they arise in each Presidency, and with special narratives by mail of the progress of the famine, and of the proceedings of the two Governments under your Excellency's directions; I have also expressed the deep concern with which Her Majesty's Government have received the painful intelligence of the visitation which has befallen so large a portion of Southern India, and I have conveyed to you the assurance of their hearty support in the measures which may be necessary to mitigate its effects, and to provide adequate relief to the suffering districts.

13. I have abstained from any remarks on the particular measures which have been already taken, because, so far as the information before me enables me to form an opinion, I have no reason to doubt their sufficiency or the general judgment which has been displayed in the difficult task which has devolved on the two Governments.

14. I desire to leave to your Excellency in Council the widest discretion in all administrative details, entertaining as I do the fullest confidence in your judgment and ability, and that the experience at your command, especially that derived from the late famine in Bengal, will enable you, while sparing no efforts for the relief of distress and the preservation of life, to take all reasonable precautions against any waste or unnecessary strain upon the resources of the State. It is clear that the strain in any case must be very severe, and I await with much anxiety the views of your Excellency in Council as to the financial measures which you propose to adopt.

15. I have also conveyed to you by telegram my full approval of the special mission of Sir R. Temple to Madras and Bombay to confer with the respective Governments, and to visit in person the distressed districts. I cannot doubt that his recent and valuable experience, and his great administrative ability, will be of the highest service in assisting the local Governments in the further organization of relief operations, and in promoting that unity of principle and action which it is desirable to secure in circumstances so grave and so complicated as the present.

16. I desire now briefly to advert to the two special questions which form the subject of the Despatch from your Government of 15th December. The first question arises out of a correspondence between your Government and the Government of Bombay on the subject of the construction of works which would "commit the Government to an expenditure in excess of the requirements of "the case," and which would continue after the cessation of the existing distress.

17. Some difference of opinion appears to have arisen between the two Governments on this point, but I gather from your Excellency's telegram of the 5th instant that you have withdrawn the objection of your Government to the larger works which have been proposed by the Government of Bombay, in consequence of explanations submitted by the Governor of that Presidency.

18. Under these circumstances, I reserve all expression of opinion on this question until I am in possession of further information as to your views on the principle involved.

19. The second question is that of the disapproval expressed by your Government of purchases of grain—some already effected and others in contemplation—by the Government of Madras, in order to provide a reserve, in the event of a deficiency in the supply of food through private enterprise.

20. It is obvious that a measure of this importance, affecting, as it does, one of the most vital principles of famine administration, should not have been adopted without the full concurrence and sanction of your Excellency's Government. Telegraphic communication being at the command of the Government of Madras, I can see no reason why full explanation should not have been given, and the requisite sanction solicited.

21. In the Resolution of the Government of India, of 26th February 1875, on the reports of the scarcity of 1873–74, which sum up the results of the large experience gained on that occasion, the following passage occurs:—

"It is only where there is a great deficiency, and there is also reason to believe that traders will be unable to meet that deficiency, that it is right for the State to interfere for the purpose of supplementing the general food supply. Under such circumstances, however, this is the only means whereby a dearth of food can be prevented."

It is only upon an accurate estimate of the extent of the deficiency and of the means of supplying it that a decision can be based, and I am glad to think that, on a review of the conditions which led the Government of Madras to an opposite view, your Government was able to come to the conclusion that the deficiency was not so great as to justify an interference with the ordinary operations of trade.

22. The Despatches before me do not, however, afford any complete information as to the probable food supplies which will be available during the ensuing year, or as to the general effect which has been as yet produced on the price of grain

by the abnormal diversion of so large a trade from its ordinary channels, both in the exporting and importing districts. I observe that in Bombay the tendency to a downward movement of prices has already manifested itself, and I trust that a similar effect will soon become apparent in Madras.

23. Such a result, or its contrary, will afford a valuable indication of the condition of the supply of food. The state of prices will therefore need close and constant attention from your Excellency's Government, and upon which I shall wish to receive the fullest information which can be obtained.

24. In your Despatch, under reply, you inform me that the Governments of the respective Presidencies have been instructed to send to Calcutta, by the 15th January, a complete and revised report on the condition and prospects of the affected districts. Your Excellency will, I doubt not, already have communicated to me by telegraph such portions of those reports as are essential, and I shall hope to receive the reports themselves at as early a date as will allow of their being accompanied by a mature expression of your views upon them, after they have received the careful consideration of your Excellency in Council.

25. I have sent a copy of this Despatch to the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

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For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

EAST INDIA.

PART II.

COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

THE THREATENED FAMINE IN WESTERN AND SOUTHERN INDIA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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3	Government of India -	January 5, 1877, No. 1 (Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce).	Appointment of additional secretary to Government of India in Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce for famine work. The Bombay departmental arrangement for conduct of correspondence agreed to. The Bombay Government have been informed that the general objection to commence large relief works is withdrawn, on the understanding that any excess expenditure beyond the actual requirements will be met from provincial resources. Sir R. Temple has been deputed on a special mission to visit the districts of Madras and Bombay, and confer with the local governments.
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4	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	December 18, 1876	Preferable that correspondence relating to relief operations should be concentrated in Public Works Department.
4	- - - -	- - -	Memorandum and annexures explaining necessity for and expected return from certain relief works under construction in Bombay.
11	- - - -	- - -	Tabular statement of irrigation works under construction.
12	Secretary to Government of India.	December 15, 1876	See p. 116, Part I.
12	Viceroy - - -	January 5, 1877 -	Telegram to Secretary of State, giving résumé of Letter of same date (p. 3).
12	Secretary to Government of India.	„ „	Bombay Government informed of the withdrawal of the prohibition to commence large relief works.
		„ „	Gazette of India, notifying the special mission of Sir R. Temple.
13	Secretary of State -	February 8, 1877 No. 18 (Revenue).	Replying to Letter No. 1 (p. 3).
13	Government of India -	January 12, 1877, No. 2 (Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce).	Reviewing condition of famine districts. Entire area of British territory affected, 138,911 square miles. Population, 26,898,571. Estimated loss of revenue, 183 lakhs. Estimated relief charges, 481 lakhs. Total loss probably not less than 6,500,000*l*. Number of persons in receipt of relief, 1,531,480.

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17	Secretary of State -	February 15, 1877, No. 20 (Revenue).	In reply to preceding letter.
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24	- - - -	January 12, 1877 -	Minute No. II.—The districts of Ahmednagar, Poona, Sholapur, Satara, Kaladgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar.
27	- - - -	,, ,, -	Minute No. III.—Remarks on the Bombay Presidency generally, together with an estimate of probable relief expenditure, and of the number of persons expected to be on relief works.
31	- - - -	,, ,, -	Minute No. IV.—Drawing attention to delay in supply of grain to Southern India owing to block in the railway traffic.
32	Secretary of State	March 15, 1877, No. 24 (Revenue).	In reply to the preceding Letter approves of the policy laid down for Sir R. Temple's guidance, and observes with satisfaction that attention is being paid to the question of the incidents of famine charges.
33	Government of India -	January 26, 1877, No. 5 (Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce).	The condition of Bombay and Madras not improved. Sir R. Temple has visited all the central and southern districts of Madras. He makes suggestions which will reduce expenditure by 10 lakhs per mensem.
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34, 36	- - - -	January 16, 1877 -	Minutes Nos. V. & VI.—The district of Kurnool.
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40	- - - -	January 19, 1877 -	Minute No. VIII.—The Bellary district.
44	- - - -	January 20, 1877 -	Minute No. IX.—Observations on the facts ascertained regarding the districts of Kurnool, Bellary, and Cuddapah.
47	Sir R. Temple - -	January 22, 1877 -	Telegram to Calcutta. The Madras Government have been recommended to stop fresh admissions to works, to discharge recipients of relief not in absolute need, and to reduce daily wages from 2 annas to 1 anna. These measures will save 10 lakhs monthly.
47	,, ,, - -	January 20, 1877 -	Telegram to Calcutta. Relief in North Arcot careful and cheap.
47	,, ,, - -	January 23, 1877 -	Telegram to Calcutta. Block on Bombay line being relieved. Much grain coming to Madras from the north.
47	,, ,, - -	,, ,, -	Telegram to Calcutta. Have sent to Bombay proposals like those to Madras. Saving 25 lakhs.
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Page.	From	Date.	Subject.
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47	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	January 18, 1877 -	Letter enclosing Government Resolution to same effect.
48	Secretary to Government of India.	January 16, 1877 -	To Bombay Government, stating objections to delegating to Collectors power to commence works.
48	Secretary to Government of India.	December 20, 1877	The distress in Colaba and Rutnagherry. With reference to immigration from Hubshee territory, Government not called upon to provide extensive relief to subjects of Foreign States.
49	Secretary to Government of Bombay.	January 8, 1877 -	Bombay Government embarrassed by orders of Presidents in Council as to immigrants from Foreign State.
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59	- - - -	- - -	Memorandum explaining reductions made by Sir R. Temple on his previous estimate of relief expenditure in Bombay (p. 27).
60	Secretary of State -	March 22, 1877, No. 26 (Revenue).	Replying to Government of India Letter of 2 Feb. 1877, No. 6.

(A Map of the Famine Districts accompanied Part I.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Revenue, No. 13.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 31st January 1877.

Para. 1. The accounts contained in the latest Despatches which have reached me on the subject of the prevailing scarcity in Western and Southern India clearly indicate its increasing gravity, and the magnitude of the task which has devolved both upon your Excellency's Government and the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

2. In leaving to your Excellency the widest discretion as to the measures of relief which must be undertaken at this juncture, Her Majesty's Government in no way desire to decline their full share of responsibility for the policy adopted, and the results by which it may be followed, but they feel that this duty can be best discharged in an emergency such as this by giving every confidence to the Indian Executive, and by supporting to the utmost the humane and enlightened efforts of those whose knowledge of facts and local experience render them most competent to deal with the various questions which arise from day to day, and which, in the majority of cases, call for prompt and practical decision.

3. In dealing, therefore, with the many grave questions which at such a time have forced themselves on my consideration, I have abstained from instructions or suggestions which, under less urgent circumstances, it might have been my duty to make, for I have felt it right to avoid every expression of opinion on the part of Her Majesty's Government which might in any degree have the effect of embarrassing your Excellency's Government in the execution of the arduous task before it, and lead to hesitation and delay at a moment when action and decision are of paramount importance.

4. I have followed this course the more readily on this occasion, from my reliance on your Excellency's ability to deal with the difficult questions which have already arisen, and must continue to arise, in connexion with the work of relief, and also from my confidence in the devotion of all those who in different places, and in the discharge of different duties, are serving the Crown to the utmost of their power. The unhappily too recent experience of famine administration acquired by many distinguished officers in India has, in one sense, given to your Excellency an exceptional advantage, by affording you the means of discriminating between conflicting theories and obligations, so that whilst, on the one hand, adhering to principles the value of which has practically been tested, you may, on the other, avoid the repetition of any mistakes which subsequent inquiry and a larger knowledge have disclosed.

5. But, while abstaining from any attempt to trench upon your Excellency's full liberty of action in matters which can only be dealt with in India itself, I may remind you that it is of the highest importance that the Government of India should obtain, in their acts and decisions, the concurrence and support of Her Majesty's Government, as the authority which is finally responsible to Parliament for the administration of Her Majesty's Indian Empire, and that for this purpose, regular and full communications are quite essential, even though the necessity of attending to this duty should make some addition to the heavy labours of those engaged in the work of relief.

6. You may, nevertheless, rest assured that so far as I can, consistently with the objects which I have now indicated, avoid imposing any burden on the already heavily taxed machinery of Indian administration, I will do so.

7. There are several questions of principle to which the present calamity has given a character of urgency, and which are among the gravest which can arise in connexion with British rule in India. It is, for example, the duty of Her

Majesty's Government, in concert with the Government of India, to adopt a policy by which some provision can be made for meeting what, unhappily, our experience shows are periodically recurring calamities, without causing grave financial embarrassments to the State, or throwing upon the people of India fiscal burdens which are beyond their power to bear.

8. Your Excellency has transmitted to me by telegraph a more or less condensed statement of the instructions issued to Sir R. Temple. It would be obviously premature for me to express any conclusive opinion on these instructions until I am in possession of the full text of the document, but it is not too soon for me to approve the general principles, as I understand them, on which your Excellency proposes to proceed. I need raise no question of detail as to the best system of relief operations, the limits of State interference with private trade, the means of transport, or the distribution of famine charges, all of them matters of the gravest importance, and all of them referred to in your telegrams of the 5th, 16th, and 21st instant. I will only say that I feel assured that, in common with successive Governments, both in England and India, on similar occasions to this, the principal aim which your Excellency's Government has before it, as undoubtedly it is that of Her Majesty's Government, is the saving of life and the protection of the people from the extremity of suffering by famine; and it has been a source of unqualified satisfaction to learn your belief that this end may be attained without disastrous expenditure. At the same time I recognise with your Excellency the concurrent obligation of regarding the general interest of that vast Empire which Providence has placed under British rule in the East as the great end for which, as a whole, each separate part of your policy must be framed. And duly appreciating the heavy responsibility thus placed upon you not to permit the extremely grave dangers of the future to be outweighed by the immediate and more obvious difficulties of the present, I trust that, by the careful and firm action of your Government, the balance between the various requirements of such a position will be truly maintained, so that while the lasting interests of the generations to come are guarded, your earnest endeavours will be successfully directed to the protection of the existing population from the evils that now threaten them.

9. I agree, therefore, with your Excellency in deprecating an indiscriminate distribution of relief, which can only swell the amount of distress, and ultimately demoralise the persons relieved. Whatever relief is given by the State should, as far as possible, in my opinion, as I understand also in yours, be given in combination with, and in return for, some kind at least of labour which, whilst it serves as a test of the necessity of the relief, may tend to keep alive in the mind of the people a sense of self-respect, and a reliance on their ability to work for their livelihood. I am, consequently, fully alive to the necessity on every ground, financial, political, and moral, of exercising as rigid a test in all relief operations as is possible, and though on occasions such as these, where the extent of those operations is so vast and complicated, the difficulty is unusually great, I have no doubt that your Excellency will know how to maintain an even course between the conflicting obligations of a care for human life on the one hand, and a strict and even severe administration of relief on the other.

10. Famine administration has, unfortunately, become in India a subject of more than occasional importance, and in the working out of the instructions issued to Sir R. Temple I hope that fresh and valuable light will be thrown upon the serious problems involved. Her Majesty's Government will await with anxious interest your reports as to the measure of success which attends the application of these rules to the conditions of the existing scarcity, as well as the expression of your Excellency's own opinion as experience is gained of the results of the operations which you are now conducting.

11. I have only to add that to the financial measures which it will be necessary to adopt in order to enable the fiscal system of India to meet this heavy liability, I shall be prepared to give immediate attention whenever I am placed in possession of the conclusions of your Excellency's Government on this important question, and of the details connected with the subject which you will doubtless forward.

12. Whether it will be possible, by new fiscal arrangements, to obtain the necessary financial equilibrium, and whether any reduction in some branches of expenditure is still a possible resource, are matters which will, I know, receive

your most careful consideration, and on which I shall await the expression of your Excellency's deliberate opinion.

13. On a review of what I have now written, I am aware that it may be open to the charge of suggesting nothing new, nothing that has not already passed through your Excellency's mind, and how much it dwells on the gravest difficulties, without attempting the task of precisely defining lines and limits of duty in such an emergency as this. But, in spite of the possibility of such a construction being placed on my words, I have yet felt bound to put them on record, as the strongest proof which I can give of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to bear their full share in the responsibilities now pressing on all the Queen's servants entrusted with the administration of Her Majesty's Indian Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CARNARVON.

No. 1 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Delhi Camp, 5th January 1877.

IN continuation of our Despatch dated the 15th ultimo,* on the subject of the scarcity in Western and Southern India, we beg leave to forward for your Lordship's information copies of the communications specified in the margin.

* Part I., p. 109.

Letter from the Government of Bombay, No. 88, dated 18th Dec. 1876.
Ditto. ditto, No. 309, „ 23rd „
(Substituted) letter to ditto, No. 521, „ 15th „
Telegram to the Secretary of State, dated 5th Jan. 1877.
Letter to the Government of Bombay, dated 5th Jan. 1877.
Gazette of India (Extraordinary) of the 5th Jan. 1877.

2. In consequence of the great increase of labour caused by correspondence relating to the famine, we have found it necessary to relieve the Honourable Mr. Hope of the duties which devolved on him in the capacity of Officiating Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, and to appoint him, as a temporary measure, to be Additional Secretary to the Government of India in that Department. Mr. Hope will receive, in addition to the usual emoluments of an additional member of the Council of the Governor-General, which office he will continue to hold, the same deputation allowance (Rs. 777–10–8) as before. We trust that Your Lordship will approve of this arrangement.

3. After full consideration of the explanation afforded by the Government of Bombay on the subject of the concentration in the Public Works Department of that Presidency of all correspondence relating to relief operations, we consider that the arrangement was, under the circumstances, the most suitable which it was practicable to make.

4. We have received from that Government a statement, forwarded herewith, affording certain further information regarding the irrigation works commenced and contemplated in the Bombay distressed tracts, and have also conferred personally with his Excellency Sir Philip Wodehouse on the general condition of affairs and the policy to be pursued. We have in consequence determined to substitute for our letter to Bombay, No. 521, of the 15th ultimo, another letter of the same date,† of which a copy is appended. This letter expresses in a clearer, and at the same time somewhat modified, form the policy which at that date, and on the information then before us, we deemed advisable, and is accompanied by a further letter of to-day's date by which our restriction upon large works which the Government of Bombay may deem to be indispensable for the preservation of life in any of the affected tracts is withdrawn, on the understanding that any excess expenditure beyond the actual requirements of the scarcity will be met from provincial resources under the new system of finance about to be introduced.

† Part I., p. 116.

5. Your Lordship will have learned from the Despatch of the Madras Government, No. 22, dated the 23rd ultimo, the very serious dimensions which the distress in that Presidency has already attained, and the apprehensions entertained for the future. After careful personal conference with his Grace the Governor,

of Madras, we have decided upon deputing Sir Richard Temple on a special mission to visit the distressed districts, to confer with the Government on the spot, and to offer for their consideration any suggestions which he may deem proper. Considering the advantage of dealing with the entire famine upon consistent and harmonious principles, together with the contemplated future connexion of Sir Richard Temple with Bombay, we have deemed it advisable to include that Presidency within the scope of his mission.

6. We trust that the arrangements referred to in the two last preceding paragraphs, which have already been communicated to your Lordship by telegraph, will meet with your Lordship's approval.

We shall not fail to keep your Lordship duly informed, by telegraph and letter, of the progress of affairs.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON, &c.

Local, No. 88 E.—1063 of 1876.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

V.—Establishments.

Public Works Department, Bombay, 18th December 1876.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 435, of the 24th November 1876, stating that the Government of India regard as open to grave objections the concentration, in the Public Works Department, of all correspondence relating to the regulation of relief operations in this Presidency.

2. This arrangement was proposed by his Excellency to his colleagues in the Government after careful consideration of existing circumstances, with the advantage of nearly five years' experience in the working of this Government, and with the full belief that it offered the best prospect of beneficial results. It was at once and unreservedly accepted by the other members of the Government. In the resolution by which it was brought into operation, the Government prominently noticed that it was for the Revenue Commissioners and Collectors to take care that the wants of the people received all practicable attention. These officers have shown their thorough appreciation of their duties in this respect. In so doing, they have met with the cordial co-operation of the officers of the Public Works Department, and nothing has occurred to warrant an apprehension that the considerable friction anticipated by the Government of India will arise.

3. I am to observe that the Government is the same, whether it be administered through the Revenue or the Public Works Department. The member of the Government who deals ordinarily with revenue questions, also deals ordinarily with public works matters. His Excellency the Governor himself supervises all arrangements relating to the relief of the distress in the Deccan and the Southern Mahratta country; and, therefore, so far as the policy that has been adopted in dealing with the difficulty, or the application of that policy is concerned, it is quite immaterial through what channel the correspondence is conducted. Promptness of action is essential, and this, his Excellency in Council believes, can best be secured through the instrumentality of the Public Works Department, in which the great mass of the business must necessarily arise.

4. In conclusion, I am to convey the thanks of this Government for the prompt confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Macpherson to be Under Secretary. It is proposed to assign to him the the salary of the office, viz. Rs. 1,250, while so employed.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

MEMORANDUM of further INFORMATION relating to RELIEF WORKS, containing explanation of necessity for, and expected return from, each work, and proportion of Earthworks or other work for unskilled labour which it will afford. (Forwarded with Letter of 23rd December 1876, from the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India.)

Mutha Canal.—Information in respect of the necessity for, and expected return from, this work has already been separately afforded in the reports on the projects submitted from time to time.

The portion of the sanctioned project remaining incomplete at the time of its resumption as a relief work comprises earthwork to the extent of Rs. 2,46,524, and other work requiring unskilled labour to the extent of about Rs. 50,000, or Rs. 2,96,524 in all. It has been suggested that the extension of the canal 5½ miles beyond the present sanctioned terminus will be desirable as a famine relief work. This would involve a further total outlay of Rs. 84,949, of which Rs. 29,878 would be for earthwork.

3rd section	-	Rs. 58,618
4th do.	-	„ 77,492
5th do.	-	„ 42,315
6th do.	-	„ 68,099
		Rs. 2,46,524

Vide letter No. 328 W. I. —739 of 11th November 1876, to the Government of India.

17,483 people are now employed on this work, and the number is still increasing.

It is computed that this work may afford employment for another 3½ months, when the people must be transferred elsewhere.

Supa Tank.—This work is more of a village water supply tank than an irrigational work. It may, during good seasons, furnish water for a limited area of irrigation. The necessity for it may be stated to be the general want of water that exists in this part of the collectorate, as proved by the rain returns. The revenue from the work cannot be estimated. Its chief benefit will be indirect in maintaining and increasing springs for water supply to the people and cattle. The work is almost entirely earthwork.

Motaba Tank.—The Motaba tank is situated in the vicinity of Yewat, and will form a very important auxiliary to the Mutha Canal, from which it can be filled during the monsoon months, when the water supply is abundant. The necessity for the work is explained by the circumstance that the rainfall of the district, on which the cultivation is entirely dependent, is excessively small and very uncertain. The site of the work is situated between Kásurdi and Pátas, where the rainfall has been as follows:—

	Pátas.	Kásurd.
1863	*9·52	—
1864	*7·38	—
1865	*11·69	—
1866	*6·57	—
1867	*10·88	—
1868	*10·32	—
1869	22·86	25·62
1870	26·31	25·99
1871	21·75	17·99
1872	—	10·94
1873	—	7·67
1874	25·84	10·39
1875	13·00	12·90
1876	6·03	8·22
Total	172·60	119·72
Average	14·37	14·97

The tank is estimated to cost Rs. 1,60,373. It will furnish a never-failing supply to an area of 3,172 acres in quadrennial rotation, from which the revenue at rates now in force will be Rs. 21,411. The working expenses will not exceed Rs. 5,000, including establishment and collection charges; and the net revenue will thus ultimately exceed 4·9 per cent. on the gross outlay, which will amount to Rs. 2,03,666, as per margin.

Works	Rs. 1,60,373
Establishment	„ 40,093
Tools and plant	„ 3,200
	Rs. 2,03,666

Almost the entire estimate for this work is for earthwork and excavation eminently suited for famine labour. It will employ about 4,500 people for six months.

Seersophal and Mullut Tanks.—The necessity for these works may be explained on the same grounds that would exist for the storage of water in any district where the crops are at present entirely dependent upon a most uncertain and capricious rainfall, which is seldom, if ever, sufficient to produce good crops, and frequently fails altogether, as it has done in the current year.

The Pátas Tank is designed principally for water supply. As in the case of Supa, there may in good seasons be a limited area of irrigation under the tank, but the return from it will be principally indirect. The estimate is almost entirely for earthwork.

Nira Canal.—Two-thirds of the whole area (2,79,680 acres) to be brought within easy reach of the means of irrigation by this work are in the Indápur Taluka.

The necessity for the work may be best explained by the following extracts:—

EXTRACT from a REPORT by Colonel J. T. FRANCIS, Survey and Settlement Commissioner, N. D., on the Revision of the Settlement of the Indápur Taluka, dated January 1867.

Vide Selections from Records of the Bombay Government, No. CVII.

Para. 151. The climate of Indápur has unfortunately, however, prevented the cultivators from realising that material wealth which is indicated by the immense rise in price of grain referred to above. The rainfall is most precarious. For two and three consecutive years together it is either insufficient or the falls so untimely, and at such long intervals apart, that no crop is brought to maturity. Such has been the case with part of the Kullus division. A good average crop every other year is too liberal an allowance as an average of the general run of seasons. From the Jamabandi reports it would appear that the cultivators get a good crop about once in three years; that of the other two, one is a year of almost complete failure, and one of middling crops only.

Para. 152. It is only within the last few years that pluviometers for gauging the rainfall have been introduced into inland districts.

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* Monsoon fall only.

I have been able to get but five years' returns for Indápur, which give the following result: —

		Inches.	Cents.
Year of	1861–62, total fall gauged - - -	1	50
Do.	1862–63, no return - - - -	0	0
Do.	1863–64, total fall gauged - - -	3	18
Do.	1864–65, do. - - -	11	40
Do.	1865–66, do. - - -	6	95
Do.	1866–67, do. - - -	5	24
		29	27
	Average fall for the five years - -	5	85

This speaks volumes regarding the climate; for what can be said of a district which has an average rainfall of somewhat less than six inches per annum.

Para. 188. It will, I trust, have been made evident from the general tenor of my remarks that a remarkably short and capricious rainfall has had a very material effect in retarding the prosperity of the Indápur district. In short, that unless we can cure this lasting defect, it can never attain to a permanent state of prosperity. Capital will accumulate in a cycle of good seasons, to disappear again, however, to a considerable extent as each unfavourable cycle comes round.

Para. 189. Irrigation is the only means of remedying this defect, and I would here draw attention to the importance to this district of a project* recently brought forward by Colonel Fife for damming up the Mutha River in a locality about 12 miles west of Poona. It is calculated that the head of water which will be raised by this work will furnish a supply for irrigating the country from Poona to a distance of nearly 100 miles eastward, extending throughout a considerable tract of Indápur. To a drought-stricken district, irrigation which will afford a supply to compensate only for the regular rainfall will be inordinately valuable. But how incomparably greater will be the value of a supply which can be obtained after the season for the monsoon falls is past; and Colonel Fife's project would do this. It would supply water sufficient for raising a rabi crop; and instead of Indápur being at this season a parched and barren-looking country, with scarcely a trace of vegetation, we should see crops ripening with the golden autumn tint upon them.

Para. 190. I have estimated that two rupees per acre might be levied as an average rate for all lands for which water would be available for rabi crop. The estimated supply would raise the average out-turn fully tenfold in excess of the ordinary monsoon crop produced. Instead of having to fight against seasons, pledging his land to the money-lender in bad, and paying off the debt in good, the cultivator could calculate on his regular annual return of produce, and would soon become independent of such pernicious assistance.

Para. 191. But besides the actual supply of water obtainable from the canal, an increased supply would be afforded to the wells of the district by percolation from the canal. A striking example of this, connected with the new Jamda Canal in the Khandesh Collectorate, has recently come under notice. Wells that were dry before the canal was opened have now a good supply: nallas which had ordinarily little or no water at this season, have a good running stream in them: and thus not only directly, by means of its canal, but indirectly also, has this work been the means of spreading a supply of water throughout the country; and equally important results may be expected to follow upon the extension of Colonel Fife's project to the Indápur district.

Para. 192. Supplemented by a work of this kind, the district would rapidly attain to a state of prosperity under the assessment now proposed. The horrors of famine would for ever be averted; and the people, whilst accumulating wealth, would become large contributors of the articles of export produce, and consumers in an equal degree of the manufactured imports—the cotton and the woollen goods, and the hardware articles—which form the staple wealth of the British manufacturer.

EXTRACT from a LETTER from Mr. J. W. HADOW, C.S., Revenue Commissioner, S. D., No. 2,026 of 1867, forwarding above Report by Colonel Francis.

Para. 19. According to the statement embodied in paragraph 163, the amount of the proposed re-assessment exceeds the present assessment by Rs. 43,309, an addition of 57 per cent. on the present assessment of the taluka. Still with this addition the average rate upon the whole culturable area will be only 7 annas 6 pies per acre.

Para. 20. This is moderate enough, it must be allowed, as an average rate, but I do not consider it the least too low for Indápur. With reference to existing prices, and probability, if not certainty, of their continuing as high as they are now for years, improved communications, new markets, and such-like considerations, if the Indápur Taluka had an average rainfall which could be depended upon, be it more or be it less, the proposed rates might be pronounced too

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* *See* Government Selection, Irrigation of Series No. II.

Note.—The project now being carried out from the Mutha is not that referred to by Colonel Francis in his para. 189, but a smaller scheme with canal at a lower level, which does not reach the Indápur districts at all.

low for a 30 years' settlement; but it must not be overlooked when considering the question of rates that Indápur is one of the most unfavourably circumstanced of any of the talukas in the Deccan or Southern Mahratta country as regards its rainfall. In some parts of the taluka rain appears never to fall seasonably, and it is generally when seasonable scanty and precarious. Year after year lands are left unsown for a want of moisture, and those that are sown produce next to nothing; failures of crops, more or less general and extensive, appear to be the rule, and a good, or even a fair, average harvest, the exception.

EXTRACT from a REPORT by a COMMITTEE, consisting of the Survey and Settlement Commissioner Northern Division, the Collector of Poona, and Executive Engineer Irrigation, Poona. convened under G. R. No. 98 I.—2,666 of 1867, to determine the survey operations to be undertaken for Irrigational Works.

"The locality most urgently deserving of attention is the valley of the Indápur Taluka lying "between the Bhima and Nira Rivers, as the annual falls of rain are so uncertain and capricious, "that there is frequently a failure of crops for several years in succession, and it may with "reason be termed a drought-stricken district. It would, therefore, be advisable to have pre-"liminary surveys undertaken to see whether it would not be feasible to afford relief to the "district by throwing a bund across the Nira River at some point above the old bridge on the "Satara road, and cutting an irrigational canal."—Government Resolution in the Revenue Department, No. 715, dated 19th February 1869.

LETTER from the AGENT, REVENUE COMMISSIONER, S. D., No. 339, dated 1st February 1869—submitting Correspondence from the Collector of Poona relative to the serious failure of rain in a portion of the Indápur Taluka; stating that, owing to a succession of bad seasons, the failure has necessitated in 43 villages a remission of rent varying from four to eight annas in the rupee; and soliciting Government's approval of the measures of relief, adopted under the emergency of the case.

RESOLUTION.—The proceedings of the Revenue Commissioner are fully approved.

2. Remissions to the extent of 50 per cent. have been granted in 43 villages in the case of Jirayet or arable lands, and to the extent of 25 per cent. in 13 other villages in the Indápur Taluka.

3. As there was a considerable enhancement of rates consequent on the recent revision, the revenue for collection will still be in excess of that hitherto levied.

4. The Right Honourable the Governor in Council considers that much credit is due to Mr. Jardine for the careful inquiry he has made into the condition of this taluka.

5. Kulwar, or individual, remissions should never be permitted; but in cases where it is necessary to forego a portion of the revenue, this should be done by a percentage on the entire village.

6. Government sanction an expenditure of Rs. 1,000 on clearing the prickly pear from the kurans near Alligaon, and will avail themselves of Major Berthon's offer to superintend the work. The Kharackwasla works, on which it is calculated 1,000 men will be engaged, will, it is hoped, afford sufficient employment for those in search of it; but Government will be prepared to take into favourable consideration any further proposals that may be submitted for affording relief in the shape of work.

7. These papers should be transferred to the Irrigation Department for perusal. The drought from which the districts comprised in the Nira and Bhima valleys have continuously suffered, renders it absolutely necessary that some steps, if possible, should be taken to utilise the water of these rivers.

TABLE of RAINFALL at Indápur, extracted from the "Government Gazette."

1863	3·01
1864	9·78
1865	6·95
1866	4·06
1867	10·74
1868	8·43
1869	25·62
1870	25·77
1871	14·60
1872, 1873, 1874	not forthcoming.
1875	22·90
1876	4·89

These extracts prove indisputably the necessity for the work, and it is merely necessary to note that the work now proposed for execution is precisely that recommended by the Committee which met in 1868.

The *complete* scheme, for which detailed plans and estimates are ready, comprises storage works in addition to the canal, which is to carry 945 cubic feet a second and will be 129 miles

long, commanding an area of 2,79,680 acres. The storage works will largely supplement the existing rabi supply, besides furnishing water for the irrigation of perennial crops, such as sugar cane, fruit trees, and garden crops. It is proposed, however, to construct the canal, chiefly for monsoon irrigation, on a reduced scale as a distinct project to afford relief. The cost is estimated at Rs. 16,00,000, or including establishment, tools, and plant, Rs. 19,52,000. It is calculated that the water supply available without the aid of storage will suffice for the irrigation of an area of 56,849 acres, which, at water rates current on existing works recently brought into operation, will yield a gross revenue of Rs. 1,42,993, or deducting maintenance, which may be taken at one rupee per acre irrigated, the net revenue would amount to Rs. 86,144, or 4·4 per cent. on the gross outlay of Rs. 19,52,000.

Of the total estimate for works, Rs. 16,00,000, it is calculated that earthwork to the value of Rs. 6,00,000 might be undertaken, thus affording relief to about 25,000 people for eight months.

As the Mutha Canal Works become completed, the people might be transferred to this canal without much difficulty.

Bhatodi Tank, and Ojhar Canal.—These are sanctioned works for which allotments exist in the current budget. They are included in the statement of relief works, as they will, of course, afford employment to the persons requiring relief. No further explanation as to their necessity, or the return to be derived from them, appears necessary.

About one half of the expenditure in the case of Bhatodi is for earthwork. On the Ojha Canal it is principally for the completion of necessary works required to pass the water for irrigation on to the tail of the sanctioned canal.

Ojhar Canal Extension.—The original scheme comprised a canal 19 miles in length, but pending experience of the proportion of the area commanded which would be irrigated each year, the water supply being limited, the length of the canal was restricted to 10 miles. The extension, besides distributing the advantages of irrigation over a wider area, will afford an abundant supply of water for monsoon crops during periods when the rainfall of the district fails, and will be indirectly as well as directly of great benefit.

The area under command of the canal will be increased by the extension from 3,840 to 23,040 acres, of which it is calculated that 7,680 acres will be irrigated annually, yielding a net revenue of Rs. 21,024, or 7 per cent. on the gross direct outlay for the entire project. These figures will, however, require revision, which will be made before sanction is applied for to commence the work.

The cost of the earthwork on extension is estimated at Rs. 20,000.

Ekruk Tank.—*Vide* remark under Bhatodi and Ojhar Canals.

The expenditure is principally upon masonry works required to complete the scheme.

Ashteh Tank.—The necessity for works of irrigation in the district in which this work is situated is sufficiently demonstrated by the fact that during the current year the rainfall has been only 8·09 inches, the average being 21·72, and that a similar drought occurred only five years ago, when the rainfall was 11·49 for the whole year. The cultivated area of the taluka is 2,21,066 acres, of which 8,823 acres, or 3·9 per cent., is now irrigated principally by wells.

The cost of the work is estimated at Rs. 5,28,760, or Rs. 6,45,260, including all direct charges. The net direct revenue is estimated at Rs. 33,400, or 5·1 per cent. on the outlay of Rs. 6,45,260.

The canals costing Rs. 1,06,051 it is not contemplated to undertake at present. Of the balance, Rs. 4,22,708, the cost of earthwork is estimated at Rs. 3,64,000, and the remainder is for land compensation which, if paid later in the season, will give some of the people the means of purchasing seed for their next season's crop and subsisting during the period between the cessation of relief works and the next harvest.

Yelwiji Tank, Mavinkop Tank, Tiliwali Tank, Madag Tank, Hereh Kerur Tank.—These are all works for which detailed plans and estimates have been prepared, and which are under execution from funds sanctioned to the debit of the current budget grant. Further detailed explanation regarding them does not therefore appear necessary.

In each case almost the entire sum is for earthwork.

Dambal Tank.—The improvement of this work is necessary as a means of extending the irrigation existing under it.

Estimated revenue is Rs. 3,175, or 5·4 per cent. on the total direct outlay, which will amount to Rs. 59,004.

Almost the entire amount of the estimate is for earthwork, and therefore suitable for relief.

Medleri Tank.—The object of the work is to increase the irrigated area of the district, which has an average rainfall of 19·44 inches. This sufficiently explains the necessity for the work.

The net return on the outlay is estimated at from 2·5 to 4·7 per cent. The revenue, it is estimated, will ultimately be Rs. 3,400.

Out of the total estimate, Rs. 46,644, the earthwork amounts to Rs. 39,644.

Doni Tank.—This work is necessary as a means of storing water and utilising it for the irrigation of land in a district where the rainfall is both light and uncertain, the total for this year being 5·17 and average 22·32, instead of allowing it to flow to waste in the sea; *vide* this Government No. 244 A. I.—652 of 1875.

The revenue is estimated at Rs. 6,488, giving a net return of 5·4 per cent.

The sanctioned design is principally masonry work; but if undertaken as a relief work, it is intended to substitute earthwork for the masonry to the extent of Rs. 65,426.

Bankeri Tank.—The average rainfall for six years in this district was 14·48 inches, and under such conditions it is hardly requisite to enlarge as to the necessity for storage works for irrigation.

The tank is an old one, constructed by the former Government of the country, and is breached, and has been useless for a very long period. The restoration is estimated to cost Rs. 1,75,351, and the net return on the gross outlay is estimated at 5 per cent.

The expenditure is all suitable for famine relief.

Mayni Tank.—See remark under Yelwiji, Mavinkop, &c.

Yerla Irrigation, Nehr Tank.—Information as to the necessity for, and probable return from, this work, is contained in the printed reports submitted to the Government of India; *vide* their No. 173 I., dated 8th April 1876.

The amount provided for expenditure is for earthwork, and excavation suitable for relief.

Pingli Tank.—The following extract from Colonel Fife's report, submitting this project to Government, will explain the necessity for it:—

EXTRACT from REPORT by the CHIEF ENGINEER for IRRIGATION, No. 4,102 of 1875.

"The Mán Taluka, it will be remembered, is one of the driest in the Deccan, and the revenue officers have for years represented it as standing in urgent need of irrigation.

"The average rainfall, it now appears from Major Penny's carefully prepared statements, is about 25 inches, but it is very irregular, varying from 16·42 to 38·60, and as the country is steep and the soil light, it is easy to understand that the district cannot prosper without the aid of storage works."

The rainfall of the current year has been 8·42 inches.

The work will, it is estimated, yield a gross revenue of Rs. 19,200, giving a net return of 4·37 per cent. on the expenditure now proposed, or 3·15 per cent. on the total expenditure, including outlay incurred on the canal at Gondowli, the supply to which is to be supplemented by the tanks. The revenue estimate is based on agreements made with the people.

The expenditure provided for is for earthwork, and excavation suitable for relief.

Mhaswad Tank.—The following extracts explain the necessity for this work:—

From REPORT by Colonel W. C. ANDERSON, Survey and Settlement Commissioner, Southern Division.

"The country through which the proposed canal is to pass, which I know well, is situated in a tract where irrigation is more required than in any other part of the Presidency. The annual fall of rain is always very small and also uncertain as regards opportuneness. The realisation of fair crops is a matter of greater uncertainty there than in any other part of the country I have seen."

The rainfall in the district under command of the proposed work varies from a maximum of 44 inches, which occurred in 1874, to a minimum of 8·09, the fall registered this year. The fall in 1871 was 11·49 inches. The current year's fall at the site of the reservoir has amounted to 5·58 inches only.

The work commands over 1,00,000 acres, of which it is calculated 29,700 acres will be irrigated. This area will be diffused throughout 58 villages of the Pandharpur and Sangola talukas.

	Rs.
* Works - -	14,76,235
Establishment -	2,95,250
Tools - - -	29,525
Rs.	18,01,010

The net revenue is estimated at Rs. 1,19,400, and the total outlay being Rs. 18,01,010,* the net return will be 6·6 per cent.

The whole of the expenditure provided for is for earthwork.

Krishna Canal Extension.—This work is necessary to complete the scheme as originally designed. It will, if carried out, largely increase the area under command, and ensure a speedier return upon the outlay already incurred.

The return may be stated as follows:—

The area under command of the extension is 14,080 acres. Assuming that one-third of this will annually be irrigated during the rabi season, the whole of the perennial water being used on the upper portion of the canal, the revenue would be Rs. 9,388, or after deducting for maintenance, say, 5·25 per cent. on the total outlay on the extension, including establishment and tools. †

	Rs.
† Works - -	99,978
Establishment -	19,296
Tools - - -	2,026
Rs.	1,22,000

The estimate for earthwork alone amounts to Rs. 32,462.

Chunkapur Tank.—This work is necessary to supplement the supply of water in the Girna River, on which there are a large number of bundaras irrigating a very considerable area, which would be greatly extended if the supply of water were increased and made reliable.

The project was called for by the Government of India, *vide* their No. 204 I., dated 5th April 1873. It will very shortly be submitted; and meanwhile has not been commenced.

Mukti Reservoir, Mhaswa Tank.—Sanctioned works in progress from current budget assignments.

Chowpalla Tank, Doodala Tank.—Small works for which detailed plans and estimates have been submitted to Government, and which only await funds.

No further explanation appears necessary.

Bhokur Tank.—Restoration of an old work for irrigating land in vicinity of Párola. Net revenue estimated at Rs. 4,218, or 5 per cent. on the gross outlay, Rs. 84,045.

The expenditure is almost entirely for earthwork.

Dhywell Tank.—In consequence of the falling off in the supply of water in the Pánjhra River, the patuuthal assessments on lands irrigated from the bundaras on the river was reduced at the last revision of the settlement from Rs. 32,000 to 23,000, or by Rs. 9,000. The tank is designed to repair this deficiency, and also to provide water for an extension of the irrigated area.

The total cost of the work is Rs. 2,90,000, on which a return of fully 5 per cent. may be anticipated.

The work is almost entirely earthwork.

Dewjipura Tank, Pimpalner.—This is a work of restoration similar to the Bhokur.

The revenue is estimated at Rs. 1,928, and would give a return of 5·7 per cent. on the gross outlay, Rs. 33,865, including establishment, &c.

The work as designed is of masonry; to undertake it as a famine work, earth can be substituted.

(Signed) C. J. MERRIMAN, Colonel, R.E.,
Acting Under Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department (Irrigation).

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT.

TABULAR STATEMENT of IRRIGATION WORKS under Construction or Authorised as Relief Works.

No.	Collectorate.	Name of Work.	Expenditure proposed or Allotment.	Amount of Estimate.	Outlay up to 31st March 1876.	Sanctioned by	Number and Date of Sanction.	REMARKS.
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
1		Mutha Canal - - - -	4,16,014	46,57,644	37,69,222	Government of India -	No. 516—I., dated 11th August 1873, and reply No. 132 W. I. 352, dated 9th July 1875.	Out of the allotment of Rs. 4,16,014, the sum of Rs. 1,30,000 had been expended before relief works were commenced. 14,512 people are now employed on the earth-works east of Poona, and the muster is still daily increasing.
2	Poona.	Supa Tank - - - -	5,118	5,118	—	Government of Bombay -	No. 338—W. I. 763, dated 15th Nov. 1876	Land compensation not yet settled, so not included in sanction.
3		Seersophal Tank - - - -	2,59,085	2,59,085	—	- - - - - -	- - - - - -	Not yet commenced.
4		Mullut Tank - - - -	54,570	54,570	—	- - - - - -	- - - - - -	
5		Patas Tank - - - -	33,165	33,165	—	- - - - - -	- - - - - -	
6		Neera Canal—Purandhar, Bhimthari, and Indápur talukas.	—	16,00,000	—	- - - -	- - - - - -	This canal forms a distinct portion of the Neera project, referred to in accompaniment to this, Government No. 100 B. A. I., dated 24th June 1874, to the Government of India. It commands an area of 437 square miles in the Bhimthari and Indápur talukas, where the rainfall is more scant and uncertain than any other parts of the Deccan. Remissions due to drought have been heavy and frequent, varying from 12 to 80 per cent. of the land revenue. Besides furnishing water for irrigation, the canal will supply good drinking water for man and beast to a large number of villages where at present it is very often difficult to obtain. The earthwork is now being lined out on the ground, and an expenditure of 6 lacs is proposed therein as a relief work.
7		Matoba Tank - - - -	1,61,143	1,61,143				
1	Ahmednagar.	Bhatodi Tank - - - -	15,000	2,63,986	2,47,775	Government of India -	No. 109—I., dated 27th March 1871.	
2		Ojhar Canal - - - -	10,000	1,54,308	1,34,961	Government of Bombay -	No. 97—A. I., 288, dated 5th May 1876.	
3		Ojhar Canal Extension - - -	20,000	72,582	—	- - - - -	- - - - - -	It is proposed to extend the canal 9 miles, as originally designed, and to expend Rs. 20,000 on the earth works as relief.
1	Sholápur.	Ekruk Tank—Sholápur Taluka - - -	22,944	9,74,165	9,20,230	Government of India -	No. 442—I., dated 11th October 1876 -	Work nearly completed. The inhabitants of Sholápur are entirely dependent this year for their water supply from the canal led from this lake.
2		Ashtch Tank—Mahreh Taluka - - -	3,64,000	5,28,760	—	Government of Bombay -	No. 6152, dated 27th October 1876 -	This work is similar in character to that of the Ekruk Tank, only on a smaller scale.
1	Dharwar.	Yelwiji Tank - - - -	8,710	9,204	—	Do. - - -	No. 3—W. I. 3, dated 3rd Jan. 1876.	
2		Mavinkop Tank - - - -	9,383	9,990	607	Do. - - -	No. 204—A. I. 638, dated 7th Oct. 1876.	
3		Tiliwali Tank - - - -	5,355	5,355	—	Do. - - -	Chief Engineer's appropriation, No. 119—G. 1876-77.	
4		Madag Tank - - - -	10,000	1,72,836	1,20,524	Do. - - -	No. 121—I. 2,268, dated 25th Sept. 1868.	
5		Hirekerur Tank - - - -	9,753	11,675	—	Do. - - -	No. 289—W. I. 666, dated 19th Oct. 1876.	
6		Dambal Tank - - - -	46,460	46,460	—	Do. - - -	No. 297—W. I. 679, dated 21st Oct. 1876	1,497 people already employed on this work; numbers since increased.
7		Medleri Tank - - - -	42,000	46,644	—	Do. - - -	No. 6152, dated 27th Oct. 1876 -	The total estimate is Rs. 59,471, including 11,661 for establishment, and 1,166 for tools and plant—commenced.
8		Doni Tank - - - -	65,426	89,114	2,898	Do. - - -	No. 523 of 1875 - - - -	Not yet commenced.
1	Kaládgi.	Bankmari Tank, Bádámi Taluka -	1,75,000	1,75,351	—	- - - - -	- - - - - -	Not commenced.
1		Mayni Tank - - - -	9,000	2,37,728	2,30,220	Government of India -	No. 7—I., dated 12th Jan. 1875.	
2		Yerla Irrigation, Nehr Tank - -	1,70,000	3,47,262	1,01,579	Do. - - -	No. 173—I., dated 8th April 1876 -	3,481 people already employed on this work; numbers since increased to 4,392.
3		Pingli Tank - - - -	1,75,000	1,89,636	—	Government of Bombay -	No. 247—W. I. 672, dated 30th Dec. 1875.	1,753 people already employed on this work, and number daily increasing. Numbers since increased to nearly 6,000.
4	Satara.	Mhaswar Tank, Man Taluka - -	4,00,000	14,76,235	—	Do. - - -	No. 337—W. I. 761, dated 17th Nov. 1876.	The work has been lined out ready for commencement as soon as required in relief work. It is described in the accompaniment to this, Government No. 100, B. A. I., dated 23rd June 1874, to the Government of India.
5		Krishna Canal Extension - -	50,000	39,978	—	Do. - - -	No. 334—W. I. 750, dated 14th Nov. 1876.	The work has been lined out ready for relief work. It is proposed to extend the canal 12 miles to the length originally designed, and to expend Rs. 32,462 on the earthworks.
1	Násik.	Chunkapur Tank - - -	75,000	4,39,731	—	- - - - -	- - - - - - -	Not commenced. *Vide* Govt. of India No. 204—I., dated 5th April 1873, also accompaniment to this, Government No. 100 B. A. I. of 1874.
1	Khándesh.	Mookti Reservoir - - -	16,000	2,64,566	2,44,000	Government of India -	No. 59 and 60—I., dated 13th Jan. 1872.	
2		Mhaswa Tank - - - -	50,000	1,00,862	38,723	Government of Bombay -	No. 189—A. I. 558, dated 13th Sept. 1876	
3		Chowpalla Tank - - - -	23,558	24,174	—	Do. - - -	No. 1—W. I. 1, dated 2nd Jan. 1875 -	Not commenced.
4		Doodala Tank - - - -	11,280	11,280	—	Do. - - -	No. 200—W. I. 502, dated 7th Sept. 1874	Do.
5		Bhokur Tank - - - -	56,945	56,945	—	- - - - -	- - - - - -	Do.
6		Dhywell Tank - - - -	2,23,552	2,90,000	—	- - - - -	- - - - - -	Do.
7		Dewjipura Tank - - - -	26,577	26,577	—	- - - - -	- - - - - -	Do.

26th November 1876.

(Signed) C. J. M.

No. 521.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, dated Calcutta, 15th December 1876. (*See* page 116, Part I.)

No. 5B.

Telegram, dated the 5th January 1877.

From VICEROY, DELHI CAMP, to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Your telegrams of 23rd and 29th December and 3rd instant. We have fully discussed with Governors of Madras and Bombay present position of affairs in respective Presidencies, and have decided on sending Sir Richard Temple to visit distressed tracts in both Presidencies, and confer with the two Governments. The situation is very grave, especially in Madras, where 13 districts out of 21, containing a population of 20 millions, are more or less affected. We consider the policy of making large purchases of grain adopted by Madras Government to be very erroneous, and calculated seriously to interfere with operations of trade, and so to intensify our difficulties a few months hence. We have instructed the Governor to abandon this policy, and shall take means to make publicly known our intention to leave trade unfettered. The number on relief works in Madras exceeds 840,000, in Bombay 250,000. We apprehend that in Madras admission to the works has not been sufficiently restricted, and that the actual pressure may, therefore, be less than the numbers would indicate. But on this point and on others Sir Richard Temple's inspection will enable us to form an opinion. The latest Madras estimate of expenditure and loss of revenue amounts to about five millions; Bombay estimates unaltered. Report of deaths at Sholapore proved to be unfounded. One or two isolated cases appear to have occurred in Madras Presidency. No efforts have been wanting on part of Local Governments to prevent mortality. Cholera bad in some districts, especially Kurnool and Belgaum. Under explanations furnished by Governor of Bombay, we have withdrawn our prohibition of large works, on the understanding that any excess expenditure beyond requirements of the famine will be met from provincial resources under the new system about to be introduced. Please consider our letter to Bombay of 15th December as cancelled. It will be replaced by a modified letter, bearing same date, of which copy goes to you by this mail.

No. 5A.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Delhi Camp, the 5th January 1877.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters quoted in the margin, and to communicate the following observations.

Ashteh tank, No. 270, dated 14th Dec. 1876.
Pinglee „ „ 301, „ 22nd „
Matoba „ „ 302, „ 23rd „
Irrigation statement, No. 309, dated 23rd Dec. 1876.
Mhaswar tank, No. 319, dated 27th Dec. 1876.

The Government of India, in October last, on receipt of information of the scarcity which had arisen in certain parts of three districts of the Bombay Presidency, and while considerable uncertainty prevailed as to the dimensions which the question might eventually assume, deemed it essential that such relief works as were set on foot should be, as far as possible, of a local character, so arranged as to admit of the employment of the people in the immediate neighbourhood of their homes, and of such a nature as not to commit the Government to an expenditure in excess of the requirements of the case, and that the commencement of large projects should be avoided. The expediency of acting on this policy at the beginning of a scarcity was remarkably exemplified last year during the distress in North Behar, which proved to be far less serious than was at first expected. At the same time the Government of India fully recognised the possibility of its being necessary in due time to undertake larger projects, and in paragraph 11 of my letter No. 365, of October 25th, the policy laid down in the resolution of the Government of India of February 18th, 1875, a material feature of which is the organisation of large works, was indicated without reserve as that which would as a whole be adopted. My letter No. 521, dated the 15th December, contains further explanation of the views of the Government of India on this subject.

In the absence of a complete review and forecast of the condition of the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency, such as that the submission of which has been requested in my letter No. 459, of November 30th, the President in Council considered it necessary (*vide* my letter No. 521, of December 15th) that the preference of small works to large ones should be maintained.

4. In consequence, however, of the representations contained in your letters quoted above, and of the information as to the condition of certain districts which has since been received in personal conference with his Excellency Sir Philip Wodehouse, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council directs me to state that the general objection to commencing large relief works, and the prohibition to commence irrigation works exceeding Rs. 30,000 estimate which was contained in my telegram of November 10th, may be considered as removed, subject of course to the condition which has already been laid down, that no works, great or small, should be undertaken unless in each case the Local Government is satisfied by evidence which it considers sufficient that delay in commencing work will involve serious danger to the lives of the people.

5. I am, however, to add that it must be distinctly understood that, in the event of his Excellency the Governor in Council directing that any great irrigation works, or other works of local or provincial importance, involving heavy future responsibilities for their completion and maintenance, should be undertaken, the principles which the Government of India proposes to carry out in regard to the enforcement of provincial responsibility for meeting the charges for Extraordinary Public Works shall be held applicable to their case, and that the four tanks named at the commencement of this letter will be similarly dealt with.

EXTRACT from the GAZETTE OF INDIA, EXTRAORDINARY, dated Camp Delhi, Friday, January 5, 1877.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

NOTIFICATION.

Camp Delhi, the 5th January 1877.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council having had the advantage of personal conference with the Governors of Madras and Bombay regarding the condition of parts of their respective Presidencies which are at present afflicted by scarcity, deems it expedient that a high officer, fully acquainted with the views of the Government of India, should visit those Presidencies for the purpose of inspecting the distressed districts and communicating personally with the two Governments regarding the measures which are being carried out, and which will have to be carried out, for the relief of distress, and of offering for their consideration any suggestions he may deem suitable. His Excellency in Council has accordingly resolved to depute the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, Bart., K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, on a special mission for the above purpose. Sir Richard Temple will report his proceedings from time to time to the Government of India in this Department.

Revenue, No. 18.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 8th February 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 5th January, No. 1 of 1877, on the subject of the scarcity in Western and Southern India, has been considered by me in Council.

2. I approve of and accord my sanction to the appointment temporarily of the Hon. Mr. Hope as an additional Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

3. I consider that your Lordship in Council has, under the explanations offered, exercised a just discretion in permitting the Government of Bombay to concentrate all its correspondence on the subject of the famine and relief operations in its Public Works Department.

4. I also approve of the proceedings of your Government in permitting the Government of Bombay to undertake the construction of large works, and I shall await the more complete explanation, which you doubtless will furnish in due course, of the arrangements under which you propose to require that any excess expenditure beyond the actual requirements of the scarcity shall be met from provincial resources.

5. I have already expressed by telegraph my approval of the special mission of Sir Richard Temple.

I have the honour to be, &c.,
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 2 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, the 12th January 1877.

In our Despatch of the 5th instant, and the telegram of the same date, we reported that, after personal conference with the Governors of Madras and Bombay, we deemed it necessary, in view of the rapidly increasing numbers on the relief works, the doubtful expediency of the policy of importing grain favoured

by the Madras Government, and the heavy estimates of relief expenditure received, to depute Sir Richard Temple on a special mission to the distressed districts. Sir Richard Temple started from Delhi for Bombay on the following day, accompanied by Mr. C. E. Bernard as Secretary.

2. Our weekly Despatches, together with those forwarded by the Governments of Bombay and Madras, will have conveyed to your Lordship in detail all the information regarding the famine which is at present in our possession. This information is not, in some respects, as complete as could be desired, and will not be materially supplemented until the receipt of the detailed accounts of the condition of the distressed districts, which were called for in our letter of the 30th November last, and which will not be due until the 15th instant. These accounts are to be distinct for each taluka (or subdivision of a district), showing fully its condition and prospects, the measures undertaken and required, and the probable number of persons for whom relief must be provided at successive periods up to the next year's harvest. In the meantime we may submit the following brief review.

Bombay.

3. About the middle of August the scantiness of the rainfall in certain Collectorates of the Deccan and Southern Mahratta country excited some apprehension, and early in September the necessity for relief in portions of the Poona district, together with the existence of distress in the adjacent districts of Ahmednagar and Sholapur, were brought to the notice of the Government of India; but it was not until the latter part of October that the hopes which had been entertained of a fall of rain sufficient to save portions of the withering crops and to enable the rabi sowings to be begun were dissipated, and that serious and extended distress was recognised as inevitable.

4. It was soon apparent that the area which was to a greater or less degree affected comprised Khandeish and eight districts of the Bombay Deccan, as specified in the margin, with a population of eight millions, and a revenue, from land and excise, of a million and a half. Moreover, the affected districts enclosed Native States, under our political control and in some instances under our management, containing a population of nearly two millions more.

Districts.	Area.	Population.	Land Revenue realisable by Government in 1874–75.	Excise Revenue.
	Sq. M.		Rs.	Rs.
Khandesh	10,162	1,028,642	30,21,890	2,13,605
Nasik	8,140	734,386	11,67,169	65,824
Ahmednagar	6,647	773,988	13,30,602	22,745
Poona	5,999	907,235	12,83,771	1,59,962
Sholapur	3,925	662,386	10,44,010	46,801
Kaladgi	5,695	816,037	12,18,256	1,32,643
Satara	5,378	1,116,050	16,53,136	27,320
Belgaum	4,591	938,750	12,59,977	1,27,455
Dharwar	4,564	988,037	19,60,635	2,20,366
Total	54,203	7,966,061	1,39,39,446	10,16,821

5. The failure of crops has of course varied greatly throughout this large tract, and we have not as yet any precise statistics on the subject; but according to returns received in November, the failure was almost entire in 21 out of 91 talukas (or subdivisions of districts), it amounted to half but less than the whole in 59 more, and was under half in 11 only. Taking the districts by name, in Sholapur the failure was complete; in Kaladgi very nearly so; Dharwar came next, and not far behind these; then Belgaum and Poona. Ahmednagar had talukas both well and ill off. In Khandeish and Nasik the loss was believed to be about one half, and Satara on the whole had suffered least of all. These estimates were extremely rough, and have in some instances been since modified for the better. Regarding the Native States we have no detailed information, but they are believed to be in much the same condition as the adjacent British districts.

6. Recently we received accounts of distress in certain parts of the Colaba and Ratnagiri districts, which are on the coast, below the Ghâts, but we have every hope that it will be confined in area and moderate in severity.

7. The relief which has as yet been afforded has been principally in the form of minor works, intended not to draw large bodies of people away from their homes, as we consider such to be the best form of relief at the commencement of a scarcity, before its limits have been fully ascertained. In October last we informed the Government of Bombay that we did not consider that sufficient grounds then existed to justify the commencement of the Dhond and Manmar Railway, which they desired, or of other works involving heavy expenditure, after the necessity for relief had ceased. More recently, however, the ascertained importance of the scarcity, together with the representations of the Bombay

Government that minor works were in some districts becoming exhausted, have induced us to approve of the commencement of large products, on the understanding that any excess of expenditure over relief requirements will be borne by provincial funds. As regards the grain trade, we have supported the determination of the Bombay Government to leave the trade entirely free, the result of which is that supplies have poured into the distressed districts from all quarters, and are offered to an extent in excess of the carrying powers of the railways, while prices have been considerably lowered in consequence. By a fortunate coincidence, the harvests in other parts of India, except Madras, have been excellent.

8. The Bombay Government have placed a sum of Rs. 25,000 at the disposal of each of the Collectors of the most distressed districts for the purpose of charitable relief to the aged, infirm, and others unable to work; but Government assistance of this kind has not as yet been much needed, partly in consequence of the very liberal efforts which have been made by private individuals and public subscription.

9. The want of rain having very materially affected the sources of water supply, the condition of the cattle, which are very numerous, nearly equalling the population in the affected districts, caused from an early period much anxiety, and many thousand head are reported to have perished. The Government forest reserves have, however, been thrown open for grazing, under as few restrictions as possible; arrangements have been made for sending the cattle to them from all quarters, under certificates from the several mamlutdars, and the privilege has been availed of to an extent which affords reason to hope that a large proportion of the more valuable cattle at least will be saved.

10. According to the latest returns which are available, the number of persons on the relief works was about 287,000, and the famine expenditure, exclusive of about six lakhs borne by provincial, local, and municipal funds, amounted to Rs. 12,15,359. The total loss of revenue and relief expenditure is estimated by the Local Government at two crores and six lakhs of rupees.

	1876–77. Lakhs	1877–78. Lakhs.	Total. Lakhs.
Loss of revenue	- 46	20	66
Relief expenditure	- 54	86	140
Total	- 100	106	206

Madras.

11. The south-west monsoon having been but scanty in the Ceded Districts of the Madras Presidency (Bellary and Cuddapa) and in Kurnool, distress appeared there in August last, and a few relief works were set on foot, as also the distribution of food to the aged and others unable to work. To this failure of rain was gradually added that of the north-east monsoon also, which, it had been hoped, might have saved a portion of the fast withering crops, and facilitated larger sowings than usual of the later crops usually produced under its influence. The condition of these three districts, which had already, it may be remarked, suffered from two previous bad seasons, thus became, by the end of October, extremely critical.

12. The failure of the north-east monsoon above alluded to has also extended to a large portion of the rest of the Madras Presidency. In some quarters the failure has been complete, in others only partial, and although rain has very lately fallen to a limited extent in some of the southern districts, severe distress has overtaken large masses of the population.

13. Two tracts are thus affected. The first, consisting of the Ceded Districts and Kurnool, is compact and well defined, and the distress is far more severe in it than elsewhere; the second comprises nine districts, within which the distress depends upon the varying local failures of the north-east monsoon, regarding which no details are available sufficient to enable the population actually affected to be stated. The general statistics of the districts are given in the margin. Only eight districts in the whole Madras Presidency are

Districts.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Land Revenue.	Excise on Spirits and Drugs.
			Rs.	Rs.
Bellary - -	11,007	1,668,006	23,43,386	6,89,841
Kurnool - -	7,358	959,640	14,27,653	3,31,272
Cuddapah - -	8,367	1,351,194	17,71,726	2,07,108
Total first tract -	26,732	3,978,840	55,42,765	12,28,221
Kistna - -	8,036	1,452,374	38,46,936	1,64,585
Nellore - -	8,462	1,376,311	24,73,598	89,773
Chingleput -	2,753	938,184	16,32,688	1,57,129
North Arcot -	7,139	2,015,278	26,91,778	3,15,342
Salem - -	7,483	1,966,995	21,88,827	3,06,113
Madura - -	9,502	2,266,615	19,24,196	1,37,974
Coimbatore -	7,432	1,763,274	25,01,180	2,80,718
Trichinoply -	3,515	1,200,408	15,54,787	1,49,363
Tanjore - -	3,654	1,973,731	39,89,490	4,94,555
Total second tract	57,976	14,953,670	2,17,03,480	20,95,582
Grand total -	84,708	18,932,510	2,72,46,245	33,23,803

thus as yet free from actual famine; but even among these, a certain amount of distress, accompanied by high prices, had appeared in South Arcot, Tinnevelly, and Malabar, and causes apprehension regarding the future.

Ganjam.	Tinnevelly.
Vizagapatam.	Nilgiris.
Godavery.	Malabar.
South Arcot.	South Canara.

14. The distress in the Ceded Districts and Kurnool far exceeds, as has been said above, that elsewhere. Taking the remaining districts in rough order, Nellore and Chingleput appear to come first, North Arcot and Salem next, followed by Coimbatore and Madura, while Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and Kistna are comparatively well off.

15. Speaking in general terms, the Madras Government has followed the policy of previous famines in that Presidency by commencing with relief works at the head quarters of taluks and districts, and giving charitable relief freely, and then extending its operations to minor works in the villages. At the end of October that Government also requested permission to commence the earthwork of the railway from Bellary to Guduk in the Dharwar district of the Bombay Presidency, but we withheld our sanction on the same grounds as those which led us to a similar course in the case of the proposed Dhond and Manmar line. The Madras Government then commenced the remaining 85 miles of the east coast canal, the conversion of the Arconum-Conjeveram Railway to the metre gauge, and a canal in the town of Madras.

16. The Madras Government likewise purchased, at the beginning of November, 30,000 tons of grain, which it would appear was intended for use either in payment of wages on relief works, or for sale to the general public, as circumstances might be. We lost no time in intimating our disapproval of this transaction, which was effected without previous communication with the Government of India, and have since negatived two proposals for further purchases, and emphatically expressed our desire that no interference with the operations of trade should be attempted.

17. The number of persons on the relief works, according to the latest accounts, was 1,125,117, to which must be added 119,363 persons receiving charitable relief almost entirely at the expense of the State. The relief expenditure already sanctioned by the Madras Government up to the 30th ultimo was Rs. 55,69,059. The Local Government, in their more recent reports, estimate the total relief expenditure which will be required up to the end of September 1877 at Rs. 3,41,05,875, and the loss of revenue at Rs. 1,17,00,000, making, with extra establishments, a probable total of above four and a half millions sterling.

Mysore and Coorg.

18. The Province of Mysore, like portions of Madras, is undergoing a second year of scarcity, and the failure of both monsoons during the current year has affected the whole Province except a few taluks to the westward, the crops dependent on irrigation from tanks suffering almost as much as the others. The absence of water has also destroyed the pasturage for cattle, the mortality of which, in one district alone, in one month, has been estimated at 11,400 head. The area of Mysore is 27,346 square miles, the population 5,055,000, and the land, forest, and excise revenue Rs. 70,39,819. Relief works were started at an early stage, and in addition to extensive transfers in the budget of the year, special grants, amounting to three lakhs of rupees, have at various times been sanctioned. Expenditure in Mysore does not, of course, fall on imperial revenues. The Chief Commissioner has carefully abstained from all interference with private trade in grain.

In the adjoining district of Coorg, which is British territory, no failure of crops has as yet occurred sufficient to warrant the commencement of relief operations.

Hyderabad.

19. The western and southern portions of the territories of His Highness the Nizam have not escaped the effects of the deficient monsoon. In October last we were urged through the Resident to reduce the freight of grain carried by railway to Hyderabad districts, but did not sanction the measure, as it was deemed by both the Bombay and Madras Governments to be unnecessary. The Nizam's Government has since started relief works, which suffice, as far as we are aware, to meet the exigencies of the case.

20. It will have been seen from the above brief sketch that the entire area of British territory affected by scarcity is 138,911 square miles, the population 26,898,571, and the realisable annual revenue Rs. 4,54,26,315. The estimated loss of revenue is 183 lakhs, and the estimated relief charges 481 lakhs, or a total, including establishment and various unestimated charges, of probably not less than six and a half millions sterling. The number of persons in receipt of relief is 1,531,480.

Summary.

21. The prospect is thus serious in the extreme. While the necessity of preventing, as far as practicable, death by starvation is paramount, the financial embarrassment which must in any case arise will be most difficult to overcome, and any departure from the most rigid economy, or from the principles in dealing with famine which experience has confirmed as sound, may aggravate it to a degree which cannot be estimated. These considerations, together with doubts which we entertained regarding the policy of the Madras Government respecting the purchase of grain and the sufficiency of existing restrictions on employment on the works in both Madras and Bombay, have, as already stated, induced us, after personal conference at Delhi with the Governors of the two Presidencies, to depute Sir Richard Temple on a special mission to visit the distressed districts, confer with the Local Governments, and offer to them such suggestions as he may deem the occasion demands. We have every hope that, under his advice, and by the light of the complete review and forecast above referred to as shortly to be received, the operations may be confined within limits commensurate with the occasion, and that both loss of life and an extravagant outlay may be avoided.

Sir Richard Temple's mission.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) H. W. NORMAN, &c.

Revenue, No. 20.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 15th February 1877.

Para. 1. I have to acknowledge the receipt of the Despatch of your Excellency's Government, dated 12th January, No. 2 of 1877, relative to the scarcity in Southern and Western India.

2. This Despatch gives a comprehensive view of the state of affairs in the distressed districts, and shows that the prospects are extremely serious. On many of the points noticed more recent and complete intelligence has been supplied by your Lordship in Council through the telegraph. On other matters I have already expressed my views, and I have, therefore, no special remark to offer on the present communication.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 4 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, the 19th January 1877.

Your Lordship will have become acquainted, from our telegram of the 16th instant, with the substance of the instructions which we caused on that date to be addressed to Sir Richard Temple with reference to his mission to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. We now enclose a copy of these instructions, which we trust will meet with your Lordship's approval.

2. Considering it to be very important that the public, and especially the trade, should be furnished with definite information regarding the extent of the famine and the policy by which the Government of India will be guided in dealing with it, we deemed it advisable to publish these instructions in the "Gazette of India," together with our Despatch to your Lordship's address of the 12th instant.

3. Sir Richard Temple has visited the Bombay Presidency, and has reached Bellary in the Presidency of Madras. We are glad to find that he is of opinion

that in Bombay the local officers are fully and successfully grappling with the distress around them, and that the substantial safety of the people has been secured, while at the same time there is room for the introduction of some economy in expense. We have received four Minutes from him communicating his impressions on the condition and prospects of the Bombay Presidency. As these Minutes, copies of which are enclosed, have been communicated by him to the Local Government direct, we have thought it best to leave that Government time to consider them, and to take such action on them as it may deem proper before adding any opinion of our own, excepting in two particulars. We have, in deference to Sir Richard Temple's reiterated representations, requested the Bombay Government to abstain for the present from making, or positively promising, remissions of land revenue. We have also placed at Sir Richard Temple's disposal, in compliance with his request, an officer of the Railway Branch of the Public Works Department of the Government of India. The Government of India in the Railway Department have for some time past been adopting all means in their power to increase the rolling stock, and promote its due distribution among the various lines in accordance with their several exigencies, and we have every hope that ere long no difficulties will remain except such as are inherent in the nature of the case.

4. Regarding the Presidency of Madras, we have this day received a telegram from Sir Richard Temple stating that the number of relief labourers is too great to be controlled, and the cost of the operations excessive, but that he is devising suggestions for submission to the Local Government.

5. With reference to your Lordship's desire expressed in a telegram of the 29th ultimo, that special famine narratives should be kept in both Presidencies and forwarded to you periodically, we beg leave to state that we some time ago desired the Government of Madras to prepare a weekly report, similar to that already issued by the Government of Bombay, and have again addressed them by telegraph on the subject. The Bombay report is forwarded to your Lordship weekly by the Local Government, and we presume furnishes the information you require. The substance of these reports, and of such other information as we may receive, will be embodied in a weekly telegram to your address.

6. We regret to state that we have not received from either Bombay, Madras, or Mysore any of the reports of talukas which were due on the 15th instant. We learn by telegraph that a few of them have been dispatched from Bombay and Mysore, and we have telegraphed to expedite the remainder.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON, &c.

No. 62.

Telegram, dated 16th January 1877.

From VICEROY, Calcutta, to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Instructions to Temple issued and published to-day.

Para. 2 explains that while Government will spare no effort consistent with resources of State for prevention of deaths from famine and of extreme suffering, it is essential in present state of finances to practise severe economy. According to estimates, relief of existing scarcity in Madras and Bombay, including loss of revenue, will reach six and a half millions sterling. Considering that the revenues are barely sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure, and heavy additional taxation both financially and politically impossible, the task of dealing with famines, and saving life irrespective of cost, is beyond the power of Government. Relief measures on that principle would involve debt and taxation more fatal to the country than famine itself. Government, however, believes that efficient measures are possible without disastrous expenditure.

Para. 3 enjoins attention to extent and principles of relief. Whilst not questioning the reality of the calamity, reminds Sir Richard Temple that the mere collection of enormous numbers is no proof of serious suffering, and that careful inquiry is necessary. If relief works be carried out on wrong principles; if labour be not strictly exacted; if proper supervision be wanting, and people obtain wages for inadequate work, the numbers in receipt of relief become overwhelming, and population becomes demoralised.

Paras. 4 to 7 explain general principles for relief operations as established by past experience. The small local relief works, which, if well supervised and selected, may be useful as a purely tentative measure before the probable character and extent of a threatened scarcity can be ascertained, become insufficient and unsuitable as soon as it is clear that there will be serious and widespread distress. Large works should then be undertaken where large gangs of labourers can be employed with adequate labour tests. These works must, whenever possible, be of a permanently useful and remunerative character, and in some cases it is easier and wiser to carry

people to works than food to people. Those unfit for hard labour can be employed in poor-houses or on easy work near their homes.

Paras. 8 to 10 state that it is very important to ascertain how far private trade, if left quite unfettered, may be counted on to supply wants of Madras; affirm non-interference with private trade as leading principle of Government action; approve payment of labourers on relief works in money as long as possible; deprecate attempts of local officers to reduce price of food, as high prices curtail consumption and encourage importation; public purchase of grain may be unobjectionable if made on commissariat principles from nearest depôts of the trade for supply of relief works, and possibly for certain localities remote from railroads.

Para. 11 directs inquiry into sufficiency of arrangements for transport and landing of grain.

Para. 12 communicates general principles in regard to manner of meeting famine charges; states opinion that the main portion of the charges incurred on public works, which permanently protect people against famine and add greatly to their wealth, should be borne by the people protected and benefited rather than by the general taxpayer, and that every Province should, as far as practicable, be held responsible for meeting cost of its own famines; quotes paragraphs 11 and 12 from Secretary of State's Despatch No. 59 (Revenue), of 25th November 1875, and affirms that the general principles thus laid down are under consideration, and must be borne in mind with reference to present famine.

No. 45.

From the Secretary to the Government of India to the Hon. Sir Richard Temple, Bart., K.C.S.I., Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal (on a Special Mission).

Calcutta, the 16th January 1877.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council having been pleased to depute you on a special mission for the purpose of inspecting the districts suffering from scarcity in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and conferring personally with the Governments of those Presidencies regarding the measures which are being carried out, and which will have to be carried out, for the relief of distress, I am directed to communicate to you the following observations, indicating the general views of the Government of India on some of the more important questions with which you will have to deal.

2. I am to observe in the first place, that while it is the desire of the Government of India that every effort should be made, so far as the resources of the State admit, for the prevention of deaths from famine, it is essential in the present state of the finances that the most severe economy should be practised. The distress is so widespread, extending over 21 districts in the two Presidencies, and more or less affecting a population of 27,000,000, and threatens to be protracted for so many months, that the utmost care is necessary to restrict the expenditure to the absolute requirements of the case. Even, however, if financial considerations were less overpoweringly strong, it would still be true that a Government has no better right in times of scarcity than in other times to attempt the task of preventing all suffering, and of giving general relief to the poorer classes of the community. False and mischievous ideas on this subject have become so prevalent, that the Government runs some risk of being charged with inhumanity, when it declares that these are the principles by which it intends to be guided. The Governor-General in Council will not be deterred by such considerations as these from a course of action which he knows to be right. Everyone admits the evils of indiscriminate private charity, but the indiscriminate charity of a Government is far worse. The Government of India is resolved to spare no efforts which may be necessary and practicable, with reference to the means at its disposal, to save the population of the distressed districts from starvation, or from an extremity of suffering dangerous to life; but it will not sanction a course of action which must tend to demoralise the people themselves, who are passing through a time of temporary trial, and inevitably lead to the imposition of heavy and permanent burdens on the industry of the country. Even for an object of such paramount importance as the preservation of life, it is obvious that there are limits which are imposed upon us by the facts with which we have to deal. If the estimates of the Local Governments are to be accepted, the relief of the existing scarcity in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, including loss of revenue, will not cost less than six and a half millions sterling. Considering that the revenues are barely sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure of the Empire, and that heavy additional taxation is both financially and politically impracticable, we must plainly admit that the task of saving life, irrespective of the cost, is one which it is beyond our power to undertake. The simple fact is this, that the recurrence of a few famines, such as that from which the country is now suffering, or such as that which occurred three years ago in Behar, would, if measures of relief were carried on upon that principle, go far to render the future Government of India impossible. The embarrassment of debt, and the weight of taxation, consequent on the expenditure thereby involved, would soon become more fatal to the country than famine itself. Happily, however, the Government are not placed in any such dilemma. They believe that from the history of past famines, rules of action may be learnt which will enable them in the future to provide efficient assistance for the suffering people without incurring disastrous expenditure.

3. One of the first points which should engage your attention is the extent to which relief is given, and the principles on which it is afforded. The numbers on the relief works are so great, that the Government of India see reason to apprehend that many persons must be employed to whom such relief is not absolutely essential, and who without it would have been able to maintain themselves, at all events for some time to come. The Governor-General in Council does not for a moment doubt the reality of the calamity that has fallen upon the country, a calamity which unhappily

Madras—		
On relief works	1,125,117	
Fed gratuitously	119,363	
		1,244,480
Bombay—		
On relief works		287,000
		1,531,480

threatens to become ere long still more disastrous. But it is necessary to remember that the mere collection of enormous numbers of people on relief works in seasons of scarcity is in itself no sufficient proof of serious actual suffering. If relief works are carried on upon wrong principles; if labour is not strictly exacted from all who are physically able to work; if proper supervision is wanting, and people find that they can obtain, almost for the asking, and in return for next to no work at all, wages in money or in grain, there is hardly any limit to the numbers who even in prosperous times may be attracted to them. "When," as Sir George Campbell has observed, "a lax system is established, and everyone down to the merest child gets paid for the merest "pretence of work, with probably a good many abuses besides, the thing becomes too attractive, "the whole country tends to come on the works, the numbers threaten to be absolutely over-"whelming. The people, too, become demoralised; works, where real work is exacted, are "deserted, and many evils follow." A good illustration of this may be found in the official narrative of the scarcity of 1873–74 in the North-western Provinces. "In a season of considerable "pressure, but not of absolute famine, the relief works in Gorakhpur and Basti were for some "weeks daily thronged by more than 200,000 men, women, and children, who found an attraction "in the light work, in the liberty of going at night to their houses after attending a sort of vast "picnic during the day, and in the wages earned at a time when ordinarily they had no employ-"ment in the fields, and had to live on their harvest savings. But when the wages were cut "down to a mere subsistence allowance, when a full day's labour was insisted on, and when the "liberty of living at their homes was threatened, these immense crowds melted away as rapidly "as they had collected, and it was found that there was hardly anyone who really stood in need "of relief." The Governor-General in Council does not assert that a similar condition of things now exists in any of the districts of Madras or Bombay, but the matter is one which requires the most careful observation.

4. The general principles on which operations for the relief of famine in India should be conducted, have been established beyond question by past experience. When, as may easily happen, at the commencement of a period of distress, it is a matter of doubt whether serious scarcity is actually threatening a tract of country, it may be desirable, in the first instance, to open, as a tentative measure, small and well supervised local works. The Government may thus avoid the risk of finding itself committed to serious expenditure on large public works which there was no immediate necessity for undertaking. It was for reasons of this kind that the Government of India, at the commencement of the present scarcity, and while still in doubt regarding the extent to which relief operations might ultimately become necessary, thought it right, both in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, to encourage, in the first instance, the organization of works of a local character in preference to those of greater magnitnde. But when it becomes no longer a matter of doubt that serious scarcity is impending, and that relief will have to be provided upon an extensive scale, the great difficulty of insuring adequate supervision for numerous scattered works renders it necessary to resort to large works on which large gangs of labourers can be employed, and on which adequate labour tests can be exacted. As soon, therefore, as it is clear that the Government will have to undertake serious measures for the relief of scarcity, no time should be lost in giving to the people, to the greatest extent practicable, the means of employment on large public works. Such works supply the means of subsistence to the able-bodied poor; they prevent, instead of merely relieving, distress.

In choosing such works it is obviously of great importance that those selected shall be of a permanently useful and remunerative character; for it is in the last degree unsatisfactory that when the necessity for employing great multitudes of people is forced upon the Government, their labour, which might have been devoted to works which would have conferred lasting benefit on the country, should be thrown away. The works should also be such as are calculated to absorb in comparison with their entire cost a sufficient proportion of labour during the anticipated period of famine. They need not always be in the distressed districts, or near the homes of the people who require relief. When railways or other thoroughly good means of communication are available, it may sometimes be easier and wiser to carry the people to the works and to their food, than to carry the food to the people. Temporary migration from their homes has always, in times of scarcity, been the natural and one of the best remedies to which the people have had recourse, and the organization of public works in places where food is plentiful, and to which access is not difficult from the distressed districts, may in some cases be more useful than works at places where the supply of food is already insufficient. No apprehension need be felt that the people will not return to their homes when the period of distress has passed away. It will be for you to consider how far these principles are being acted on, and if necessary to recommend to the Local Governments the discontinuance of any works, or system of works, which, in your opinion, cannot be usefully proceeded with.

6. When, by undertaking large public works, employment has been provided for the able-bodied poor, it may still be necessary, even before the pressure of famine has become extreme, to afford means of support to persons who are physically unable to give a full amount of labour in return for the wages they receive. These must either be employed in poorhouses or on roads and other easy work, every effort being made to prevent relief being given to anyone who does not really require it. It has often been found a most useful test of actual distress to insist, when charitable relief is necessary, that it shall ordinarily be given in the shape of cooked food.

7. It should be added that when distress becomes extreme, and a state of absolute famine has been reached, that large public works may become insufficient to afford relief to the numbers of people in need of it. At such a time the Government may be driven to set up relief works near the homes of the people on a scale inconsistent with careful supervision or searching tests. Such measures as may be practicable must then be adopted for reducing to a minimum the inevitable evils that will then arise. The Governor-General in Council leaves it to you to communicate to the Local Governments the results of your own experience in regard to this very difficult part of the question,

8. A very satisfactory feature in the course taken by the Bombay Government in dealing with the present famine is their adherence to the principle of non-interference with private trade, which up to the present time they have acted on with marked success. In Madras a different policy has been observed. At an early stage in the scarcity, the Government of Madras contracted through a local firm for a supply of 30,000 tons of grain, to be used as a reserve to meet deficiencies in the local markets. Applications for authority to make further similar purchases have since been received, but have not been sanctioned, the Government of India being of opinion that such purchases are seriously calculated to discourage the operations of private trade, and to increase, instead of diminishing, the difficulty of procuring the supplies which will be necessary to augment the deficient food supply of the Presidency. Inquiry has been made whether this objection would apply to the Government advertising for tenders for the supply and delivery of grain in the immediate neighbourhood of certain works on which gangs of labourers are employed at a distance from all local markets. The answer must of course be in the negative. There is no more objection to such purchases than there is to the Government making purchases through the Commissariat for the troops. The objection is to the Government entering into transactions which may excite apprehensions on the part of traders, that the Government are about to take their place, and so to disarrange the bases on which they found their calculations of profit. This objection is especially applicable to purchases of a secret character. In such cases the fact that the Government are in the market is almost certain to become known, and thereupon doubts are raised as to the nature and extent of the transaction, and private trade is paralysed. In regard not only to this but all other matters connected with the management of famines, the general rule should be that the operations of the Government, and the reasons on which those operations are based, shall receive full and complete explanation and publicity.

9. One of your most important duties in connexion with the present state of things in the Madras Presidency will be to ascertain how far private trade, if left perfectly unfettered, may be counted on to supply the wants of that Presidency. As at present informed, the Governor-General in Council entertains a strong opinion that the supply of that Presidency from foreign sources, such as Burma, Bengal, &c., should be left altogether to private trade, and that the intention of the Government so to act should be widely made known, together with full and frequent information regarding the prices of food grains and other articles of consumption in the distressed and other districts. It is possible, however, that in certain localities at a distance from the lines of railway and from large markets, it may be requisite for the Government to intervene by making purchases at the nearest local depôt to which the trade will convey the grain. In such cases, where the local trade, from whatever cause, is not active, the direct intervention of the Government may probably tend rather to facilitate than to discourage the importation of grain, by affording confidence to the trade that importations will find a certain purchaser. Finally, it must not be overlooked that there is a great advantage in paying labourers on relief works in money, wherever and so long as this mode of relief is practicable.

10. The Governor-General in Council would have hoped that it was hardly necessary to impress upon local officers the importance of exercising no interference of any kind with the object of reducing the price of food; but cases have come to his notice which show that a warning on this point may not be uncalled for. It is obvious that, especially in a time of scarcity, nothing could be more mischievous than such interference, and that high prices, by reducing consumption and encouraging the imporatation of fresh supplies of food, are not only necessary but highly beneficial.

11. Another matter of importance is the question of transport of grain, both on the railways and to parts of the country with which the existing means of communication are insufficient, as well as of providing additional facilities for landing it at the ports. These matters, the Government of India have reason to believe, have not been at all overlooked by the Local Governments, but it is probable that your experience will enable you to offer valuable suggestions on the subject.

12. There is one other subject to which the Governor-General in Council thinks it desirable to refer, not because it is one with which you will have at present in any way to deal, but because he wishes to place you generally in possession of the views which are held by the Government of India on all the more serious questions connected with the treatment of Indian famines.

You will observe that his Excellency in Council, in my letter to the Government of Bombay, No. 5A., dated the 5th instant, has laid down the principle that if any great irrigation works or other works of local and provincial importance, involving heavy future responsibilities for their completion and maintenance, be undertaken, certain rules will be held applicable, which will hereafter be prescribed, in regard to the enforcement of provincial responsibility for meeting the charges for extraordinary public works. This is not a convenient time for entering into a full discussion of these questions, but his Excellency in Council desires to take the present opportunity of declaring his opinion, not only that the main portion of the charges incurred on public works which protect the people against famine, and which add greatly to their wealth, should be borne by the people protected and benefited, and not by the general taxpayer, but also that every Province ought, so far as may be practicable, to be held responsible for meeting the cost of the famines from which it may suffer. The Governor-General in Council believes that until these principles are enforced, the only real security for wise and economical management will be wanting. When Local Governments and local officers understand that the inevitable consequence of unnecessary expenditure will be the imposition of heavy burdens upon their own people, and not upon those of other Provinces, a powerful and most useful check upon extravagance will have been established. On this subject the opinions of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India have been expressed in a passage which may properly be quoted here:—*

"There is a further point, though not one to fall within the scope of such an inquiry as that which you have directed to be made, which should, in my opinion, be carefully considered

* Despatch from Secretary of State to Government of India, No. 59 (Revenue) dated 25th November 1875.

by your Excellency's Government before the questions that arise in connexion with the occurrences of 1873–74 can be regarded as fairly met. I refer to the proper incidence of the charges that are necessarily incurred in providing for the requirements of the population of a distric in a period of drought. However plain may be the primary obligation on the State to do all that is requisite and possible towards preserving the lives of the people under such circumstances, it would be most unwise to overlook the great danger of tacitly accepting, if not the doctrine, at least the practice, of making the general revenues bear the whole burden of meeting all local difficulties or of relieving all local distress, and of supplying the needful funds by borrowing in a shape that establishes a permanent charge on the general revenues for all future time. In Bengal, where (as the Lieutenant-Governor observes in reference to the objections of the Government in relation to emigration) the beneficial interest of the Government in the land is limited by the permanent settlement, these considerations are of special and more pressing application.

"The question which is thus raised, of how to make local resources aid in meeting local wants, is no doubt one of great difficulty and complexity, particularly in a country like India. But the difficulty of providing any satisfactory solution of it should not be allowed to obscure the perception of its vital importance to the future well-being of the country, as well as of the troubles to the Government and the demoralisation of the people which must necessarily result from postponing too long the introduction of some system under which shall be suitably recognised the undoubted responsibility which rests on the people themselves to provide for their own support and well-being. The duty of the State does not extend further than to see that the needful means are supplied for giving effect to this principle, and for distributing the local burdens arising from its practical application in the manner which shall be most equitable and least onerous to those who have to bear them."

The manner in which these principles shall be carried into practical effect is under the consideration of the Government. It is sufficient at present to say that the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that they ought to be kept in view in connexion with the present scarcity, and that a considerable portion, if not the whole, of the permanent charges which relief operations now in progress may entail ought to be borne by the Presidencies in which the expenditure is being incurred.

13. The above are the only observations that the Government of India deem it at present necessary to place on record in connexion with the onerous and delicate duty which you have undertaken; and they have been made, not so much the view of advising you on a subject which you have probably studied more thoroughly than any other public officer in India, as for the purpose of furnishing you with a statement of the views of the Government of India, to which you can refer in your communications with the Local Governments. I am directed, in conclusion, to convey to you the cordial thanks of the Governor-General in Council for the promptitude with which on this, as on other occasions, you have responded to the call made upon you.

I.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Callian, 9th January 1877.

I have had the advantage of meeting some of the civil officers of Khandesh and Násik, and of conferring with them on the condition and prospects of their districts. The officers who, under the orders of his Excellency the Governor of Bombay, met me, were Mr. Erskine, the Collector of Násik, Major Probyn, the District Superintendent of Police and Bheel Agent in Khandesh, and Mr. Pollen, Assistant Collector in charge of the more distressed parts of the Khandesh district. Mr. Probert, the Collector of Khandesh, sent me a short written account of the prospects of his district, being prevented by indisposition from meeting me in person. As I am pressing forward towards more distressed tracts in the south, my inquires were only of a summary and cursory character. Still I deem it right to record, for the information of the Government of India, such information as I have gathered, and such general impressions as I have subject to future correction received.

2. *Khandesh.*—First, with reference to the Khandesh district. This district is divided into two parts by the Agra road, which passes through Dhoolia, the head quarters of the Collector. In the part of Khandesh westward of the Agra road, the autumn (kharif) harvest has yielded a twelve-anna* crop, or about three quarters of the yield in ordinarily good years. The millet, which constitutes the food of the common people in these parts, is an autumn crop. In the immediate valley of the Taptee the crop is better still. To the eastward of the Agra road the autumn harvest has yielded on the average a six-anna (or less than half the ordinary) crop; but in this part of the district the out-turn has varied much, one village having a fair harvest and another yielding hardly any crop. The yield of the coming spring (rabi) crop will, so far as present appearances show, be about the same as the autumn (kharif) crop in both sections of the district.

* Note A.

I observe that in the Honourable T. C. Hope's letter of the 30th November, the average yield is taken at 12 annas, but the figures given me by the Collectors were on the assumption that 16 annas represented an ordinary good yield.

3. The grain markets are well supplied. Prices were very dear some weeks ago, ranging up to six and seven seers per rupee; but prices are now cheaper, and millet, the food of the common people, is now quoted at 12† seers per rupee. It is said that the dearness of November was partly caused by the interference of municipalities in the grain trade; and the present comparative cheapness is ascribed to unrestricted trade and large importations from other parts of India.

† Note B.

The latest printed summary issued by the Bombay Government, under date the 5th January, reached me after this minute was written; I see the price of millet there quoted at 30 lbs. per rupee. Prices are known to vary; and this is cheaper than the quotations given me by the Khandesh officers. In any case prices are clearly not dear.

4. On the relief works are about 6,000* persons, mainly employed on about three roads; these works are under engineering supervision, and it is reported that taskwork is rigorously exacted. The relief wages paid on these works are one anna, plus half a *local* seer (equal to about 1½ lbs.) of flour per diem for an able-bodied man; women and children are paid at proportionately lower rates. The labourers on these works consist partly of immigrants from the Ahmednagar, and even from the Sholapur district; the rest belong to Khandesh, and are chiefly field labourers who are out of work by reason of the failure of the harvest. It is believed that without this employment some of the people in Khandesh would drop into severe distress; whether they would die is doubtful. At present but few ryots are on the relief works; but the numbers resorting to relief works will probably increase as the hot weather comes, and the total numbers on the Khandesh relief works are expected to reach 9,000 in all, or about one per cent. on the total district population of one million. The peasantry are said to very much in debt.

* NOTE C.
The printed summary cited in the foregoing Note B. puts the number at 3,341, which is considerably less than the number given me by the local officers.

5. There are some hundreds of persons receiving charitable relief, which number may increase.

6. The cotton crop, on which the people chiefly rely to pay the land revenue, has failed to a considerable extent. The Collector expects that four or five lakhs (40,000*l.* or 50,000*l.*) of land revenue will have to be remitted.

7. The condition of the Bheels in the Taptee Valley and on the hills beyond is reported to be now quite satisfactory. The men of the tribe are taking much trouble to graze the distressed cattle and to make themselves useful.

Next as to Násik district. In the eastern part of this district, towards Ahmednagar, the yield of the autumn crop is estimated at two annas only, or one-eighth of an ordinary harvest, and there is no prospect of any spring crop, as the seed was not even sown. Happily, the area of Násik coming under this category is comparatively small. In the rest of the district, the yield of the autumn and spring crops will be from five annas to seven annas, or from one-third to nearly one-half of an ordinary harvest. A good deal of green healthy rabi (spring) crop came under my observation.

9. The condition of the people and the supply of grain in the Násik markets is much the same as in Khandesh; but the price of millet is somewhat dearer, being about ten† seers per rupee. I could not ascertain the exact cause of this difference, but the Collector informed me that food is always a little dearer in the Násik than in the Khandesh district. At present 16,000‡ persons are employed on relief works. This total, coming to about 2 per cent. on the district population of 700,000 persons, is higher than in Khandesh. The Collector explains that many of his labourers are from the adjoining district of Ahmednagar. Relief wages are two annas a day for able-bodied men, with proportionate rates for women and children. Taskwork is said to be exacted; and the work is mainly on roads as in Khandesh. In each of these district, one tank is to be undertaken as a relief work; but it is said that the trap formation underlying the soil of these parts is not favourable to the construction of tanks. It is expected that the total of relief labourers in Násik will rise to 20,000 in the hot weather; but the Collector hopes that, when the fields have to be prepared in the month of May, the numbers on relief works will rapidly decrease. Here also the ryots are said to be much in debt.

† NOTE D.
The printed summary mentioned in Note B. above gives the prices of millet at 32 and 28 lbs. per rupee, which is cheaper than the quotation given me by the Collector.

‡ NOTE E.
The summary puts the total at the somewhat higher figure of 18,900.

10. Some apprehension is felt regarding the supply of drinking water in the hot weather, as the Godavery and other rivers are already extraordinarily low. The grazing grounds are becoming overcrowded by cattle from the more distressed parts of the Ahmednagar district.

11. There are some hundreds of persons in receipt of charitable relief; and these numbers will probably increase.

12. The cotton crop has been poor in Násik also; and it is expected that three lakhs (30,000*l.*) of land revenue will have to be remitted. The recent settlements of the land revenue have resulted in some enhancement of the Government demand.

13. *General impressions.*—Looking to the circumstances and prospects of these districts of Khandesh and Násik, I have received, subject to possible future correction, the following general impressions:—

(1.) That the local officers have no apprehension whatever of serious distress; and the circumstances of the neighbouring districts of Nemar and Berar, where the crops have been good and distress is not felt, seem to warrant this view. I passed through the whole length of the Nerbudda Valley and saw the spring crop excellent.

(2.) All that is necessary is already being done, and well done on a regular system, carefully administered by the district officers.

(3.) If any criticism is to be made it is this,—that perhaps the local officers may be doing slightly more than is absolutely necessary for the saving of human life, and that the strictest economy should be practised and severe caution exercised as to admitting more labourers on relief works, or more persons to charitable relief.

(4.) That it is difficult to make a precise calculation of the proportion which persons receiving relief bear to the distressed population, by reason of the number of immigrants from other districts, and it is desirable to ascertain what proportion of the relief labourers are local and what proportion are from without.

(5.) That while suspension of the Government land revenue may be very proper, yet it may be prudent for the present to abstain from either remitting or promising the people any remission on account of the scarcity. I should deprecate promises of remission of land

revenue until such time as the development of the facts of scarcity shall have established the absolute necessity of such action.

(6.) That the rate of wages on Khandesh relief works, where there is a mixed payment of cash and grain, may be a little too liberal; and perhaps this rate deserves a more detailed consideration on the spot than I am at present able to give.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

No. II.—MINUTE by SIR R. TEMPLE, dated Hyderabad, 12th January 1877.

I have had the advantage of meeting at Sholapur, and conferring on the condition and prospects of the country with some of the principal civil officers of the Deccan, with the engineer officers of the Sholapur district, and with Dr. Hewlett, the Sanitary Commissioner. These officers had, by the kindness of the Government of Bombay, been directed to meet me. The Revenue Commissioner, Mr. Robertson, had just visited the district of Ahmednagar, and he was able to describe generally the condition of the Dharwar, Satara, Belgaum, and Kaládgi districts; his information regarding the two latter districts was not quite complete or recent, because they are now under the supervision of Mr. Grey, the additional Commissioner, whom I was not able to meet. For the Poona district, Mr. Norman, the Collector, was able to give me complete information; while Mr. Grant, the Collector of Sholapur, and the engineers, Major Mathews and Mr. Burke, were ready with a full statement of facts with regard to the Sholapur district.

2. The area and severity of the failure of the crops may be thus shown for each district:—

Ahmednagar.—One-half severely affected, having secured only a one-anna crop at the autumn harvest; in this part of the district there will be only a one-anna spring crop. In the less distressed parts a six-anna (nearly half an average) crop has been secured. In the printed summaries, three-quarters of this district are shown as "affected," but it was explained to me that only half is severely, the rest of the district being partially, affected.

Poona.—Half the district severely affected. In those parts the people ordinarily grow millet as a spring crop, and this has almost entirely failed; perhaps the year's harvest here may yield a one anna-crop. In the other half of the district, millet (bajra) is grown as an autumn crop, and the average yield will be a six-anna, or a little less than half an ordinary, crop.

Sholapur.—The whole district is severely affected. Part produces autumn and part spring millets. There has been no crop at all this season, save in small batches of irrigated land. On the whole the two harvests cannot yield more than a one-anna (one-sixteenth of a full) crop.

Satara.—One-third of the district is severely affected, and in this tract there has been a three-anna (less than a quarter) crop. In the rest of the district the harvests of the year will have yielded a six-anna (something less than half of a full) crop.

Kaládgi.—The failure of all the crops is complete and general, just as in Sholapur, and the yield of the year cannot exceed a one-anna (one-sixteenth of a full) crop.

Dharwar; Belgaum.—These two districts are in the same case: one-third of each is severely affected and will produce only a one-anna crop. Over the remainder of these two districts a six-anna (something less than half a full) crop will be secured all round.

3. For facility of reference I reproduce here the figures of the published summaries respecting the districts and areas affected, with the remark that the portions of Ahmednagar, Poona, Satara, Belgaum, and Dharwar, now said to be "severely affected," are somewhat smaller than the areas shown in the published summaries, which are as follows:—

	Total Area in Square Miles.	Affected Area in Square Miles.	Total Population.	Population of Affected Area.
Ahmednagar - - -	6,647	5,340	773,938	640,000
Poona - - - -	5,099	2,500	907,235	318,601
Sholapur - - -	4,496	4,496	718,034	718,034
Satara - - - -	4,988	2,682	1,064,002	461,000
Kaládgi - - - -	5,695	5,695	816,037	816,037
Belgaum - - - -	4,591	2,660	938,750	501,000
Dharwar - - - -	4,564	3,000	988,037	630,000
Total - - -	36,080	26,373	6,206,033	4,084,672

4. Regarding the condition and character of the population of these districts, I am informed that in Dharwar, Belgaum, and Kaládgi the people are in general well off, the ryots are not much in debt, and they are believed to hold considerable stocks of grain. In Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur, and to a somewhat less degree in Satara, a large proportion of the ryots are said to be in debt.

5. In all the seven districts the markets are well supplied with grain, which has been imported largely from other parts of India. The price of imported grain rules the market, though in most districts, except Sholapur, a certain amount of local grain is exposed for sale. Prices at the head-quarter towns and at large marts are near the same as were given* in the last printed summary. But prices are somewhat dearer in the interior away from the railway line. Generally speaking, I may say that prices are not, save in Kaládgi, dearer than 10 seers per rupee. Some weeks ago food was much dearer, and reached 10 lbs. per rupee in Kaládgi and 14 lbs. in Sholapur. The cheaper prices now ruling are due to the large importations which have taken place. If the present

* Prices for the last week, as given in the latest summary printed by the Government of Bombay:—

Ahmednagar -	30	lbs. per rupee.
Poona -	23	" "
Sholapur -	20	" "
Satara -	20½	" "
Kaládgi -	17½	" "
Belgaum -	20	" "
Dharwar -	19	" "

rate of importations into the Deccan continue, and if the railway-borne grain can be distributed by local traders among the villages of the interior, there is ground for hoping that prices may not greatly rise over any large area of the country.

6. It is always difficult for local officers to give a confident opinion regarding the grain stocks. The people generally complain that the stocks are low. Mr. Robertson, the Commissioner, who has served for many years in these parts, tells me that, as a rule, the produce of the spring millet crops in the Deccan does not generally come into consumption until six months after the end of the harvest. Under this view there would even now be stocks in the Deccan equal to the demand of the country for some few months. Mr. Grant, the Collector of Sholapur, thinks that in some parts of his district where the crops of 1875–76 were short, the stocks must be very small. Mr. Norman, Collector of Poona, fears that the stocks cannot be large, for but little local grain has come out into the Poona market, which is mainly supplied with imported grain. Even these two officers, however, consider that there must be at least two or three months' supply of local grain in the country; and they expect that sufficient seed-grain, as well as a considerable quantity of local food-grain, will be forthcoming as soon as favourable rains fall. My own impression is that in the Deccan, as in other parts of India, there are still considerable local stocks in the possession of the people, while probably there are larger stocks than elsewhere in the comparatively rich districts of Dharwar and Kaládgi. Still these stocks cannot be expected to become largely available for general use, until there is some assured hope for next season's harvest.

7. The character of the previous year's harvests has on occasions like the present an important bearing on the capacity of the people to withstand a total failure of their crops. I find that the harvests of the year 1875–76 are said to have been as follows:—

Ahmednagar.—Good on the whole.

Poona.—Good in two-thirds of the district, but poor in one-third.

Sholapur.—Good in one-half, but bad in about one-half.

Satara.—Fair on the whole.

Kalâdgi.—Good on the whole, and in parts very good.

Belgaum.—In parts poor.

Dharwar.—Good, except in the one-third now affected, where it was poor.

It would therefore seem that, except in Sholapur and a part of Poona, Belgaum, and Dharwar, the previous year left the people in a fair condition to meet the present failure.

8. The numbers of persons employed in relief works, according to the last published summary, are given in the margin. These figures agree very nearly with the totals now given me by the local officers. I was able to gain particulars regarding the Poona and Sholapur works only, and respecting them I note the following points:—

Number of persons on the relief works in the beginning of January:—	
Ahmednagar	30,087
Poona	47,000
Sholapur	93,120
Satara	21,108
Kaládgi	27,239
Belgaum	25,000
Dharwar	22,353
Total	265,907

9. *Poona Works.*—About 23,000 persons are on works under the irrigation officers and the Executive Engineer; all the rest (about 25,000) are on petty tank and road works under the civil officers. Taskwork or piecework is not exacted from relief labourers under the civil officers; there is some supervision over the works, but not of the kind or strength requisite to enforce taskwork. The Collector would wish to enforce taskwork, and thereby to keep away people not actually driven by necessity. One-half the people are women and children; all of them are in good physical condition as in ordinary years, and the Collector, Mr. Norman, doubts if as many as one-half of his labourers are working from the fear of immediate want.

10. *Sholapur Works.*—About 25,000 people are employed under the engineers of the Irrigation and Public Works Departments, principally on three or four large works. Taskwork is enforced by Major Mathews, the Executive Engineer, on about one-half the labourers; the supervising staff is not sufficient to exact proper taskwork from the remainder. Recently 10,000 labourers left the Executive Engineer's works and went on the petty works under civil officers. All the departmental subordinates think, and Major Mathews agrees in their view, that a great number (perhaps half) of the workpeople are not driven to the works by the direct pressure of want. On the irrigation works Mr. Burke enforces taskwork, and his works are done at the ordinary rates. Recently, when relief wages were reduced proportionately to the cheapening of the price of grain, several hundreds left Mr. Burke's works and went to the petty works under civil officers. He, too, thinks that a great number of the labourers are not driven on the works by want. On all the works under engineering supervision the physical condition of the people is very good.

About 75,000 persons are employed upon a large number of petty works under the Sholapur civil officers. Of these more than half are women and children. No taskwork is exacted. There is some supervision, but until recently the Collector had no professional assistance. The workpeople are said to be in good physical condition. I was able myself to visit one considerable relief work a few miles outside Sholapur, where all the labourers appear to be stout and thriving. I ascertained also that a good number of the workpeople belonged to the classes who own a beneficial interest in the lands. Mr. Grant says that the state of some of the people was quite pitiable when they first came on the works two or three months ago. He believes that most of them are working to keep off starvation, for they have nothing but relief wages to depend upon; some few perhaps could get or borrow means of subsistence. He points out that in one tract (the Barsi Taluk), where the crops were good, he has only 800 labourers, whereas in the adjoining tract (Sangola Taluk), where the crops failed, some 18,000 are on the works. He says that some of the people on the works belong to the higher castes, who certainly would not come unless they were driven by want.

11. Mr. Robertson, the Commissioner, believes that a great number of the people are on the relief works who are not driven there by the pressure of actual present want. He considers that measures could be taken to reduce the number of labourers by making the labour irksome. But he points out that more professional engineering supervision and additional trustworthy subordinates are required to do this properly. He urges, and in this view the Collectors of Poona and Sholapur fully agree, that the bulk of the labourers should be concentrated on larger works, if competent professional supervision is to be adequately utilised. Mr. Grant gave me a list of 13 moderate-sized irrigation works which he recommends for the different sub-divisions (taluks) of his district; for some of these, plans and estimates already exist or are under preparation.

12. Dr. Hewlett, the Sanitary Commissioner, tells me that on all the relief works he visited, the workpeople were found to be strong and in good condition.

13. The rate of relief wages is the same which has been laid down by the Government of Bombay, namely, one anna in cash plus one lb. of grain or its equivalent in cash. This is the universal relief wage for able-bodied men, and the rate is proportionately lower. Mr. Burke, the Irrigation Engineer, showed that this sliding scale worked well in one instance, for on the price of grain cheapening, he recently reduced his relief wage to 7 anna in cash, and thereupon some hundreds of able-bodied men left the work. I am not able, after so hurried a visit to the Deccan, to say that this rate of relief wages is too high, but its working should be carefully watched on the spot, and if it proves too attractive in drawing to the works large numbers of people who are apparently well off, the rate might be reconsidered. When arrangements for exacting taskwork are complete, all persons who will not do a full day's work should get less than the present rate. In a country where the women and children of a family work, and where the helpless poor are to receive charitable aid, the relief wages should not at the outset exceed a bare subsistence. The local officers will be best able to say whether in the Deccan one lb. of flour and one anna per diem is or is not more than a bare subsistence for a single man. I am aware that it may seem hard measure to dole out bare subsistence to a hungry man who has to work all day, and I should be very glad if we could help the poor creatures more liberally; but it appears to me that the public purse and the general taxpayer cannot afford to relieve more than the barest necessities of the really distressed.

14. The Bombay Government has assigned to each district and to each sub-division (taluk, corresponding to a tahsil in Northern India) a sum of money to meet the cost of relieving the aged and helpless poor. The village officers (the patel and kulkarni) have prepared for each village a list of the blind, lame, lepers, and other absolutely helpless persons who are likely to require charitable relief, and the village officers have orders to relieve such people, and also to help starving travellers who may be found in their villages, all such disbursements being reported to the sub-divisional officer (mamlutdar). But as yet very little money has been spent out of the Government allotments. In the Poona district between 1,000 and 2,000 persons are being relieved from the Government grant; in Sholapur about 3,000 persons, and in Ahmednagar about 1,500, are being relieved by private charity. I had the pleasure of visiting three places in Sholapur where private committees distribute food daily to some thousands of applicants. All honour is due to the public who find the means for, and to the ladies and gentlemen who administer, such charity. But except the lame, the blind, the lepers, and the very aged, I did not see any applicants who would, under a strict view of the case, be fit recipients for State charity outside the relief works. I saw not a single one of those emaciated adults or of the unmistakeably famine-stricken children whom many of us saw with sorrow in the worst times of the Behar famine. Among the 1,700 children to whom the daily dole was being distributed, my eye did not detect one who was not plump and comparatively well clad.

15. The local officers pointed out that if village to village inspection be needed to save life, when the great pressure comes during the hot season, sub-circles will have to be formed under the sub-divisional officers, and the village staff will have to be strengthened in larger villages and in smaller towns. Mr. Robertson, the Commissioner, considered that in the most affected tracts a European relief officer would be required for each sub-division (taluk).

16. It was mentioned that suspension or remission of land revenue were being proposed in each district as follows:—

In the Ahmednagar district	6	lakhs	out of a total land revenue of				-	11	lakhs.
„ Poona	„ 6	„	„	„	„		-	13	„
Sholapur	„ 10	„	„	„	„		-	$10\frac{3}{4}$	„
Satara	„ 5	„	„	„	„		-	15	„
Kaládgi	„ 6	„	„	„	„		-	12	„
Belgaum	„ 5	„	„	„	„		-	14	„
Dharwar	„ $4\frac{1}{2}$	„	„	„	„		-	22	„
Total - -	42	„	„	„	„		-	$97\frac{3}{4}$	„

The Commissioner and the Collectors agree that if a bumper crop comes next year then much or most of the land revenue suspended this year could be collected. If two good years were to come, then all the suspended Government demands could be recovered. Four years ago in Poona the Collector succeeded in collecting all the land revenue suspended during the previous year.

17. The local officers laid stress on the difficulty and loss of cattle occasioned by the utter absence of green or any other fodder. The Bombay Government has done all that can be done by opening the forest reserves and helping to carry cattle thither. The Collector of Poona reported that in the affected part of his district no cattle are left, save a few pairs which ply in grain carts; all the rest have gone away to the grazing grounds in the hills. Some died on the journey. The cattle from Ahmednagar are said to have been driven off the hills, while some are

being fed at home on the produce of irrigated lands. In Sholapur the case is worse, for many of the cattle have been sold in the Nizam's territory, or died on the road to the hill forests beyond Poona.

Mr. Robertson and Mr. Norman say that the ryots themselves do not as yet feel afraid that their plough cattle will die before the rainy season begins. These officers believe that the deaths have been as yet mainly among the old cows and other worn-out beasts.

18. Relief labour is being employed to secure and improve the water supply. Already difficulty is being felt in some places; the great tank under the Sholapur Fort, which ought to have 10 feet of water all the year round, is now absolutely dry, and the city has been saved from a water famine by digging a channel from a neighbouring irrigation canal. The general drought all over the country, and the fact that less excessive failures of the water supply are of frequent occurrence, are strong reasons for preferring irrigation schemes to any other relief works in the Sholapur district.

19. *General Impressions.*—From my conference with the local officers, I have received the following general impressions, which, however, are open to future correction:—

(1.) The civil officers know where and what degree of distress is to be expected and are ready to meet it with a full sense of their duty to the people and to the Government. So far as distress has come they have successfully met it.

(2.) There has been extreme failure of crops, and there will probably be keen, far-extending, and prolonged distress in Sholapur and parts of Kaládgi, Ahmednagar, Poona, Satara, Belgaum, and Dharwar; but the people are, save in Sholapur, in fair condition to meet distress. As some measure of the degree of distress I subjoin the best estimate I have been able to procure from local officers of the largest number of persons who will be on the hands of Government at the worst time, that is, in the month of May.

	Number of Persons.		
	On Relief Works.	On Charitable Relief.	Total.
Ahmednagar - - -	100,000	10,000	110,000, or $\frac{1}{7}$th of the population.
Poona - - - -	100,000	10,000	110,000, or $\frac{1}{8}$th ditto.
Sholapur - - -	250,000	25,000	275,000, or more than $\frac{1}{3}$rd ditto.
Satara - - -	75,000	7,500	82,500, or $\frac{1}{13}$th ditto.
Kaládgi - - -	100,000	10,000	110,000, or more than $\frac{1}{8}$th ditto.
Belgaum - - -	75,000	7,500	82,500, or $\frac{1}{4}$th ditto.
Dharwar - - -	75,000	7,500	82,500, or $\frac{1}{12}$th ditto.

(3.) There is some risk lest some of the civil officers in their anxiety to save the people from all distress should admit to relief works persons who could subsist for a time at any rate without State aid.

(4.) It is necessary to exact taskwork rigorously from relief labourers, and for the accomplishment of this end, workpeople must be concentrated; additional professional assistance is needed.

(5.) Additional assistance is required to enable district officers to inspect and watch the people of the severely affected tracts village by village.

20. In this minute I have stated the information as I received it from the local officers quite unreservedly. But I cannot conclude without offering my tribute of commendation to the zeal and ability with which the threatened famine is being combated by the local officers. And though I certainly think that some economy in expense may be introduced, I believe that the Local Government may be congratulated on the manner in which the substantial safety of some five millions of people is being secured under circumstances of much danger.

Richard Temple.

III.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Hyderabad, the 12th January 1877.

Having passed through the Bombay Presidency, and having had the advantage of conferring with some of the officers engaged on relief operations, I have to present the accompanying estimate of probable relief expenditure, together with the following remarks, premising always that the necessity of proceeding onwards has caused my time to be very short, and that consequently my facts and comments are subject to correction.

2. The three striking features in the scarcity of the Bombay Presidency are—

(1.) The utter and entire failure of crop in the worst affected tracts, hardly admitting of even one-anna yield out of the sixteen annas (assumed good crop) being expected.

(2.) The extraordinary activity of private trade, supplying fully with grain the markets in large districts which had suffered total loss of a whole year's harvest.

(3.) The comparative cheapness of prices in these districts, averaging from 20 to 24 lbs. the rupee for common food grains.

3. The sum total of the estimated expenditure may be stated at one and a half million sterling (1,500,000*l.*), as compared with 1,300,000*l.*, the original estimate as furnished* by the Government of Bombay. It is possible that this estimate may be exceeded in one or two respects, namely, the total number on the 1st May may be

* Major-General Kennedy's letter of 30th November.

greater, and the distress may be prolonged somewhat beyond the time contemplated, that is, the end of July. Even if, however, these points should turn out unfavourably, still it would appear that the total would not exceed one million and three quarters, and would be kept within two millions. The present estimate seems to vary from the previous estimate, in that the number of relief labourers is rather more than the anticipation at the beginning of the scarcity, and rather less at the worst period. There seems to be no doubt that whatever distress threatened to break out in the beginning has been stopped by the action of the authorities, and that the threatened famine is being kept well under hand. The only question now claiming consideration is whether circumstances do not admit of severe economy of expenditure being introduced in several respects.

4. If the expenditure shall be kept within the limit of 1,500,000*l.*, or even of 1,750,000*l.*, the result may be regarded as satisfactory, seeing that the scarcity in its severest form has settled down upon the whole of the districts of Sholapur and Kaladgi, upon half of the districts of Ahmednagar and Poona, and about one-third of the districts of Sattara, Dharwar, and Belgaum, besides scarcity to some degree in the districts of Khandesh, Nasik, and Ratnagiri. The numbers of the persons thus affected amount to five millions, this being the total in the printed returns, to which I find the local authorities still adhere. For facility of reference the number for each district is given in the margin. Out of this total it is now estimated that at least 950,000 will be receiving relief in some shape or other during the month of May, the number at the beginning of the current month, January, being about 300,000 persons.

POPULATION of the distressed areas in each district affected by the scarcity in the Bombay Presidency.

Khandesh	-	646,944 persons.
Nasik	-	250,000 ,,
Ahmednagar	-	640,000 ,,
Poona	-	318,601 ,,
Sholapur	-	718,034 ,,
Sattara	-	461,000 ,,
Kaladgi	-	816,037 ,,
Belgaum	-	501,000 ,,
Dharwar	-	630,000 ,,
Total	-	4,981,616 persons, or say five millions.

5. But if the expenditure is to be kept within this limit, certain points seem to me to deserve special attention, namely:—

(1.) The exaction of taskwork upon all the lesser works under the district officers, upon most of which works I fear that it is not at present exacted in the same manner as it is upon the works under engineering authorities. The present work is thought to be not hard enough.

(2.) The withholding of admission to the relief works in the case of those persons who do not appear to be in a depressed condition. Most of the officers whom I consulted seem to think that a certain proportion of those now on the works are not in absolute want.

(3.) The concentration, until at least the 1st April, of relief labourers, under the civil as well as under the engineering authorities, upon works of those larger descriptions which admit of professional supervision.

(4.) Special caution in the admission to the relief works of ryots and others whose names are registered as possessing tenures or under-tenures in land, as it is to be presumed that, for the present at least, such persons would either have some little store of grain or some means of raising money wherewith to buy food. I am informed that a certain, perhaps a considerable, number of these persons are already being employed on the works, and the necessity of this appears to me doubtful.

(5.) Great care in admitting to charitable relief from State funds those who may be unable to work. I saw at Sholapur some thousands in receipt of organized and most praiseworthy private charity, among whom were great numbers that were not in such extremity as to render them absolutely eligible for charitable relief at the public expense.

6. I fear that unless economy be carefully and persistently exercised in the respects I have mentioned, it may not be possible to keep the total relief expenditure within the totals of the estimate which I now offer.

7. If severe economy be exercised in the above respects, as apparently it ought to be exercised in the financial interests of the State, then it will be necessary to organize an effective system of inspection village to village, and as the season advances from house to house. If the labour tests and such-like precautions be rigid, then it is always possible that individuals who, from one cause or other, are unable to answer those tests, may drop into dangerous distress. If then there be no village inspection, such persons might perish; but if there be village inspection they cannot perish, for their condition will be discovered, and they will be immediately brought up before the nearest relief authority.

8. I understand that the local authorities already have some such system of inspection, though it is far from being complete, and that the Local Government is engaged in prescribing some such organization. All that I can add, therefore, is that the time is fast approaching when this organization must for the safety of life be set on foot throughout the most affected districts. For this purpose assistance in officers and in officials may be needed from elsewhere. When famine was combated in other provinces, Bombay furnished many excellent men; now when Bombay is herself distressed, she is entitled to similar assistance from her neighbours.

9. Such establishment will of itself involve some expense. But such expense will be slight as compared with the general expenses of the scarcity, and will really tend to a large economy, because it will enable the district authorities to insist upon severe and rigid labour tests (to a great saving of expense), which they could not otherwise venture upon.

10. Again, if the relief labourers are to be concentrated much more than at present upon works of larger description, the engineering establishment, both superior and subordinate, ought to be greatly and immediately strengthened. For instance, there are many small irrigation projects strongly recommended by the local authorities of the Deccan, upon the carrying out of which relief labour might be employed, but which cannot be properly prosecuted for want of professional assistance.

11. All the officers whom I met appeared to be animated by a zealous desire to do their work during this crisis to the satisfaction of Government.

12. It is impossible to conclude this brief review of the prospects of the scarcity without noticing the probable suspension and the possible remission eventually of considerable portions of the land revenue. So far as I can learn from the local authorities, the amount of land revenue recommended to be suspended in each of the affected districts is as follows:—

Khandesh	5	lakhs of rupees.
Nasik	3	ditto.
Ahmednagar	6	ditto.
Poona	6	ditto.
Sholapur	10	ditto.
Sattara	5	ditto.
Kaladgi	6	ditto.
Belgaum	5	ditto.
Dharwar	4	ditto.
Total	50	lakhs,

or half a million sterling.

Looking to the utter failure of a whole year's crops, I much fear that a supension of land revenue to a large amount (though we hope not so large an amount as that above stated) will be necessary. But further, I understand that proposals are also being made to the effect that the revenue suspended be remitted, and this too within the current year. If this shall be done, then a virtual addition of full half a million sterling to expenditure on the famine will be involved, which is of course a very serious consideration. On the other hand, I understand from some of the local officers (though this is a point upon which opinions differ) that, if the rainy season should be propitious during the next and also the ensuing year, it might be possible to collect much if not all of the revenue suspended during the present year. I am aware that some high authorities in the Deccan have deprecated the subsequent collection of land revenue once suspended. But I would suggest that in regard to the important financial interests concerned, this matter receive further consideration, and that in the meanwhile suspension only of land revenue be allowed, and that no remission whatever be now promised to the people.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

ESTIMATE of PROBABLE RELIEF EXPENDITURE (irrespective of Suspension or Remission of Land Revenue) in the Bombay Presidency, founded on the data supplied by some of the local officers to Sir Richard Temple, at Sholapur, on the 11th January 1877.

The materials for the tabular Statement A., on which the present estimate is based, were obtained for each district as follows:—

Khandesh and Nasik.—From local officers who met Sir Richard Temple on the 8th and 9th of January.

Ahmednagar.—From the Commissioner, Mr. Robertson, who met Sir Richard at Sholapur, and who had just come from Ahmednagar, and had received nearly all the taluk reports, framed in obedience to the requisition made by the Honourable T. C. Hope's letter of the 30th November.

Poona.—From Mr. Norman, the Collector, who has received all the taluk reports for his district, and whose estimates are accepted by the Commissioner, Mr. Robertson.

Sholapur.—From the Collector, Mr. Grant, who has received, but does not fully agree in, the taluk reports of his subordinates, but whose estimate is generally accepted by the Commissioner, Mr. Robertson.

Sattara.—From Mr. Robertson, the Commissioner, who has not yet received the taluk reports, and therefore speaks from general knowledge and previous reports onty, subject to future correction.

Kaladgi.—From such information as Mr. Robertson could give from his acquaintance with the neighbouring district of Dharwar. As the Kaladgi district is now under the additional Commissioner, Mr. Grey, the estimates framed by Mr. Robertson are open to correction.

Belgaum.—From the same source and subject to correction as in the case of Kaladgi.

Dharwar.—From Mr. Robertson, who has recently been transferred from Dharwar, and whose eight years' experience of the Dharwar district makes him most competent to form a correct estimate of Dharwar prospects.

2. Private trade has hitherto brought into the distressed districts as much grain as the railway and coast boats could carry; and there is every prospect that private trade will be actively maintained to the end of the present crisis. There is therefore no need to estimate, for the present at any rate, any Government expenditure on account of the purchase or transport of foreign grain.

3. The chief item of public expenditure will therefore be the payment of labourers on relief works. The present and estimated future number of relief labourers in each district is shown below for the first four dates of 1st January, 1st March, 1st May, and 1st July.

STATEMENT A.—ESTIMATED NUMBER of PERSONS expected to be on RELIEF WORKS on specified dates.

Name of District.	Number of Persons on Relief Works in the beginning of January 1877.	Estimated Number of Persons who will be on Relief Works		
		On the 1st March.	On the 1st May.	On the 1st July.
Khandesh - - - - -	4,000	8,000	15,000	5,000
Nasik - - - - - -	18,000	20,000	30,000	10,000
Ahmednagar - - - - -	30,000	64,000	100,000	43,000
Poona - - - - -	47,000	68,000	100,000	55,000
Sholapur - - - - -	93,000	150,000	250,000	100,000
Sattara - - - - - -	21,000	45,000	75,000	30,000
Kaladgi - - - - - -	27,000	70,000	100,000	40,000
Belgaum - - - - -	25,000	50,000	75,000	25,000
Dharwar - - - - -	22,000	50,000	75,000	20,000
Add for Ratnagiri and Colaba, where some relief may be required.	5,000	15,000	50,000	12,000
Total - - -	292,000	540,000	870,000	340,000

For explanation of some of the figures in the foregoing table it may be noted—

(*a.*) The estimated total of labourers in Khandesh and Nasik is somewhat higher than the figure taken in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 9th January, because the information given by Mr. Robertson, the Commissioner of the Southern Division, shows the failure of crops in the districts south of Khandesh and Nasik to have been extreme.

(*b.*) As the failure of crops in Kaladgi is said to have been as complete and as general as in Sholapur, it may seem extraordinary that a maximum of 100,000 labourers is expected in Kaladgi, when the expected maximum for Sholapur is 250,000. But Mr. Robertson, the Commissioner, explains that in Kaladgi the people are generally well-to-do, they are thrifty and possess stocks, whereas the ryots of Sholapur are much in debt, and possess but very small stocks. Furthermore, Kaladgi had an excellent harvest in 1875–76, whereas in Sholapur there was a poor crop in that year.

(*c.*) The figure given for Ratnagiri and Colaba is based upon Mr. Robertson's estimate. Distress has but very recently been reported from these districts, and the failure of crops occurred in the hill tracts only. The rice crops of the Konkan lowlands were very good. Under these circumstances, Mr. Robertson does not anticipate that any large section of the people will require relief in these two districts.

4. Taking the estimated number of relief labourers on the several dates at the figures given in the foregoing table, the local officers now at Sholapur consider that—

(1.) For the months January, February, March, the average number of relief labourers may be about the mean between the totals on the 1st January and on the 1st March.

(2.) For the months April, May, and June, the average number of relief labourers may be about the mean between the totals on the 1st March and the 1st May.

(3.) That the numbers requiring relief after the end of July will, if the rainy season opens favourably, be extremely small, and that an estimate of 340,000 labourers for the whole of July will suffice to cover the few labourers who may remain during August.

5. The local officers consider that one-tenth of the estimated expenditure on relief labourers will suffice to cover all charges on account of charitable relief from State funds, inclusive of the charge for additional dispensaries and hospitals. Up to the present time the expenditure on charitable relief is being defrayed mainly from private charity; but later in the season some considerable outlay may have to be incurred on relieving the destitute and incapable poor near their homes.

6. It is necessary to estimate for some considerable expenditure on extra establishment, inclusive of the additional engineering staff, that must be borrowed from other provinces for the efficient supervision of the relief works. 12 per cent. on the relief works' estimate may perhaps suffice to cover all expenditure on extra establishments and on contingencies, such as the transport of cattle and storage of grass.

7. The summary published by the Bombay Government on the 5th January showed the total expenditure on relief works up to the latest known date to have been 12 lakhs. But this total does not include all outlay on works and establishment up to the end of December, and therefore a sum of 14 lakhs has been taken as the total expenditure incurred up to the 1st January 1877.

8. According to the above views, the total estimated expenditure, provided that the country is blessed with a favourable rainy season in 1877, will be

	Rs.
January to March, 416,000 persons per month, for three months, at Rs. 3 per month	37,44,000
April to June, 705,000 persons, for three months, at Rs. 3 per month	63,45,000
July, 340,000 persons, for one month, at Rs. 3 per month	10,20,000
Total	1,11,09,000
Add for charitable relief at 10 per cent. on the relief expenditure	11,00,000
Estimate on account of extra establishments and contingencies at 12 per cent. on relief works outlay, say	13,00,000
Add estimated total of expenditure up to the end of December 1876	14,00,000
Total	1,49,09,000
Or	£1,490,900

Or say 1½ millions sterling.

9. This estimate will be exceeded if economy should fail to be practised; if Government should unfortunately have to undertake any operations for the purchase or transport of grain (which is not likely); if the anticipations of local officers regarding the extent and severity of the scarcity be anywhere largely exceeded; or if relief should have to be carried on for a longer period than is now expected. Even if rain were to fall this month, there could not, the local officers fear, be any considerable present relief to the people, although much benefit would accrue to the cattle of the affected tracks. If, however, the local officers should have over-estimated the difficulty (which is not probable), then the estimate now presented may turn out to be excessive.

C. E. Bernard,
On special duty.

Hyderabad, 12th January 1877.

IV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Hyderabad, 12th January 1877.

There is one matter connected with the supply of grain to the districts of Southern India, where the crop has failed, to which I wish to draw immediate attention, in order that a remedy may be, if possible, applied.

2. The affected districts are traversed by guaranteed railway lines, and private trade has been so active in sending grain into the country, that there has not been, and I hope there may never be, any question of Government buying grain and carrying it into the affected tracts of the Bombay Presidency. But there seems to be a serious block in the railway traffic, and I fear that the block may act very injuriously upon the active private trade which has hitherto flourished. I am aware that this great grain traffic has come suddenly on the railways, and that the railway agents and traffic managers have, especially on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, made great and not unsuccessful efforts to meet the sudden demand. But I hope the difficulties in the way of still greater success in this respect may be overcome.

3. I have as yet visited the Bombay Presidency only, but I have ascertained that in its districts there has been a failure of the food crops over areas inhabited by five millions of people. The markets from which these people draw their daily food are now supplied almost entirely with grain imported by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. Again, it is well known that the food crops of a still larger population in the Madras Presidency have failed, and that some millions of people in Madras would consume railway-borne grain if only they could get it.

4. Thus we have at the south a very large and a very urgent demand. And we have also in the north a very large, practically an unlimited, supply. In the Berars, in the Central Provinces, in the Punjab, in the North-western Provinces, and in Behar, there has been a good autumn harvest, and there is every prospect of a good spring harvest. All these provinces moreover produce in good years more than they can consume. They have therefore a large surplus. The importance of rapidly conveying this surplus food to the scarcity stricken districts is too manifest to need exposition. But, while much is being conveyed, there is a portion unfortunately lagging behind. Now, I learn that at the beginning of this month 12,000 tons of grain were said to be waiting for waggons at Cawnpore, 5,000 tons were waiting at Nagpore, and large quantities (as I saw myself) at several of other stations on the East Indian Railway, on the Jubbulpore extension on the Nerbudda Valley line, and at the Berar stations. Even to-day, at a station in the Nizam's country east of Goolburga, I saw several hundreds of bags of grain ready for transport to Bellary, one of the Madras distressed districts. In all these cases the dealers complained to me of delays; in some cases the delays were said to be excessive.

5. During my journey upon the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, I found that not only was grain waiting at many stations to be put into waggons, but below the Bhore Ghât I found 900 loaded grain waggons, stretching over four miles of line, which had been turned into a siding below the Kurjut station. I was told to-day that 400 more loaded grain waggons, consigned to the Madras districts, are standing on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway line between Goolburga and Raichore. I have been informed that general instructions have been issued to all the Great Indian Peninsula Railway stations not to consign any grain, until further orders, for stations above the Thull Ghât, that is to say, for stations in the famine country. And it has been explained that the cause of the block at Kurjut and at Raichore is, that the Madras Railway is unable to take any more grain at present, although nearly all the grain now standing on the line (that is to say, about 1,300 waggons, or 9,100 tons, at Kurjut and Raichore) is consigned to stations on the Madras line.

6. The evil effects of this block and of the stoppage of consignments to the distressed tracts are manifold. The price of food in the distressed tracts is kept higher than it ought to be.

Up-country dealers, who, if they could get their grain into the Madras districts moderately quickly, would certainly continue to send more and more, are becoming wearied by delays and consequent losses, and they may give up the business. I am informed that dealers at Nagpore have actually sold their grain at the Nagpore station, and given up their venture, because they could not get their bags away. And further, there is always a doubt whether, now that fodder is so very scarce, grain carts will ply in sufficient numbers from the railway stations into the interior of the affected districts. If a good and continual supply arrives at the stations, the cartmen will get constant work and good prices, and so a sufficient quantity of carriage may be maintained. If the supply of grain falls off, the cattle will be driven away to the hills, and there will be a dearth of carts in the spring and summer months to distribute grain from the stations into the interior.

7. All I can do at this moment is to report the actual block without undertaking to specify the causes or the remedies required. It may be that additional engine power is required; that more crossing stations or sidings are necessary; that rolling stock ought to be borrowed; that some change in the working of trains is required; or that the working staff should be strengthened. I cannot at present say what the causes of the block may be. But I think immediate steps should be taken to ascertain what (if anything) is wrong, and to apply such remedies as may be possible. I suggest that a very active officer of the Government of India Railway Department be at once deputed to visit the Great Indian Peninsula and Madras Railways, and to confer with the traffic authorities upon the matter. The officer selected should have authority to sanction on behalf of Government such outlay on temporory sidings, on borrowing engines and rolling stock, on setting up at once such new engines as may be in stock* on the different guaranteed railways. And the officer deputed should be directed to stay on the Madras (or other blocked, Railway, until all that he recommends shall have been done, and until the grain traffic is working as well as circumstances permit. With such officer there should, I think, be associated a selected civil officer of special experience in traffic matters.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

* NOTE.—I believe reserved stocks of unconstructed portions of engines may be in store at Jamalpore on the East Indian Railway, at Byculla on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and perhaps at other places.

Revenue, No. 24.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 15th March 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 19th January, No. 4 of 1877, forwarding a copy of the instructions to Sir Richard Temple with reference to his mission to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, has been considered by me in Council.

2. I approve of the policy which you have laid down for the guidance of Sir R. Temple. The object of saving life is undoubtedly paramount to all other considerations. But it is essential that in pursuing this end your officers should sedulously guard against the danger of inducing the population to rely upon Government aid rather than upon their own industry and thrift. In the interest of the distressed population itself, as well as of the taxpayers generally, you are bound to adopt precautions against indolence or imposition, similar, so far as the circumstances of India will permit, to those with which, in this country, it has always been found necessary to protect the distribution of public relief from abuse.

3. I observe with much satisfaction that your Government is taking into serious consideration the question of the incidence of famine charges, to which your attention was called in my Despatch of the 25th November 1875, and I can assure you that in carrying out the principles laid down in that Despatch your Excellency may count on my cordial support. The practical application of them is not free from difficulty; and I shall await with great interest the communication of the measures by which you propose to carry them into effect.

4. Four minutes on the condition of the affected districts in Bombay, submitted by Sir R. Temple to your Government, accompany the Despatch under reply. These show that the prospect is very serious, especially in Sholapur, but I perceive with satisfaction that Sir R. Temple bears testimony to the zeal and energy of the authorities in the distressed Collectorates. If the first conditions stated in the fifth paragraph of the third minute, dated 12th January, are kept carefully in view and vigilantly acted on, I trust the expenditure in relief operations in the Bombay Presidency may be kept within the limit indicated by Sir R. Temple of 1,500,000*l.*, or perhaps 1,750,000*l.*

5. The requisitions by Sir R. Temple for an increase in the supervising, and especially in the engineering, staff, will, I am confident, have received the best attention of your Excellency in Council.

6. I approve of the instructions to the Government of Bombay to abstain at present from making or positively promising remissions of land revenue.

7. Your telegrams have informed me of the arrival of Sir R. Temple at Madras; I may, therefore, expect at an early date the remarks of that officer on the condition and prospects of the districts in that Presidency which have been so severely affected by the present calamity.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 5 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, the 26th January 1877.

In continuation of our Despatch of the 19th instant, on the subject of the scarcity in Western and Southern India, we beg leave to forward for your Lordship's information copies of the communications specified in the margin.

Memoranda by Mr. Bernard, Nos. V. and VI., dated 16th Jan. 1877.
Minute by Sir R. Temple, No. VII., dated 19th Jan. 1877.
Memorandum by Mr. Bernard, No. VIII., dated 19th Jan. 1877.
Minute by Sir R. Temple, No. IX., dated 20th Jan. 1877.
Telegram from Sir R. Temple, dated 22nd Jan. 1877.
Ditto ditto 20th „
Ditto ditto 23rd „
Ditto ditto 23rd „
Ditto ditto 23rd „
Ditto from Government of India to Madras Government, dated 26th Jan. 1877.
Telegram from Government of Bombay, dated 18th Jan. 1877.
Letter from ditto ditto No. , dated 18th Jan. 1877.
„ to ditto ditto No. 57, dated 16th „
„ from ditto ditto No. 260C.-W., dated 9th Dec. 1876
„ to ditto ditto No. 1T., „ 20th „
„ from ditto ditto No. 22C.-W., „ 8th Jan. 1877.
„ to ditto ditto No. 90, „ 23rd „
Telegram from Sir R. Temple, dated 23rd January 1877.

2. The condition of Bombay has not improved, the numbers on the works having, by the 19th instant, increased to 337,511, and the prices of grain having slightly risen in the districts of Násik, Sátára, Kaládgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar. There have been showers in Násik, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur, and a heavy storm in Khandesh, which has injured the rabi crops and washed away those in the beds of rivers.

3. In the Madras Presidency slight rain has fallen in parts of the Kistna, Nellore, Chingleput, and North Arcot districts, but without practically improving the position of affairs. In Bellary there has been a large reduction in persons on the works, but this is nearly counterbalanced by increases in some of the southern districts, the condition of which is undoubtedly serious. The total number on the relief works is 1,015,835, independently of persons receiving gratuitous support.

4. Sir Richard Temple has visited all the central and southern districts of the Madras Presidency, and is to reach Madras to-day, for the purpose of conferring with the Local Government. We have received, and enclose herewith, three memoranda from his secretary, Mr. Bernard, on the condition and prospects of the Kurnool and Bellary districts, and the organization of relief in the former, as also two minutes from Sir Richard himself, suggesting means of reducing and controlling relief expenditure in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, and commenting on their condition. Regarding these districts, he makes very important suggestions, the result of which he estimates, in a separate telegram, will be a reduction in expenditure of 10 lakhs of rupees per mensem. You will observe, from other telegrams from him which we enclose, that Sir Richard Temple considers that relief operations in North Arcot are cheaply and efficiently conducted as compared with those in Cuddapah; that there has been some mitigation of the block of grain on the railways, but that the Madras line is still unequal to the demand for carriage; and that he has submitted to the Bombay Government suggestions analogous to those sent to Madras, whereby he hopes that 25 lakhs of rupees may be saved.

5. With reference to the subject of suspending instead of remitting arrears of land revenue, we have commended to the consideration of the Madras Government a suggestion from Sir Richard Temple in favour of suspension only for the present. On the other hand, we are led by a telegram from the Bombay Government, of which a copy is enclosed, to anticipate objections from that Government to the instructions which we issued, as reported in our last Despatch; but the promised communication has not actually reached us.

6. In connexion with your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant, and our replies of the 17th and 23rd instant, we have to report we have authorised the Madras Government to begin the Chingleput Extension Railway if, after consultation with Sir Richard Temple on the condition of the Chingleput district, they consider the measure to be necessary.

7. The inconvenience and irregularities arising from delegating to Collectors in the Bombay Presidency the important power of commencing relief works without the previous sanction of the Revenue Commissioner having come prominently before us, we have requested his Excellency the Governor in Council to take steps for its withdrawal, and enclose a copy of our letter on the subject.

8. In continuation of paragraph 6 of our Despatch of the 12th instant, in which mention was made of slight distress in the Colaba and Ratnagiri districts of the Bombay Presidency, we enclose copies of correspondence connected with those districts and the opening of relief works in Kanara, from which your Lordship will see that we have found it necessary to lay down, as a general principle, that the British Government is not under any obligation to provide extensive relief for the subjects of Foreign States.

9. In conclusion, we would invite your attention to a telegram from Sir Richard Temple in which he shows the application of certain paragraphs of our instructions to the condition of affairs in Madras and Bombay.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON, &c.

No. V.—MEMORANDUM regarding the condition and prospects of RELIEF AFFAIRS in the KURNOOL DISTRICT, as ascertained at Sir Richard Temple's Conference with the Local Officers on the 14th and 15th January 1877.

The officers who met Sir Richard Temple at Kurnool were Mr. Davidson, who had joined the district as Collector about a fortnight previously, and Messrs. Clogstown and Gibson, civil servants of 12 years' standing, who had been deputed to Kurnool for relief duty about six weeks ago; Mr. Latham, Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Company, was also good enough to furnish valuable information. Rajasatna Modeliar, Deputy Collector, deputed on relief duty to the south of the district, met Sir Richard at Peapally; and at Kurnool a conference of some 25 of the chief local traders was held, from whom information regarding the grain trade was obtained. As Mr. Davidson's heavy current duties had prevented him from fully acquainting himself with all that had happened before his arrival, he introduced to Sir Richard Gopaul Krishwama Chetty, Deputy Collector, and also the Dewan (Native Superintendent) of the Collectorate Office, both of whom had served long in the Kurnool district, and had been much trusted by successive Collectors.

2. All the ordinary crops of the year 1876–77 have failed over the whole of the district; and the only areas from which any appreciable yield has been, or will (by March 1877) be, secured are the lands watered from wells or by the Irrigation Company's canal. The ordinary acreage of Kurnool food crops and the estimated yield of the current year is as follows:—

——	Area sown in the last ordinary year.	Estimated yield of the current year's crop.
Cholum (or jowari or big millet) -	904,000	Two annas, or $\frac{1}{8}$ of ordinary good crop.
Korra (a lesser millet) - -	322,000	Half-anna, or hardly any appreciable yield.
Arkalu, small poor grain - -	142,000	Ditto ditto ditto.
Cumboo (a lesser millet) - -	83,000	Ditto ditto ditto.
Rice (both early and late crops) -	74,000	Two annas, or $\frac{1}{8}$ of an ordinary yield.
Ragi (lesser millet) - - -	17,000	Ditto ditto ditto.

The cotton crop, which covered during the previous year 202,000 acres, also failed utterly. The only crops which have given any appreciable yield are cholum and rice, and this yield has been secured on the irrigated lands only. About 16,000 acres are irrigated from tanks and wells, and 72,000 acres have this year taken canal water. The present utter failure was due to the short rainfall; the average yearly rainfall of the district for the last three years being $32\frac{1}{2}$ inches, while the average rainfall of 1876–77, from June up to the end of December, was $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches for the whole district, ranging from $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in the Markapore to $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches in the Nadial taluk.

It is noteworthy that though the canal is in full working order, and can water from 20 to 300,000 acres, yet in 1875–6 only 9,000 acres took canal water. Even in the present famine year nine-tenths of the canal water ran to waste until November, and about two thirds is going off unused; though Government has engaged to pay the water rent this year on lands which may take water, and yet fail to produce a good crop.

3. The harvests of the preceding year 1875–76 were fairly good all round; in the year 1874–75 there was too much rain, and the yield was below the average. After the irrigated crops now in the ground shall have been reaped, the first food crop will be the cholum (millet). If the rainy season is favourable, about two-thirds of the whole cholum crop of the district will be ripe in September. The rest (about one-third) of the cholum is a winter crop, and is reaped about

January. Some, but only a small proportion, of the lesser millets will also ripen in September. The district ordinarily produces quite enough food for the support of its people. The staple food of the ryots and poorer classes is millet (cholum, korra, arkalu, and cumboo); the richer classes eat rice. A good deal of rice is ordinarily imported into the district from the Nizam's territory, while other food grains are exported to Bellary and Cuddapah.

4. The total population of the Kurnool district is 912,000. Kurnool is the only large town with a population of 35,000. The people mostly live by the land; the weaver, pariah, and other labouring classes being roughly estimated at about one-third of the whole. There are 85,000 ryots holding land directly from Government, besides some 10,000 to 12,000 privilege holders (inamdars) of different kinds. About 35,000 of the ryots have substantial holdings, and out of these 4,000 hold really considerable farms, but 50,000 ryots possess small holdings of about six acres and under. The trading classes are numerous and prosperous, but it is said that more than three-quarters of the ryots are heavily in debt, and have mortgaged their land or their bullocks. To the eye of a man from Behar the Kurnool peasantry look well clad and prosperous, but the local officers say that the great bulk of the people have neither stocks nor credit to fall back upon, and that as there is no work to be done in the fields they have no means of earning their living off the relief works. It is urged also that the immense increase of thefts and dacoities in the autumn evinced the straits to which the people were driven, especially as violent crimes of this kind almost ceased when relief works had been everywhere opened. There is an abundance of roomy bullock carts (of the Madras bandy type) in the district, and these ply freely over the roads of the plain country, but the district is intersected by rocky hills, on the passes of which the large carts ply with difficulty.

5. The grain markets are at present fairly well supplied with rice and cholum. Part of the supply comes from home stocks, and part is imported from the Nizam's country, or from stations on the railway, to which it comes from Madras and from Central India. On only a very few of the more remote relief works have the labourers been on occasions unable to buy food locally. Importations of grain have slackened somewhat lately; the traders explain that prices are cheaper since Government grain began to come, and so the profit on importations from a distance is smaller and less certain.

6. The present prices of grain in Kurnool are—

Cholum - - - - -	8¼ seers per rupee.
Common rice - - - - -	6½ „ „

The average price of cholum at Kurnool during the last three years has been 28 seers per rupee. Some weeks ago prices were dearer than they are now, having touched 6½ seers for cholum, and 5 seers for rice. The prices quoted for Kurnool apply to most of the chief markets in the district, for they, too, draw supplies direct from railway stations.

7. For some weeks past Government has been importing rice from Madras (believed to be Cocanada rice) into Kurnool by railway. It is understood that the Government propose to import 2,000 tons (about 54,400 maunds) of rice into Kurnool per month for four months. The price at which this grain is being put down at Kurnool is not precisely known to the local officers. The Collector has also bought grain in the local markets, and is making contracts with Kurnool traders for the supply of some 3,000 tons for his relief works. About 33,000 maunds (1,200 tons) of Government grain have already been expended, and out of this total 13,200 maunds consisted of grain purchased locally.

8. Relief is being given to the people mainly in the shape of wages for labour on relief works. Employment is given mainly on some 250 miles of roads and cross-roads, and the people are engaged in throwing up embankments, making cuttings, and in collecting, stacking, spreading, and consolidating road metal. On one large tank 10,000 people are said to be employed, but on the whole a comparatively small number only are on tanks and petty village works. As the Irrigation Company's canal is a private* concern, no relief labourers are employed on canal extensions, although the canal engineers are understood to have on hand schemes for such extensions.

* Interest on its capital is guaranteed by Government, and the whole charge for interest has hitherto fallen on the public treasury.

9. The total number of persons returned as employed on relief works in Kurnool on the 6th January is 320,338. Up to that date everybody who applied was taken upon the works, and received a daily relief wage which at one time was 3 annas a day. During the last three weeks the rate has been 2½ annas a day, and this week it is being reduced to 2 annas a day. For some few days a corn wage of ¾ of a seer (1½ lbs.) of rice was given. These rates are for adult males, the wages for women and children being proportionately lower. A full day's wage is paid, but no labour is exacted for Sunday. It is not possible to say precisely how many of these persons on the returns are women, and how many children, for biggish boys are rated as women. But among the workpeople (some thousands) whom Sir Richard Temple saw on works round Kurnool the great majority seemed to be women and children. None of the workpeople whom he saw bore on their persons signs of present or past want; and their clothing was certainly better than the raiment of ordinary day labourers in other parts of India.

10. Thirteen lakhs of rupees have already been spent on Kurnool relief works, and the present expenditure is at the rate of about Rs. 30,000 a day. The engineering staff of the district is small† for the work now doing; and hitherto no taskwork or piecework has been exacted from the labourers, who spend a certain number of hours on or near the works, and go back to their homes in the evenings. In only a very few instances did Sir Richard observe that labourers had put up temporary shelter for them close to works, though it was said that some of them come from villages 7 or 8 miles away. The workpeople are mostly paid under the supervision of civil officers of different grades, though the services of the engineering officials are fully utilised as far as they go. A revenue inspector, on a salary of Rs. 20 a month, who was employed near the Gooty road, said that he had 10,000

† 1 engineer.
3 assistants or other range officers.
8 overseers, one for each taluk.
4 extra overseers ordered from other districts, and now arriving.

relief labourers under him, whom he managed and paid through gomashtas (clerks) and maistries (gangmen). Mr. Clogstown, the Kurnool relief officer, stated that the coolies whom he had employed in the grain store at 4 annas a day complained that the work was too hard, and went off to the relief works on 2½ or 2 annas a day.

11. Mr. Davidson, the new Collector, was not satisfied with the state of affairs he found at Kurnool, and he has drawn up rules for enforcing taskwork, and for paying labourers according to the task they may perform. These rules seem to be in the main good, and should be worked upon as quickly as possible; but a largely increased number of trustworthy engineering subordinates is required. Meanwhile the maximum daily relief wage should be brought down to the bare subsistence point, and the Sunday present of one day's wages might cease. Mr. Davidson considers that a rigorous exaction of taskwork will drive away from the relief works all people who could support themselves otherwise; and he anticipates that he will be able very materially to reduce the numbers of relief labourers, and also to keep them from increasing hereafter to the high maximum named by the local Native officials. The Native Deputy Collector in charge of relief work at Peapally expressed an opinion that 20 per cent. of the relief labourers could thus be reduced. The Collector's assistants, Mr. Clogstown and Mr. Gibson, fear that only 10 per per cent. could thus be reduced. The Native officials of Kurnool and of the several taluks (sub-divisions) have estimated, and appear still to believe, that 500,000 people (more than half the population of the district) will eventually, at the worst time of the year, come upon the relief works. But the Collector, Mr. Davidson, does not accept this estimate; he hopes to get the number of relief labourers down to 250,000, and to keep the number from very greatly exceeding 300,000, provided he can obtain adequate engineering assistance.

12. Gratuitous relief is being given from private charity to some 2,000 indigent persons in Kurnool city. Sir Richard Temple visited the Kurnool poorhouse at the time cooked food was being distributed. Most of the recipients were infirm, blind, lame, or otherwise unfit to labour; and a considerable proportion were small children. The numbers who are obtaining gratuitous relief at the public expense in the interior of the district are said to amount to 4,000; but there seems some doubt about the number for the Cumbum taluk, where charitable relief is sometimes given in the shape of cash, 2 annas a day for adults. The administration of charitable relief is under the direction of civil officers, but it is not clear that such relief (at present not large compared to the relief wages) is administered on a uniform system.

13. The condition of the cattle is said to be bad. But there is a good deal of fodder along the canal and on the marshes which it creates. The cattle have not been driven away to distant pastures outside the Kurnool district, and they suffice for the grain carts, though they are said to be in bad condition and unable to draw heavy* loads. It is believed that more cattle than usual are dying; and this belief is borne out by the fact (to which the owner of one of the chief tanneries testified) that four or five times the usual number of hides are now being brought daily to the Kurnool tanneries.

* On the Gooty road were passed this morning (16th January) 127 carts, with an average load of over eight bags (16 maunds) each, so the bullocks were doing good duty, as the gradients on part of the road are steep.

14. The Collector has not yet reported how much of the land revenue will have to be suspended or remitted in Kurnool. Notices of demand for the instalment of land revenue now due are being issued, but the collection has not regularly begun. From some of the taluks (sub-divisions) suggestions have come in which point to the suspension of more than half the current year's land revenue, and the possible eventual remission of nearly one quarter. The total land revenue of the district is between 12 and 13 lakhs. As yet no remissions whatever have been granted or promised.

C. BERNARD,
On special duty.

Gooty, 16th January 1877.

No. VI.—MEMORANDUM regarding the STAFF required for RELIEF OPERATIONS in the KURNOOL DISTRICT.

Mr. Davidson, the Collector of Kurnool, asked for suggestions regarding the staff he ought to organize and the manner of its employment for effectually combating distress in his district. This memorandum has therefore been drawn up under Sir Richard Temple's orders, and contains suggestions dictated by experience in previous famines.

2. The Kurnool district contains an area of 7,037 square miles and a population of 912,000 souls.

It is divided into eight taluks (or tahsil sub-divisions), thus :—

——	Total Population.	Percentage of Population now on Relief Works.	Some Characteristics of the Taluk.
Ramalkotha (head quarters) - -	146,000	49 per cent.	Mostly open plain; is traversed by the canal.
Pathkonda - - - -	171,000	21 „	Large area; much of it hilly.
Koilkantla - - -	98,000	45 „	Mainly open plain; traversed by the canal in one corner only.
Nandi Kotkar - -	101,000	27 „	Plain parts traversed by the canal; east part hilly and sparsely peopled.
Nandial - - -	107,000	46 „	Valley part traversed by the canal; remainder hilly and sparsely peopled.

	Total Population.	Percentage of Population now on Relief Works.	Some Characteristics of the Talux.
Sirwell - - -	71,000	36 per cent.	Traversed by the canal; mostly open country.
Cumbum - - -	123,000	44 „	Hilly in parts; remote from head quarters.
Markapur - - -	92,000	19 „	Hilly, sparsely peopled; large area; difficult of access for carts.

3. At present the Collector's civil staff consists, besides the police officers of—
3 covenanted assistants of several years' experience.
1 covenanted assistant of one year's work.
3 uncovenanted European officers, who are said to be active and efficient.
2 Native Deputy Collectors, besides the Treasury officer.
2 additional Deputy Collectors, under orders for Kurnool, but not yet arrived.
8 tahsildars with their staff of revenue inspectors and clerks, &c.
And the engineering staff of the district consists of—
1 executive engineer.
3 range officers, either sub-engineers or supervisors.
8 overseers, one for each taluk.
4 additional overseers recently deputed for relief duty.
The district and its relief work of all kinds are at present divided into three sections thus—

Kurnool section -	Under Mr. Clogstown, C.S., with head-quarters at Kurnool - - - - -	Ramalkotha Taluk. Pathkonda „ Koilkantla „
Nandial section -	Under Mr. Gibson, C.S., with head quarters at Nandial - - - - -	Nandial „ Nandi Kotkar „ Sirwell „
Cumbum section -	Under Mr. Farmer, C.S., with head quarters at Cumbum - - - -	Cumbum „ Markapur „

4. Probably this arrangement cannot be improved* upon. But steps should be taken to accelerate the postal service to Cumbum, which is at present three days' post from the Collector. I am not sure that the other officers are at present employed to the best advantage. For instance, the Deputy Collector at Peapally has under him, so far as relief work is concerned, the tahsildars of Pathkonda and Koilkantla. Mr. Mayer has under him the Markapur Taluk and the Markapur Tahsildar. So again the Nandial Deputy Collector has under him the Sirwell Taluk and the Sirwell Tahsildar. I think that in this way there are too many links in the official chain, and that the area in charge of each primary executive officer (a whole taluk) is too large.

* Major Hicks, who is not now serving in Kurnool, has suggested that Koilkantla would come better into the Nandial, and Nandi Kotkar into the Kurnool section.

5. I would divide the whole district into relief circles, and would place a responsible officer in full relief charge of each circle; the circle officer would be subordinate only to the section officer and to the Collector. I suggest that each taluk be divided into two circles, with perhaps three† circles in the Cumbum Taluk. The town of Kurnool would be kept under separate management outside the head-quarter Ramalkota circle. This would give 17 circles in all, besides the town of Kurnool. Each taluk head-quarters would naturally be the site for one circle officer, and suitable central stations would have to be chosen for the other circle officers.

† Major Hicks suggests that Pathkonda should also be divided into three sections.

6. I suggest that each tahsildar, provided he be personally active and efficient, be at once made circle officer for his own head-quarter circle. He would have to be relieved‡ entirely of all his ordinary tahsil and magisterial duties, probably the deputy (or some other local official) could be appointed to officiate in his tahsildar's room. In a famine time like this all ordinary current work diminishes, and a considerable number of the tahsil staff (gomashtas and peons) could be told off for relief duty. Then the other nine circles could be officered perhaps by Mr. Brett and the three European uncovenanted officers, and by five other Native officials whom the Collector would have to select§ from the police inspectors of his district, or from the class of men who furnish suitable candidates for tahsildarship and inspectorships.

‡ Mr. Thornhill says that in Bellary the tahsildars have been thus relieved already.

§ Mr. Thornhill fears it would be difficult to spare many inspectors, but he thinks that men might perhaps be drawn from the Settlement and Survey Departments.

7. Each circle officer will have to be a disbursing officer, so it would be well that he should be a permanent official borrowed from some other duty, whose integrity could be thoroughly trusted. Any revenue subordinates, such as revenue inspectors, within a circle should be placed under the circle officer's orders, so that he may have full command of the village officials (reddis and karnams). Sufficient shelter for him and his office would have to be hired or built, and a strong box provided for cash. Each circle officer would require at least two clerks, one of whom would be in charge of the accounts. To each circle officer would be allotted a police guard for his cash and a sufficient number of police (or other) orderlies. An allowance of Rs. 40 a month might be made to police inspectors or other officials below the rank of tahsildar who may be selected for each circle officership. I do not think any other extra allowances should be given.

8. A Deputy Collector out of the staff* now in the district should be attached to each section officer, with a competent staff of clerks; for the section officer will have to be constantly moving about, while his Deputy Collector will manage the treasury work, accounts, and current correspondence.

* At paragraph 3 above, I have shown that the district has, or soon will have, four available Deputy Collectors, besides the treasury officer.

9. In order that the Collector, Mr. Davidson, may have time to travel in the interior, to supervise and to organize, he should have the assistance of another covenanted† officer with full powers, to whom he could delegate (during his absence from Kurnool or otherwise) the current judicial and executive work and ordinary correspondence. If this be not done, Mr. Davidson will not be able to visit or make himself felt in the interior of the district. The officer who comes as personal assistant to the Collector would be able to direct relief operations in Kurnool town.

† Mr. Thornhill fears that covenanted civil officers may not be available, but he suggests that a military officer with civil experience may be found. Civil servants from other Presidencies would not know Telugu.

10. Each circle officer should have under him (or associated with him) an engineering subordinate to direct and control the work, overseers and gangmen described in the Collector's new rules (page 4). One of the range officers should be attached to each relief section of the district, so that they may direct and supervise the relief works, under the orders of the section officer, while the executive engineer should occupy a similar position under the Collector.

11. Now that such an enormous expenditure is going on, I think it would be well that the Accountant-General at Madras should depute‡ a selected official from his staff to organize and direct the punctual preparation of accounts. If this is not done now, there will be great trouble hereafter. It is believed that the Account Department will be satisfied without excessively elaborate accounts; all they require is that daily sheets of receipts and disbursements should be sent into Kurnool for compilation with detailed vouchers prepared at the time.

‡ Mr. Thornhill says that a deputation from the Revenue Board recently came up on similar duty.

12. Hereafter, if village to village inspection and relief should be required, it may be necessary to form sub-circles (under the circle officer) of 10 or 15 villages each, and to place over every such circle a selected village official (reddi or karnam) or a competent clerk (gomashta) from the tahsil or police department. But I do not think that such a measure can be at present needed, while such an immense proportion of people is receiving relief wages.

13. If these suggestions are accepted, with such modifications as local knowledge may suggest, then the steps which must be at once taken are—

(*a.*) To get from Government a competent civil servant to be personal assistant to the Collector.

(*b.*) To mark out circles on the map, with a central head-quarters and sufficient shelter for each.

(*c.*) To nominate and send out circle officers, fill the places of officials taken from tahsil or other departments, and to provide each circle officer with a small establishment of clerks, &c., with a house, and with a map of his circle showing works in progress.

(*d.*) To get from Government additional overseers, and to allot an overseer to each circle.

C. BERNARD,
On Special duty.

Gooty, 16th January 1877.

No. VII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated 19th January 1877.

Having visited the Ceded Districts, comprising Bellary and Cuddapah, and also the district of Kurnool,—all of which are much affected with loss of harvests and are threatened with danger unless some interposition by Government shall be maintained,—I have to submit for the consideration of the Government of Madras certain proposals, which have reference mainly to considerations of expense, as bearing on the condition of the people. In separate memoranda I have caused an epitome to be made of all that was learnt during my visit to these districts. This minute, therefore, will be confined to suggestions.

2. There is no doubt that in these districts the threatened famine has been met and is being kept down; danger being averted from the people, distress being alleviated, and the exertions of the local officers being most praiseworthy. But in rapidly accomplishing this great amount of good, three risks are incurred; namely, 1stly, that the numbers of relief recipients should grow beyond the powers of the local officers to control; 2ndly, that the people may entertain an exaggerated idea of the extent to which the State charity can be properly dispensed; and 3rdly, that the Government may be involved in expenditure beyond its means of defraying. To obviate these two risks, two main objects might be aimed at, viz., 1st, to reduce the existing numbers; and 2ndly, to prevent the numbers from rising too rapidly.

3. When distress suddenly develops itself over an extensive area, the local authorities are generally obliged to take all comers, until the first crisis is passed, time not admitting of individual scrutiny. But afterwards, when the authorities get a little leisure to examine the position, they are often able to eliminate persons who had at the first outbreak been temporarily admitted. It is therefore not unreasonable to suppose that now, when these districts have been placed for the present beyond the reach of danger, the local authorities might be able to re-examine every person in all relief gangs and to eliminate everyone who did not seem to be in absolute need, or in such a condition as could not be endured without Government support. It may be conceded that many of those in the gangs are in absolute need. But I am sure the condition of many falls short of such extremity at present: whether their condition will hereafter approach such extremity is a question which may be reconsidered a few weeks hence; all I say is that they are not yet in absolute need; they are at present in good condition; if hereafter

it be found that physical depression is commencing, then, and not till then, will it be necessary for Government to interpose.

4. Again, such large numbers (equal to one-fourth of the total population) having been admitted to relief, the first shock of the calamity must have been fully, perhaps more than fully, resisted; therefore, it cannot be necessary to admit any more at present, save in exceptional cases of destitution, which might be certified by some competent and responsible officer.

5. Further, although the relief organization in these districts may not yet be complete, yet it is to be remembered that the ordinary civil organization is strong,—stronger indeed than in most parts of India. Each district is divided into talooks; in each talook there is a tahsildar and a deputy tahsildar, both responsible Native officials; under them there are two or three revenue inspectors, Native officials of lesser rank: all these are available for supervision of relief. Every three or four talooks are formed into a sub-district under either an assistant or a deputy collector. There is already a considerable engineering establishment of officers and overseers; besides these, several European military officers are immediately expected. In every village there is a headman (reddi) and an accountant (kurnam). These village officials are all available for supervision of relief. I recapitulate all this because, when extensive measures are adopted with many and large gangs, it is not safe to proceed unless a tolerably effective agency exists on the spot, which can immediately pick up and remedy any bad cases which may occur, and which may prevent any accident happening. It seems to me that there actually is such an agency in these districts. If all these establishments from top to bottom be thoroughly on the alert, as they doubtless are, it is almost impossible for any man, woman, or child to drift into danger of starvation without the case being found out and remedied.

6. Another mode of reducing or keeping down numbers is the well-known plan of enforcing taskwork: but with such large numbers of both sexes and of all sorts and conditions such enforcement is always difficult, and in a large proportion of the total number of cases is almost impossible. It must often happen that our officers try to enforce the task and hope to succeed; while in reality they fall short of success. We may be sure that although taskwork may be enforced upon many works, yet that in many other cases it never will, despite all our efforts, be really enforced; and that in all this category of cases, the labour will at the best be but very light.

7. Now the present rate of wages is fixed at two annas per diem for an adult, and proportionately lower for women and children. This rate is fixed upon the supposition that it will purchase one and a half pound of grain per diem,—a quantity which is deemed essential for a man while at work. There might indeed be a question whether life cannot be sustained with one pound of grain per diem, and whether Government is bound to do more than sustain life. This is a matter of opinion; and I myself think that one pound per diem might be sufficient to sustain life, and that the experiment ought to be tried. Possibly the gangs might not perceptibly fall off in condition. After a week or fortnight of experience it would be seen whether they so fall off, or not: if they were to seriously fall off, then the point could be considered. It is to be remembered that, when these poor people first came on relief, their condition was low, and they needed very full rations. Such rations have been allowed for some time, and the people are in very good case. A reduction might now be demanded in the interests of financial economy, and might be attempted for a time at least without danger; at all events the trial might be made for people at taskwork, and especially with those who are not really at taskwork, and who, though nominally at some sort of taskwork, are doing very light or nominal work. One pound of grain ought to be made to suffice. At the present prices, a rate of one anna and a half would purchase a pound of grain and would leave a small margin for condiments, vegetables and the like. It may be that Government would be willing to allow more than a pound a day of grain if its financial means permitted; but the demands of economy seem to require that at all events a trial should be made as to whether a pound a day might not be made to suffice for the one purpose which is admitted, namely, the staving off of danger by starvation.

8. I do not include in these suggestions the ordering of the enforcement of taskwork, because this has been already ordered, and will doubtless be carried out as far as possible; but looking to all the circumstances and to the scattered character of the work, I should fear that in a considerable proportion of the cases it never can be really carried out: that in many, perhaps more, cases it is not as yet exacted I feel sure.

9. The summary of my suggestions thus would be as follows:—

(I.) To stop all fresh admissions to relief works in the Ceded Districts save under a certificate from an official of a grade not lower than a deputy tahsildar.

(II.) To re-examine, as soon as possible, every gang, person by person, with a view to eliminating and discharging for the present everyone not in absolute need of State relief. By absolute need is meant danger of starvation if not supported by Government.

(III.) To reduce the adult wage from two annas to one and a half anna per diem, and the rates for women and children proportionately. The grain wherever issued to be adjusted exactly according to this standard.

(IV.) To impress upon the reddi and kurnam of every village the responsibility of bringing before the nearest revenue inspector every case of dangerous distress.

(V.) These measures, if adopted, to be quite tentative, subject to reconsideration after one month subsequent to their introduction.

10. I am aware that the successful carrying out of such measures with such large numbers of persons is a difficult task, demanding the exercise of caution, patience, and resolution, combined with a humane sense of what is necessary for safety of life. If judiciously carried out, they will produce financial economy without endangering safety. If injudicious proceedings,

however, were to be taken, then some accident might occur to life. I believe that the authorities in these three districts, if well instructed, would be able to carry out these measures successfully. At all events, I think that an effort ought to be made and a trial ought to be had.

11. Seeing that the grain trade, which was slack at first, has set in with activity both on the railway and inland from the railway stations into the interior, there can be no need to pay the relief labourers in grain, their wages will enable them to buy grain. The grain wage only becomes necessary when there is reason to fear that the grain is so deficient that it cannot be got for money. I would therefore deprecate any payments in grain, and any further purchases of grain by Government. Any operations of this nature by Government would be likely to discourage private trade. Rather than send grain to workpeople, I would prefer, if possible, to bring workpeople to the grain and employ them on large and fully supervised works near to well supplied markets. It may be advisable to despatch a limited quantity of the grain already purchased by Government to certain places distant 60 miles and upwards from the railway, for the supply of which private trade may not prove sufficient. This seems the best way of disposing of the grain which has been purchased. The remainder of the grain already purchased might be kept in reserve at Madras. But within such a radius of 60 miles, I think it would be better to avoid storing Government grain.

No. VIII.—MEMORANDUM on the Condition and Prospects of RELIEF AFFAIRS in the BELLARY DISTRICT, as ascertained at Sir Richard Temple's Conferences with the Local Officers on the 17th and 18th January 1877.

Among the officers and gentlemen who met Sir Richard Temple at Bellary were—

Mr. G. Thornhill, first member of the Revenue Board, who kindly accompanied Sir Richard from Gooty.

Mr. G. H. Master, Collector of Bellary for the last seven years.

Mr. Cox, C.S., who joined the district for relief work a few days previous only.

Major Hicks, who for some years has been District Superintendent of Police in Bellary, and who is now managing the transport of Government grain from the railway to the interior.

Mr. Legatt, the Executive Engineer, and several assistants and subordinates, whom Sir Richard met on the different relief works which he visited.

Messrs. Harvey and Sabapathy, a Bellary firm which deals in country produce.

V. Venkata Chulum, Deputy Collector of Hospett, who has charge of the three western talooks of Hospett, Haveinhudgally, and Harpinhally.

Moorgeshum Modeliar, Deputy Collector, now living at Bellary, but in charge of relief work in the south-western talooks of Rayadroog and Kudligi.

Mr. Agar, in relief charge of the head-quarter talook.

The Deputy Collector at head-quarter and other head-quarter officials all furnished information. But Mr. Ross, C.S., the assistant in charge of the remote southern talooks of Pennakonda, Indapur, and Madkasira, was at his post in Pennakonda, and therefore some of the facts regarding the condition of that part of the district remain to be cleared up.

2. The district of Bellary has an area of 11,007 square miles, and a population of 1,668,006 persons. It is divided into 15 talooks (revenue sub-divisions). The food-crop area of Bellary as returned for the last ordinary year (1875) was 2,660,000 acres. The proportion ordinarily sown with each of the great food staples and the estimated yield of the present may be thus shown :—

—	Area of Crop Acres sown in the Year 1875.	Estimated Yield of the current Year's Crop, on an average for the whole District.
Cholum (jowaree millet) - -	1,240,000	Varies from nothing to three annas in different talooks, but cannot exceed half an anna on an average for the whole district; that is to say, is not more than $\frac{1}{32}$ of an ordinary yield.
Ragi (small millet) - - -	101,100	
Cumboo (small millet) - - -	230,000	
Other small millets, such as korra, &c. -	560,000	
Rice - - - - -	185,000	2 annas, or $\frac{1}{8}$ of an ordinary yield.
Total - -	say under a one-anna crop for the whole district.	

The yield, such as it is, has been secured only on the lands watered from wells and tanks, or by the channels led from the Tungabadra River. In the Hospett Talook, for instance, some 25 villages along this river have got very fair rice and cholum (millet) crops. But the area returned as "under wet crop" for the whole district was only 115,000 acres in an ordinary year, so the irrigated area bears only a very small proportion to the whole food crop land of the district. The district tanks are said to be mostly dry, as the rainfall of this year did not suffice to fill them. Of the dry (unirrigated) crop, not one quarter of the usual area was even sown, and on the area sown only about one-eighth of the ordinary yield was secured. The cotton crop, covering about 340,000 acres in ordinary years, has failed entirely. The plants ought at this season to be green, as the fibre is picked in March and April; but at present there is, it is said, no cotton to be seen in any part of the district. From Gooty to Bellary, and for several miles round Bellary itself, Sir Richard saw that the country was absolutely bare of all crop or stubble, and that there was no sign of any fodder or grass. The local officers say that the condition of the country is the same all over the black soil talooks (*i.e.*, more than one-third the district); over the red soil

lalooks some fodder has been produced, but there has been no appreciable food-crop except on the areas within the influence of the Tungabadra River, or on small patches of land near wells. The loss of harvest, subject to exceptions above noted, has been utter all over the district.

3. The rainfall of the Bellary district is never large, and the rain of an ordinary year ranges from 22 inches in the western and south-western, to 15 inches in the central and eastern talooks. The district lies on the edge of the area of each of the two south-west (or August) and north-east (or October) monsoons, and it often gets a short rainfall under one of them. The rainfall of the past six months has ranged from 2½ to 5 inches in different parts of the district. Bellary has suffered from more or less severe famines in the years 1751, 1793, 1803, 1833, 1854, and 1866.

4. The harvests of the preceding year (1875) were poor, not exceeding eight annas, or half an ordinary good yield for the whole district. The rainfall of that year was short. In the year 1874 there was a very heavy downpour, which greatly injured the cholum crop, so that the total yield of the district for that year also is not estimated at above 10 annas, or $\frac{5}{8}$ths of a good yield. In good years the Bellary district is said to produce sufficient food for the support of its population; though a certain quantity of rice, wheat, and other food grains is usually imported from the Nizam's territory and elsewhere for the consumption of the richer classes and the urban population. If seasonable rain falls in June next, the first food crop of next season (yellow cholum) will come into the market by the end of July.

5. The condition of the Bellary peasantry and labouring classes is said to be tolerably good in ordinary years; they amassed a good deal of wealth during the days of dear cotton. Many of the ryots are of course in debt, but on the whole the Collector does not consider the people of Bellary to be in an exceptionally poor or distressed condition. The number of ryots who pay revenue direct to Government is 143,000, of whom about 80,000 have holdings of 10 acres and under. The ryots and petty privileged holders (inamdars) with their families must amount to over 900,000 persons. The classes who live by daily labour are estimated to amount to one-fourth of the district population.

6. The grain markets of Bellary town and most of the markets of the interior are now fairly well supplied with cholum and rice. At some of the petty towns and villages of the interior the local supply has on occasions been insufficient for the wants of the relief labourers. Nearly all the grain exposed for sale in the bazars is said to be railway-borne grain, from Central India and from Madras. A small quantity of grain from the Malabar coast finds its way by carts into the western talooks of the Bellary district.

7. The present prices of grain at Bellary as compared with ordinary prices are—

	Prices in January 1877.		Average price for previous six years in the month of December.
	First week.	Second week.	
Cholum	8 seers per rupee.	8 seers per rupee.	23 seers per rupee.
Rice	6½ „	6½ „	12 „
Ragi	8½ „	8¾ „	34 „
Cumboo	Not now obtainable at all.		25 „
Korra			35 „

In the interior of the district, where markets are mostly supplied with grain imported through Bellary, prices range from ½ to one seer per rupee dearer. Some weeks ago prices at Bellary were from one to two seers per rupee dearer than they now are. Grain became cheaper partly in consequence of private importations and partly (so the native officials and traders say) because Government imported grain itself, and no one knew how much Government grain was coming, or how it was to be used. There are abundance of good carts in the district, and sufficient grain can certainly be carried from the railway into the interior, if only the cattle do not die or migrate. But unless a constant stream of traffic be maintained, and the cartmen are enabled to buy food for their bullocks, there is risk that the supply of carts and draught cattle may fail.

8. The local officers have not yet received final orders as to the quantity of grain Government is going to buy and send into the distressed districts. So far as can be ascertained on the spot matters stand thus. Government have, it is believed, arranged for the purchase of 30,000 tons of coast (and Calcutta) rice through a Madras firm (Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company) as brokers. The Collectors also have authority (so it is said) to lay in supplies through the local traders. No limit has as yet been put on Collectors' action in this respect, save that they are to consult the local agent of the Government broker. It is not known precisely what amounts of grain Collectors have thus purchased or arranged for, but the total probably does not exceed some few thousand tons altogether. The Government grain bought at Madras is being stored by Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company at railway stations up-country, and is there handed over to Major Hicks (Government grain officer) for transport into the interior. Major Hicks has already concluded contracts at comparatively moderate rates (five annas and six annas per ton per mile) for carrying 8,700 tons of Government grain per month for four months to the depôts marginally noted. He has received from local officers indents for the despatch of a further quantity of about 9,000 tons

Bellary	Pennakonda	1,000	tons a month.
Kurnool	Kurnool	2,000	„ „
	Koilkantla	800	„ „
	Nassam	300	„ „
	Peapally	858	„ „
	Nandial	850	„ „
	Cumbum	300	„ „
	Cagulmaree	400	„ „
Cuddapah	Kadiri	600	„ „
	Royachoti	400	„ „
	Budmail	300	„ „
	Jummulmadpi	200	„ „
	Pradator	200	„ „
	Door	200	„ „
	Pulivendla	300	„ „
	Total	8,705	

per month. He anticipates that Government grain will be also required for remote tracts round the depôts noted in the margin; and he estimates that the indents of the local officers will not be fully satisfied under a total of about 20,000 tons a month. This quantity, it may be observed, would cost about 22 lakhs (220,000*l.*) a month, and would furnish food one pound per diem) to one and a half millions for one month; so that this supply, if sanctioned, would feed $\frac{3}{8}$ths of the total population of the three famine districts of Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, and it would feed nearly two-thirds of the total population of the tracts remote from the railway, which these depôts are intended to serve.

Bellary -	Hurpunhully.
	Hadagulley.
	Koodligi.
	Madakasira.
	Hindapore.
Kurnool -	Markapore.
Cuddapah -	Cuddapah.
	Muddumpaly.
	Voilpard.

9. Some of the local traders of Bellary represent that the interposition of Government in the grain trade has had the effect of deterring local traders from importing as they would otherwise have done, and as they at first were doing. Government having entered as a buyer into the markets of the coast, prices there have grown much dearer. At the same time, while there is so much doubt how much Government will import and how it will use its importations, prices have fluctuated very greatly in the local markets; and the grain trade has become a risky business. They cite, as an instance of the effect of these fluctuations, that a few weeks ago prices went down at Bellary and up at Madras; so much so that private grain (previously imported from the east coast and from Central India) was being despatched from Bellary to Cuddapah at the rate of 20 waggons a day. Prices at Bellary have now stiffened somewhat, and this strange export has ceased. The traders urge that if Government wants grain for its relief labourers, local dealers are ready to put it down at Bellary, and they suggest that cholum (jowari) be ordered from the north instead of rice from the south, for cholum is 15 per cent. cheaper than rice, and is moreover the ordinary food of the people. They point out that in the autumn this plan of supplying the Government need answered well both directly and indirectly. The traders vied with each other, and supplied Government with rice (about 14 or 15 transactions aggregating 1,50,000 maunds) at rates which began at Rs. $10\frac{1}{2}$ per bag of 164 lbs. and came down, by dint of competition, to Rs. $8\frac{7}{8}$ per bag. At the same time the local trade was kept brisk and was free from the fear of competition from the Government.

10. The facts and arguments urged by certain of the local traders on Sir Richard Temple are abstracted as above. At the same time it should be stated that the petty native dealers did not seem to deprecate or to complain of Government action. And the larger Bellary traders expressed a fear that private trade might fail to carry sufficient supplies into the remoter talooks of the south and west. It was not, however, clear why the lesser traders in the interior should abstain from the grain trade, provided the fear of Government competition did not deter them.

11. It is said that, generally speaking, stocks are small in consequence of the shortness of the harvests of 1875. Still it is believed that small stocks do exist in the possession of many of the ryots; and that stocks are larger in the eastern than in the southern talooks. The latter are accustomed to draw supplies of "ragi" millet from Mysore, which country can at present barely* support itself. Some of the native traders said that the local stocks now in hand would barely suffice for seed grain which after previous famines had been obtained from the Nizam's country, whence supplies this year would be short.

* So the Bellary people say. Sir Richard Temple has not yet been able to verify the facts of the Mysore case on the spot, though he hopes to do so. Recently, when he passed through the south of the Nizam's territory, in two directions, he found that the failure of crops there was not by any means so general or so severe as the civil authorities of the Bombay Deccan had been led to fear.

12. The population of the affected tracts of Bellary are being mainly relieved by wages paid for presence on relief works. Hitherto no one who offered himself or herself for employment has been refused. The relief works consist mainly of roads on which the people are engaged in making embankments and cuttings, in breaking, stacking, and spreading road metal. Some few thousands are employed on excavating or clearing tanks, in deepening wells, and in other petty village works.

13. The number of people returned as employed on the works is enormous, and has been rising at the rate of about 30,000 a week. The numbers of people now on the works is as follows:—

Name of Talook.	Total Number on the Works on the 15th January 1877.	Proportion of Relief Labourers to the Total Population.
Bellary - - - -	55,219	31 per cent.
Hospett - - - -	16,669	18 „
Kudligi - - - -	22,405	24 „
Havanhudgully - - -	17,854	20 „
Hurpanhully - - -	7,912	9 „
Alur - - - -	31,186	32 „
Adoni - - - -	63,931	31 „
Gooty - - - -	23,997	16 „
Tadpatri - - - -	11,999	10 „
Rayadrug - - - -	8,071	9 „
Anantapur - - -	22,588	21 „
Dhurmaveram - - -	24,548	20 „
Pennakonda - - -	10,551	11 „
Makaksira - - -	23,375	30 „
Hindapore - - -	42,080	46 „
Total - -	382,385	or 23 per cent.

These are the figures as given by the Bellary Collectorate Office, talook by talook. But the total number on relief works in Bellary, according to a statement published in the Madras newspapers of the 18th current, is 446,100, or equal to 26 per cent. on the total population of the district. These large figures did not reach Sir Richard Temple till he had left Bellary, so the discrepancy was not explained. On the face of the talook figures no explanation can be offered of the great variations in the percentage of the population admitted to relief wages in the different talooks. It is said the emigrants from the distressed tracts of Mysore swell the numbers in the Madaksira and Hindapore talooks. Other* facts would seem to show that the local authorities in the south of the district do not exercise sufficient discrimination in admitting claimants to relief. It may be noted that the highest number of labourers in receipt of relief wages during the Bellary famine of 1866 never exceeded 22,000.

* See paragraph 21 below.

14. The civil authorities consider that a large proportion of the relief labourers are ryots who hold land from Government. They think also that a proportion of these people could for a time, at any rate, support themselves without relief wages. The physical condition of the labourers (men, women, and children) is said to be at present good. Sir Richard Temple saw several thousands of them on works round Bellary, and he inspected them closely. It seemed to him that these relief labourers, as a rule, looked a comfortable well-clad body of peasantry. The clothes of nearly all, men and women, looked to be considerably better than one is accustomed to see on the backs of labouring men and women in other parts of India. Many of the labourers were provided with excellent new blankets of Bellary make. It was said that in the Bellary and Adoni talooks a good many people, who did not need Government relief, have been turned off the works. In this way the numbers, which at one time were 62,000 in Bellary Talook, have been brought down to 55,000.

15. Some of the subordinate officials estimated that the total number on the relief works in Bellary might eventually reach 900,000. Mr. Master, the Collector, however, on a review of the past history of the scarcity, hopes that there will be no great increase in the number of relief labourers after the month of January. He anticipates that by strictly enforcing taskwork, and by turning off the workpeople who apparently could live without relief wages, he may be able to reduce the present great numbers. He would be prepared to stop all new admissions to the relief works, for a fortnight at any rate, as an experiment.

16. On the works in the Bellary Talook taskwork is to some extent exacted from the relief labourers; and it has been found possible to make the taskwork on stone-breaking rigorous in this talook. But in outlying talooks taskwork is not exacted; and the staff of engineering subordinates is insufficient to control the enormous number of labourers. The works are under the supervision of the local civil officers. Rules have been issued by the Collector for enforcing discipline among and paying the labourers. The names of all the labourers are entered on registers by subordinate officials.

17. The rate of relief wages in the early days of the works† was one and a half anna a day for adult males. But they were afterwards raised to two annas a day when the prices rose. At present in the Bellary Talook relief wages are paid in grain, at the rate of a little over two pounds of rice per diem. Outside the Bellary Talook relief wages are still paid in cash. These are the rates for adult males, and the relief wages for women and children are proportionately lower.

† Relief works began in the western taluks as far back as July.

18. The total expenditure on relief works in Bellary, from the commencement of operations to the beginning of January, was 22 lakhs (220,000*l.*), and the present expenditure on relief wages only is at the rate of 14 lakhs (140,000*l.*) per mensem.

19. Relief labourers are not at present employed on irrigation works. Proposals were made for constructing a new canal (for which plans and estimates were prepared some time ago) from the Tungabudra with relief labour, but the relief labourers could perform only a portion of the work; the canal probably would not be remunerative, and so it has not been considered suitable to undertake this canal as a relief work. The local officer of Hospett suggests that some of the relief labour be employed to reconstruct the Tungabudra anicuts and channels which are out of repair, but the professional agency is not strong enough to prepare schemes of this kind, and relief labourers are put upon works on which some labour can be done without professional preparation.

20. The numbers of people in receipt of gratuitous relief at the public expense is already 45,365, of whom 18,686 are in the single talook of Hindapore. It is said that some of these people have come across from the Mysore country in family parties and in a depressed condition. But it also appears that seven-ninths of the Hindapore paupers are children of people who are in receipt of relief wages on the works. The Collector considers that all such children should be supported by their parents, and no doubt these large numbers at Hindapore will be shortly reduced. Some 5,000 persons receive cooked food daily at the Bellary relief house, which is administered at the cost of private funds. Persons are admissible to charitable relief on the certificate of the tahsildar at the head-quarters of each talook; but practically discretion in the matter is delegated to the tahsildar's subordinates, and at outlying relief houses to relief superintendents on Rs. 20 a month. Village headmen (reddis) are authorised to relieve casual sufferers, and then to forward them to the nearest constituted relief house; and the "reddi" sends in his bill periodically to the tahsildar. At the relief houses the allowance is one pound of cooked food for adults, and half a pound for children; the recipients come to the relief house in the afternoon, get their food, and go home.

21. The condition of the cattle in Bellary is critical. Over a great part of the district there is no fodder at all. The Native officials and Native traders estimate that from one-fifth to one-

fourth of the cattle have died already; and they anticipate that more than one-half must die before June, unless heavy January showers fall. It was estimated that four-fifths of the cattle in the district died during the famine of 1833. European and Native officials substantiate the statements (previously published in the newspapers), that ryots formerly well-to-do have sold bullocks in the Bellary market at one rupee a head, or for eight seers of cholum. Some of the cattle from the eastern talooks have been driven to the Kurnool hills; from Western Bellary some of the cattle have been taken to the Western Ghât pastures; while the hills of the Soondoor chiefship (in Bellary) afford some pasture. Attempts are being made to employ relief labourers in convesting prickly pear (cactus), of which there is abundance in Central Bellary, cutting into fodder by separating off the thorns. In Bellary town these attempts are succeeding on a small scale, but they have yet to be extended into the interior of the district.

22. The supply of drinking water has not run short as yet, though many of the tanks are quite dry. Wells are being deepened by relief labour in the villages. Still it is feared that, later in the year, there will be scarcity of water in some villages. It is not clear that anything else can be done to remedy the difficulty.

23. It is expected that from one-half to three-quarters of the land revenue (that is 16 out of 23 lakhs) will have to be suspended. And it is feared that after two years of short crops and one year of absolute failure, the Government may be compelled eventually to remit a large proportion of the suspended land revenue demand. It is urged that if a large number of the cattle die, the power of the people to pay up the suspended land revenue demanded will be greatly crippled. Besides the suspension of land revenue, one-half of the abkaree (liquor excise) revenue demand from the contractors has been suspended in Bellary.

C. BERNARD,
On special duty.

Cuddapah, the 19th January 1877.

No. IX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated 20th January 1877.

In forwarding the three memoranda of facts ascertained on the spot regarding the famine in the districts of Kurnool, Bellary, and Cuddapah, I have to record the following observations:

KURNOOL DISTRICT.

2. There is, unhappily, no doubt as to the danger which threatens the district of Kurnool, and which would have broken ere this had relief operations not been commenced. There is also no doubt that these operations are sustaining the people in good condition. Consequently, as regards mortality from starvation or any dangerous degree of distress, there is no apprehension whatever. The local officers are extremely anxious to do their work well, according to the instructions they have received, and to save the people from danger. So far well.

3. On the other hand, the relief operations must have passed out of hand, and have got beyond control locally, previous to the arrival of the present Collector, Mr. Davidson, about a fortnight ago, he having been urgently despatched thither by the Government of Madras. Within this brief period he is doing all he can to bring affairs into order, but they have arrived at such a stage as to demand further consideration and further instructions from superior authority. It seems to me that, on arriving here, he must have found the operations being conducted in a manner calculated to cause a heavy drain upon the Treasury and to render the people too dependent upon the State

4. The gravity of the case is in this wise: out of a population of 917,000 souls, there are reported to be 330,000 on relief works in the first fortnight of January, having gradually risen to the great number during December. There are some thousands on charitable relief from the State. Thus at this very early period, namely, the beginning of January, more than one-third of the total population have been allowed to be fed by the State. That such a proportion should come upon the State during the worst season, namely, the hot weather, might, under the circumstances of the district, have been anticipated, though this proportion even at that season would be full. But that such a proportion should at this early period come upon the Government is a circumstance not heretofore known and transcending the experience of former famines in India. Looking to that experience, and allowing also for the poverty and depression of the people, admitting further that some considerable relief is even now called for, yet I cannot believe that the extreme degree of relief is absolutely necessary at this early period. Even now there is a tendency to increase, and at this rate of progress, if it be unchecked, ere long half the population will be in receipt of State support. And if additional precautions be not taken, the process might go on until nearly the whole population were involved in State charity. Although the State may be called upon to save life from starvation, it surely need not be called upon to undertake such a task as that above described. At present the population consists of a peasantry with very small holdings of land. Of these already a large number are upon relief works. There seems to be no reason why larger and larger numbers from the same class should not apply for employment; and if they do, they will get it under existing orders. There is no preliminary check whatever for testing whether they are in absolute need or not. The fact of such men applying at all does indeed indicate that they are in some need; the question, however, is otherwise: Are they in such extreme need as to require State support?

5. The following table of percentages shows that in some talooks, or component parts of the district, the numbers on relief are excessive, while in other talooks they are comparatively moderate. There are not, so far as I can learn, local circumstances to account for these differences, which must be in part attributed to variations in administration; either the people have got the

idea that they are to be fully fed at any cost, or the local authorities are too lenient. The object should be to reduce the proportions in some talooks to the level of the preportions in other talooks:—

Talooks.

Ramalkota	has 49 per cent.		Nandial	has 46 per cent.		
Pattikonda	„ 21 „		Sirwell	„ 36 „	}	of its total population
Koilkantla	„ 45 „		Cumbum	„ 44 „	}	on relief works.
Nundikothkoor	„ 27 „		Markapore	„ 19 „		

6. As a *primâ facie* proof that these extreme measures in Kurnool can hardly be necessary, I would adduce the case of the Deccan districts of the Bombay Presidency which I have just visited. In the districts of Sholapur and Kaladgi, and half the districts of Ahmednagar and Poona, the loss of crops is as great as in Kurnool. Yet, in these several tracts, with a total population exceeding 2½ millions, there were in the beginning of January about 200,000 relief labourers, as compared with 330,000 in Kurnool out of a population of 917,000. Thus proportionately the number of relief labourers, as compared with the population, is in Kurnool more than four times as great as in the Deccan. Perhaps in some respects the position of Kurnool may be more unfavourable than that of the Deccan; but I am unable to learn any such local variations between the one and the other as would justify Kurnool having four times as many relief labourers as the Deccan. Certainly it cannot be said that the relief labourers in the Deccan are too few under the circumstances. On the contrary, the people in the Deccan are being well sustained under their misfortunes, and the only question is whether the number of relief labourers even there might not be somewhat reduced. Thus I fail to perceive any escape from the argument which is brought to bear upon Kurnool from the analogy of the Deccan. Therefore it seems necessary that the new Collector of Kurnool should be instructed to immediately reconsider the situation in his district, with a view to reducing the present number of relief labourers and to prevent its being augmented.

7. Another question relates to the importation and issue of Government grain. Although it is impossible to know the amount of grain in stock, there is no reason to suppose that stocks are exceptionally low, or that there is any deviation from the custom, whereby in other places several months' supply of food is kept in hand. Private trade is tolerably active; there are plenty of unemployed carts in the district, which can be and are used for the conveyance of grain from the several railway stations into the interior. There is a fair prospect of large quantities of grain coming from the north as well as from the south. The grain merchants of Kurnool are importing 3,000 maunds daily into the city; they say, however, that their importations are diminishing, which diminution they seem to attribute to the importations of grain by the Government. They do not seem, indeed, to particularly object to such importations of grain by Government; they only assign it as a reason for themselves taking a less active part in the trade. Under the circumstances, the policy of importing grain on account of Government seems to require considerations. I mention this because it is understood that 5,000 tons of grain a month are ordered to be imported by Government from without for this district. Even if the maintenance of some reserve is necessary, still the policy of importing into the district at this early period may be open to question, because it may discourage trade, and might cause railway waggons and country carts to be taken up for Government, which might otherwise have been at the disposal of traders.

8. At all events, I would recommend that Government grain be not under any circumstances issued to relief labourers at present. It may, indeed, be necessary hereafter at some places to pay relief labourers in grain only, especially when the worst season approaches. But at present it is far better to pay in cash, because this causes a local demand for grain, which again induces the holders of stock to bring forward their supplies, and encourages traders to bring in grain from without. Experience in relief operations has conclusively proved this. So long as the labourers can purchase food with their cash wages, let them be paid in cash. They certainly can at present obtain grain for cash. When the cash wages shall no longer enable them to purchase grain (and that time is apparently still distant), then, and not till then, let them be paid in grain.

9. It may be necessary to store a certain amount of grain at Kurnool itself, for use in event of emergency arising in the eastern parts of the districts Kumbum, Nundial, Markapore But I would explain this carefully to the traders, and assure them that not a bag of this store would be used so long as any grain were otherwise forthcoming. But I would not store any grain at any place between the railway and Kurnool, as these places are easily accessible to traders.

Bellary District.

10. As another proof that the numbers on relief in the Kurnool district must be too high, I would advert briefly to the Bellary district. There the failure of this year's harvest has been as utter as in Kurnool, with this difference, however, that in Kurnool last year's harvest was fairly good, whereas in Bellary it was bad last year and indifferent the year before that. In Bellary, therefore, there has been a gradually deepening scarcity. Now in Bellary the total number of those on relief amounts to 450,000, representing more than one-fourth of the total population of 1,600,000. By that analogy there ought to be less than one-fourth of the population on relief in Kurnool, instead of more than one-third, as there actually is.

11. In Bellary, however, as in Kurnool, I have carefully inspected the gangs of relief labourers, person by person, and have seen many who do not appear to be in absolute need. It is manifest, also, that not only have all the labouring classes been admitted to relief, but also a portion of the ryot classes, that is, peasant proprietors and men having a beneficiary interest in the land. One relief gang near Bellary, drawn up in line for inspection, consisted of peasant proprietors in one

line and their wives in another line. I cannot think that State charity need be dispensed to such people at this early period.

12. When the proportion of persons on relief to the whole population is compared in each talook, there are striking differences which cannot, I think, be fully accounted for, save by the supposition that in some talooks the relief is being two liberally administered. Thus—

Talooks.

Bellary	has 31	per cent.	Tadpatri	has 10	per cent.	of its total population on relief works.
Hospett	„ 18	„	Raydrug	„ 9	„	
Kudligi	„ 24	„	Anantapore	„ 21	„	
Havunhudgully	„ 20	„	Dharmaveram	„ 20	„	
Harpunhully	„ 9	„	Pennakonda	„ 11	„	
Alur	„ 20	„	Madukasira	„ 30	„	
Adoni	„ 31	„	Hindapore	„ 46	„	
Gooty	„ 16	„				

13. The number of those on charitable relief, about 45,000, seems extraordinarily high in Bellary; it requires immediate revision. It is partly, however, to be accounted for by the fact that here the children of persons earning relief wages on the works are admitted to gratuitous relief. This is not necessary, and should, I think, be stopped.

14. Those works which are under the supervision of the Public Works Department, employing above 150,000 persons on trunk roads and large tanks, are well supervised. I fear that over the rest of the 400,000 on relief works, say 250,000 who are on petty village works, the supervision is not yet complete.

15. The benefit to the Bellary district of the railway is striking during such a crisis as this. After successive failures of harvests the local stocks must be abnormally low (though, if all accounts be true, there are still more stocks remaining), but the local grain markets are all well supplied through importations by rail through private trade. The mart of Bellary itself receives the supplies from the distant districts, and then distributes them among the bazars in the interior. There may ultimately be some difficulty in supplying by trade the markets in the western and south-western parts of the district near the frontiers of Mysore and of the South Mahratta country, namely, the talooks of Hospett, Huvindhudgally, Hurpunhally, and Penniconda, and to these grain may have to be sent by Government. I am far from being sure of this, however, as opinions seem to differ on the point. But in all other parts of the district I would deprecate the storing of Government grain, as interfering with private trade.

16. And I would deprecate the issue of grain wages to relief labourers as not being called for by any existing deficiency of grain in the markets.

17. The prospect of preserving the cattle is more gloomy in Bellary than in any other district. Fortunately, however, the prickly pear is abundant, and many trials have proved that it answers as fodder. The ryots, indeed, have a prejudice on the point, which is known to be erroneous and ought to be overcome. The most earnest attention of the Collector might be drawn to the subject, as vitally affecting the preservation of the plough cattle; and relief labourers might be employed in preparing the plant for fodder, which is done by extracting the prickles.

18. The future increase of relief labourers in this district is a question on which opinions differ. The Collector, Mr. Master, hopes that it will not largely increase beyond the present total, but some of his subordinates think it will. Seeing that the increase has been so rapid of late, at a rate of 30,000 persons a week, I very much fear that the total will largely increase unless a check be applied.

Cuddapah District.

19. This district is much more favourably situated than either Kurnool or Bellary. Though it has lost three-fourths of the crops of the year, still it has saved nearly one-fourth. There is some irrigation going on. There is something of a crop in the ground, which will be reaped in the spring. Out of a population of 1,350,000, there are 200,000 persons on relief, or one-eighth. Here, also, are some of those differences between the talooks, or component parts of the districts, in respect to the proportion of relief labourers to the population which indicate variations in the administration. In the south-western talooks (locally called the "plateau" talooks), the administration is apparently too liberal, the proportion of relief labourers to the population being too high to be satisfactorily accounted for. Thus—

Talooks.

Cuddapah	has 6	per cent.	Muddanpally	has 16	per cent.	of its total population on relief works.
Roychoti	„ 13	„	Kadiri	„ 28	„	
Pulumpett	„ 5	„	Voilpard	„ 19	„	
Prodotore	„ 9	„	Siddhout	„ 8	„	
Janamadigu	„ 13	„	Pulivendla	„ 20	„	
Boodrail	„ 6	„				

The management is stricter around the head-quarters of the district, under the eye of Mr. Price, the Collector. But even here I saw many persons receiving relief who seem to be as yet far from being in extremity. But I am under the impression that in the Muddanpally division of the district there is an excessive expenditure going on, and that reconsideration is urgently called for there. The best part of the cattle are said to be safe. The grain markets are well supplied. I would deprecate any payments being made in grain, and the storing of any grain save at a few distant localities beyond the reach of private trade

20. In a separate minute I will offer such practical suggestions as occur to me in reference to all these considerations respecting the three districts.

Richard Temple.

Telegram, dated 22nd January 1877.

From Sir R. Temple, Madura, to Sir A. Arbuthnot, Calcutta.

Taskwork already ordered everywhere, but not fully enforced for want of staff. Relief moderate in most districts, except three, viz., Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, in which relief excessive and getting beyond control. For these I have recommended to Government of Madras that fresh admissions to works be stopped at present; that recipients of relief wages not in absolute need be discharged; that daily wages be reduced from two annas to one anna and half. These measures, if adopted, will save ten lakhs monthly by my estimate. I hope for support. The control of relief operations deficient in unity and concentration, and authority* are wanting in firmness. I must deal with multitudes of relief labourers. I have recommended to Government of Madras that special officer be appointed with full power to direct and control in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah.

Telegram, dated 20th January 1877.

From Sir R. Temple, Vellore, to Sir A. Arbuthnot, Calcutta.

For North Arcot relief of distress is careful and cheap. Contrast remarkable with Cuddapah.

Telegram, dated 23rd January 1877.

From Sir R. Temple, Tuticorin, to Honourable T. C. Hope, Calcutta.

Bisset reports block on Bombay line already being relieved. Much grain from the north now coming to Madras Presidency, but Madras line seems not able to take it all. I am pressing this on Madras authorities.

Telegram, dated 23rd January 1877.

From Sir R. Temple, Madura, to Sir A. Arbuthnot, Calcutta.

Have submitted to Government of Bombay proposals like those sent to Madras, whereby 25 lakhs may be saved in Bombay expenditure.

Telegram, dated 23rd January 1877.

From Sir R. Temple, Madura, to Sir A. Arbuthnot, Calcutta.

Large suspensions, land revenue, Madras, important to prevent any remissions being promised to people.

Telegram, dated 26th January 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta, to Secretary, Madras.

Sir Richard Temple represents importance of not promising to the people remissions of land revenue, but only suspending the demand. We commend question to your notice in consultation with him.

Telegram, dated 18th January 1877.

From Chief Secretary, Bombay, to Additional Secretary, Commerce, Calcutta.

Your telegram of the 16th instant. Instructions have been issued to the Collectors to make no further announcements as to the course Government will pursue respecting remissions of land revenue pending further orders. Government have to observe that considerable remissions have been granted on the principles laid down in their Resolution No. 6007 of the 21st October 1876, which was discussed in your letters No. 806 of the 3rd November, and No. 458 of the 30th November 1876, in which no objection was taken to the absolute remissions promised, which were in accordance with the established practice of the revenue system of this Presidency. Government propose replying to your telegram by post.

No. 338, dated Bombay Castle, 18th January 1877.

From the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

With reference to my telegram of to-day's date, I am directed to state, for the information of the Government of India, that the several Collectors concerned in this Presidency have been directed to abstain, until further orders, from making any public announcement as to the course which Government will pursue in respect to granting remissions of land revenue, and to take no steps to enforce payment of any land revenue which may become due pending further instructions from Government.

2. I am directed to add that the Government will take an early opportunity of addressing the Government of India on the subject of their telegram of the 16th to the Public Works Department.

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* Unintelligible.

No. 337, dated Bombay Castle, 18th January 1877.

RESOLUTION by the Government of Bombay.

The several Collectors should be instructed to abstain, until further orders, from making any public announcement as to the course which the Government will pursue in respect to granting remissions of land-revenue. No steps should be taken to enforce payment of any land revenue which may become due, pending further instructions from Government.

No. 57, dated 16th January 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

The Government of Bombay, in their resolution in the Public Works Department, dated the 4th November last, authorised the Collectors of distressed districts to commence certain of the relief works comprised in the programme sanctioned by Government Resolution No. 6152, of the 27th October, by requisition to the executive engineer, certifying that the works were absolutely necessary to afford relief.

2. The objections to this important delegation of power came under the observation of the Government of India in the case of certain works which were commenced by the Collectors, notwithstanding that they came within the suspensory orders which had been issued; and it was in consequence of this, suggested in paragraph 13 of my letter No. 421 of the 15th instant, that the Revenue Commissioners should be invested with the power of sanctioning or transferring grants within suitable limits.

3. Further illustrations of the irregularities which may arise, and the unnecessary expenditure which may be caused by the continuance of these powers in the hands of Collectors, are afforded by the resolutions of the Bombay Government of the 8th and 9th January.

4. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that, whatever good grounds may have existed for this delegation of power in November last, when the scope of the famine was uncertain, and small works were alone authorised for relief, the objections to it at the present stage are considerable, and I am therefore to request that his Excellency the Governor in Council will take steps for its withdrawal.

No. 1T., dated Delhi Camp, 20th December 1876.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

I have had the honour to receive your letter No. 260 C.W.—1013, dated 9th instant, and am directed to express the regret of the President in Council that symptoms of distress should have made their appearance in four talukas of the Colaba and Rutnagherry districts.

2. As these districts are throughout contiguous to the sea, and are provided with numerous creeks and landing places, it may be expected that an ample supply of the cheaper kinds of grain will ere long be attracted in the ordinary course of trade, and tend to reduce prices to a less abnormal level. As, moreover, the supply of grain, which, it is stated, has for some weeks past been leaving for the Deccan, will have yielded to its owners a money return at extraordinarily high rates, the resources of certain classes of the population will be better able to meet the strain of higher prices, and to continue to afford to the lowest sections any employment and means of earning their bread which the latter may have derived from them in ordinary years.

3. There are therefore some grounds for hope that the anticipations of famine entertained by the Collectors of these two districts may not be altogether realised.

4. At the same time some limited extent of relief works appear to be necessary, and the President in Council approves of the road works which his Excellency in Council has sanctioned. Should any further relief be necessary, it should be given exclusively in the form of road clearances or other small works distributed over the talukas affected, and avoiding projects which are large or unsuited for relief purposes, such as the Mahad waterworks or the Gandhari bridge, which the Government of Bombay have already very properly disallowed.

5. With reference to the expected immigration of 8,000 distressed persons from the Habshee's territory, I am directed to state that the President in Council cannot recognise in this, or any other instance, an obligation to provide extensive relief to the subjects of a Foreign State, and that all political officers should receive instructions, where such states are under British management, to organize, and where they are not, to urge the durbars to organize measures of relief sufficient to meet the wants of whatever distressed population they contain.

6. Regarding the district of Kanara, it is observed that no failure of crops is believed to have taken place, and that relief works are started solely for the benefit of refugees from other districts. A few works with that object were probably indispensable, but as they are very likely to be taken advantage of by inhabitants of Kanara not really in distress, the President in Council trusts that the utmost vigilance will be used to confine them to foreigners, and that every encouragement will be afforded to the latter to return to their homes whenever in a condition to do so. Instructions should also be issued to all Collectors in distressed districts to check emigration of all persons not taking their cattle to known better pastures, by all means in their power, the most effective of which, it is scarcely necessary to say, is the provision of adequate relief works for them near home.

Local. No. 22 C. W.—31 of 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

II.—Civil Works.

Public Works Department, Bombay, 8th January 1877.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1 T., of the 20th December last, relative to the relief of distress in the Colaba, Ratnagiri, and Kanara districts, and to state that, as regards the two former, his Excellency the Governor in Council will carefully act on the instructions to give relief in the form of small works, so long as the extent of the demand for it can be met by such means.

2. His Excellency in Council feels himself somewhat embarrassed by the announcement contained in the fifth paragraph of your letter, that the President in Council cannot recognise an obligation in any instance to provide extensive relief to the subjects of a foreign state. That it is the duty of such states to afford relief to their subjects to the extent of their means cannot be denied, it is also clearly the duty of their political officers to urge them to do so; and the political officers employed under this Government are using their best endeavours to this end under the orders conveyed to them in paragraphs 11 and 12 of Government resolution by this Government, No. 267 C. W.—1032, of the 13th December 1876, a copy of which is attached. But if this Government is to act on the belief that they will be held responsible if any person be permitted to die from starvation, where the death could be prevented by action on the part of this Government, after the very prominent assertion of the paramount authority of the British Government which has recently taken place, this Government apprehend that their conduct would be seriously called in question if they were to refuse relief to people of a so-called foreign state who had been driven by the shortcomings of their ruler to take refuge in British territory.

3. Moreover, it would be almost impracticable, on a sudden emergency, to ascertain exactly who were our own subjects and who were foreigners. Our own villages and those of foreign states are, in some cases, considerably intermingled; and it should not be forgotten that when the pressure of distress began to be felt the people of Sholapur crowded into the Nizam's territory, and very probably, if the people of Khandesh are subjected to pressure in the course of one or two months, many will pass into Holkar's territory.

4. His Excellency in Council, therefore, takes the liberty of inviting a reconsideration of these orders.

5. The Collector of Kanara will be instructed to use his best endeavours to restrict employment on relief works to those who are absolutely in need of it. In so doing he will be conforming to the efforts already made by this Government to prevent the relief works from becoming too attractive.

No. 90, dated 22nd January 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, P. W. Dept.

In reply to your letter, No. 22 C. W.—31, of 8th instant, I am directed to state that his Excellency the Governor-General in Council sees no ground for modifying the general rule laid down in paragraph 5 of the letter from this Department, No. 1 T., of 20th December, that the Government of India is under no obligation to provide extensive relief to the subjects of a foreign state, and that measures should be taken through the political officers to ensure adequate relief works being organized by the Government of any Native state affected by scarcity.

2. This rule was elicited by the fact that the Collectors of Colaba and Rutnagherry, in paragraph 5 of their joint report, dated November 19th, included in their calculations of relief required the maintenance of 8,000 subjects of the Habshee State from early in January till the end of June, and that no objection was taken to this item by the Bombay Government.

3. As the rule expressly refers to *extensive* relief, it would not preclude the grant of temporary relief in isolated cases, whether of individuals whose nationality was not at first recognised, or of bodies of foreigners suddenly at our works in a state of destitution needing immediate relief. But his Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers that it would be the duty of the officers in charge of the works, whether in the one case or the other, to communicate with the political officer of the Native state whose subjects the immigrants were, with the view to their transfer to relief works in their own country at the earliest practicable date.

4. The rule would not, it seems scarcely necessary to add, preclude the making of any special arrangements for mutual accommodation which might be deemed in the Political Department to be advisable between the British Government and Native states, such as the granting permission, either free or on payment of fees, for the grazing of cattle of such states in our reserves, or *vice versâ*.

5. As regards the particular case of Jinjeera, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council is glad to learn from the accompaniment to your letter, No. 20 E.—85, of the 17th instant, that the Collectors have apparently been mistaken, as the political agent reports that there will be no scarcity of grain, and consequently no emigration.

Telegram, dated 23rd January 1877.

From SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, Tinnevelly, to HONOURABLE T. C. HOPE, Calcutta.

Gazette with general instructions received by me yesterday and carefully perused. I think that at least in three districts—namely, Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah—the relief operations are

in a considerable degree liable to all the objections described in paragraphs second and third of your letter to my address; also that with reference to paragraphs eighth, ninth, and tenth, the grain operations of the Local Government in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah have impeded and are still impeding private trade. These opinions have been already represented in previous minutes, but I am recording them again in a minute which will be immediately submitted to the Governments of India and of Madras. I have already proposed the several remedies which seem to me necessary. I have now added further proposal about concentrating labour on large works and closing petty works. I will urge all these views verbally on the Government of Madras when I reach Madras on Friday 26th. I further think that the objections in paragraphs second and third of your letter applicable, though in a much less degree, to the relief operations in the districts of Poona and Sholapur. This opinion is verbally embodied in my previous minute, but I am explicitly stating it again in a minute which will be submitted immediately to Governments of India and of Bombay.

Revenue, No. 21.

From Secretary of State for India in Council to the Governor-General of India in Council.

India Office, London, 28th February 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 26th January, No. 5 of 1877, relative to the scarcity in Western and Southern India, has been considered by me in Council.

2. In Bombay, the prospect is, on the whole, somewhat more gloomy than in the preceding week, the number of persons on the relief works having increased and the prices of grain having risen in five districts.

3. In Madras there is no substantial improvement, but through the exertions of Sir R. Temple, the number of persons on the relief works has been diminished, and there is a prospect of a large monthly saving by the more careful control of famine expenditure.

4. The instructions to the Bombay Government not to delegate the important power of commencing relief works without the previous sanction of the Revenue Commissioner have my approval.

5. I also concur in the general principle with respect to the relief of the subjects of foreign states laid down by your Excellency.

6. It is clearly an obligation that devolves on Native states to provide, as far as possible, for those of their own population who are affected by the scarcity.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 6 of 1877.

From the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the Secretary of State for India.

Calcutta, the 2nd February 1877.

In continuation of our Despatch No. 5, of the 26th ultimo, on the subject of the scarcity in Western and Southern India, we beg leave to forward for your Lordship's information copies of the communications specified in the margin.

Minutes by Sir R. Temple, numbered XI., XIII., XIV., XVII.
Memoranda by Mr. C. Bernard, numbered X., XII., XV., XVI.
Telegram from Sir R. Temple, dated 28th January 1877.

2. The memoranda summarise the information as to the condition of the districts of Cuddapah, North Arcot, Coimbatore, and Trichinopoly given to Sir R. Temple by the local officers, traders, and others with whom he was able to communicate. The minutes contain his own conclusions and suggestions; in minute No. XI. he recommends the appointment of one controlling officer on the spot for the three districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah. In No. XII. he contrasts the condition of affairs and extent of relief in Cuddapah with that of North Arcot, and suggests that the arrangements in the former should be reconsidered with a view to economy. In minute No. XIV. he combats the objections which he anticipates may be raised to the reduction in relief wages which was proposed in his minute No. VII. Finally, in minute No. XVII. he applies to the case of Bombay the suggestions for reduction in rate of wages

made for Madras, and computes that there may be a saving thereby of 23 lakhs of rupees on his previous estimate of 149 lakhs of relief expenditure for that Presidency. As regards this recommendation, it would appear from the Bombay progress statement No. X. of the 19th ultimo, that it has already been anticipated by the Local Government.

3. We have received with much satisfaction from Sir R. Temple a telegram dated Madras, the 28th ultimo, informing us that the Local Government accede substantially to all his proposals for economy, and that orders will, he believes, be issued at once. We have also received from the Madras Government an application for the services of 10 Bengal civil servants under various Governments and Administrations who have been specially selected by Sir R. Temple, and are taking steps to comply with it as far as may be practicable.

4. Regarding the condition of the distressed districts, we have no very material changes to report. In Madras, the number on the relief works has been reduced by about 50,000, and cholera prevails to a very great extent. In Bombay, there has been a very slight fall in prices in some districts, but the numbers on the relief works have again increased.

5. We are now beginning to receive the review and forecast reports by talukas which were due on the 15th ultimo. The number which have already reached us is shown in the margin.

Bombay, 47 out of 91 (excluding the Konkan and political agencies).
Madras, 6 out of 124.
Mysore, 49 out of 81.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON, &c.

X.—MEMORANDUM on the Condition and Prospects of Relief Affairs in the Cuddapah District, as ascertained at Sir Richard Temple's Conference with the Local Officers on the 19th January 1877.

At Cuddapah Sir Richard Temple had the advantage of the presence of—

Mr. G. Thornhill, First Member of the Revenue Board; and he conferred with—

Mr. Price, the Collector, who had joined the Cuddapah district a few days previously, after serving for several weeks as Relief Officer at the Bellary head-quarters;

Mr. Benson, Head Assistant Collector, who has been some few months in the district, and is in charge of three eastern taluks;

Mr. Maccartie, Assistant Collector, in charge of the head-qnarter taluk;

Mr. Travers, Government grain agent at Cuddapah;

Ramasamy, Deputy Collector, who has been employed for five years at Cuddapah; besides the representative traders of Cuddapah, and a gentleman who has for the last six weeks been doing business at Cuddapah on behalf of a Madras firm.

2. The Cuddapah district comprises an area of 8,367 square miles, with a population of 1,351,194 persons, and it is divided into 11 taluks. It is traversed by the North-western Railway, of which a branch goes to Bellary. In physical characteristic the four taluks on the Mysore plateau, forming the sub-division of Maddanpally, differ considerably from the other seven taluks around Cuddapah itself. The rainfall of the year 1876 has ranged from 6 to 11 inches in the different taluks; and on the average has not exceeded 8 inches. The average rainfall of the district for the last eight years has been 31 inches, ranging from 21 to 36 inches in the different taluks. Both the June and the October rainfalls (S.E. and N.W. monsoons) were deficient. There has been excessive failure of both the autumn and winter crops all over the district, except in the taluks of Cuddapah, Prodatore, Boodrail, Sidhout, and Pullampet. In all of these taluks there has been a good deal of irrigation from the Toongabhudra Canal,* by channels from the Papagni, Pennair, and Cheyair rivers, and from wells. Nearly all the tanks in the district are wholly dry, so that little crop has been saved by tank irrigation.

* The Irrigation Company's officers state that 22,000 acres in Cuddapah have taken canal water this year.

3. The chief food crops are—

	Area under crop in last ordinary year.
	Acres.
Cholam (jowari) - - -	420,000
Cumboo (bajra) - - - -	348,000
Rice - - - - -	126,000
Ragi† - - - - -	94,000

The yield of the food crops of the present year is estimated at six annas (or nearly half an ordinary good crop) in the head-quarter taluk, four annas in four other taluks, and at only two or three annas in the bad taluks; and for the whole district the local officers estimate a yield of three annas, or about one-fifth of an ordinary crop all round. On the irrigated lands in the comparatively good taluks a considerable quantity of rice and ragi will be reaped within the next few weeks; and the prospect of this outturn has had some effect on Cuddapah prices. After the

† This staple is grown chiefly in the plateau taluks.

crops now in the ground shall have been reaped, the earliest harvest of next season will consist of the August rice and of the September cumbu (bajra). The harvest in the plateau taluks will be somewhat earlier than in taluks around Cuddapah.

4. Grain markets in the northern taluks are well supplied, chiefly with imported grain. Ragi is being brought in from Nellore and even from Calicut, as well as rice in great abundance from Madras. In a few marts of the plateau taluks there has been occasional shortness of supply; local stocks there are believed to be short, and it is said that the ryots there, when they saw their millet fields coming on well early in the season, sold off their stocks to the distressed population of Mysore. Large importations come every day into Cuddapah, and petty dealers from outlying marts fetch out supplies thence. Mr. St. Martin, who is now doing business at Cuddapah for a Madras firm, considers that the importations have now fully supplied all local demands. He could sell every bag of rice he imported at remunerative prices four weeks ago, whereas his rice now goes off but slowly, at prices 12 or 15 per cent. cheaper. Native dealers say that grain is not now coming in quite as briskly as before, because Government is sending up its own grain. There are plenty of carts in the district, and as yet draught cattle do full duty. The roads are good and easy, save towards Boodrail and Cumbum (in Kurnool), in which direction the routes are hilly and are heavy for cart traffic.

5. The Collectorate officials give the current (18th January) prices at—

	Present price.	Averaga price during month of December in ordinary years.
Rice - - - -	7 seers	- 13 seers per rupee.
Cholam - - -	9¼ „	- 24 „ „
Ragi - - - -	9½ „	- 25 „ „

Prices were at one time quite 15 per cent. dearer, but they have now been falling for the last two or three weeks, partly because large importations have come in, and partly because there is hope of a considerable spring-crop yield off the irrigated lands. In the Prodatore Taluk, through which the railway runs, prices are even cheaper than the above quotations. But in the remoter, and especially in the plateau, taluks, prices are from 10 to 20 per cent. dearer than Cuddapah rates. The native traders who waited upon Sir Richard Temple gave somewhat lower quotations for cholam, saying that some jowaree, which came into Cuddapah four days ago, was selling to-day at 10 seers per rupee for Jubbulpore grain and 9½ seers for Sholapore grain.

6. Government rice from Madras is being sent into Cuddapah by both the Northern and the South-western Railways. Mr. Travers, the Government grain agent at Cuddapah, has received from Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., Government brokers, and sent off into the interior of the Cuddapah district, about 20,000 maunds, besides 60,000 maunds for the Cumbum Taluk of Kurnool. The plateau taluks are being supplied from the station of Goriatam on South-western Railway, and the Collector of North Arcot states that he has for weeks passed forwarded considerable quantities of Government grain to the depôts under the sub-divisional officer of Maddanpally, who has also made advances of Government money to local traders in order to induce them to bring up from the railway supplies for the local markets; but information is not obtainable at Cuddapah regarding the amount or the result of these advances.

7. Regarding the stocks in the hands of the people, accurate information does not exist. But it is known that the yield of food crops in the next preceding (1875-76) season was short, being estimated at an eight-anna, or half an ordinary crop; three lakhs were that year remitted out of a total demand of fourteen lakhs. The crop of 1874-75 in Cuddapah was on the whole good, notwithstanding the excessive rain at the end of the season. The general condition of the Cuddapah people in ordinary years is good; the Cuddapah manual calls the ryots a well-to-do set of men; and the local officers, European and Native, agree that the Cuddapah ryot, both on the plateau and below it, is ordinarily a man of some substance and lives in tolerable comfort. The local traders estimated that barely one-half of the ryots were much in debt. The labouring classes are said to be about one-fourth of the total population. Very many ryots are believed to hold some grain stocks in the inland taluks; but in the plateau taluks much of the local stores were exported before the recent failure of harvest declared itself, and so the stocks there are perhaps unusually low.

8. All persons who apply for Government assistance are employed upon relief works, which consist mainly of roads. Some few thousands are employed on tank-work, but roads are the main relief works, especially in the plateau taluks. The Collector has directed that no new road-work be undertaken, and that relief labourers be put upon the repairs of irrigation channels and of tanks, works which can be done without professional preliminaries. A large embankment is being thrown up along the Pennair River to protect the railway. The local officers cannot indicate any large work on which a considerable number of labourers could be concentrated. Some of the Cuddapah people are migrating for work to the East Coast Canal in the Nellore district, and such emigration is being encouraged.

9. The rate of relief wages is everywhere 2 annas a day for adult males. For some weeks the rate in the southern (plateau) sub-division was 2½ annas a day. On Saturday double wages are paid, a Sunday wage at full rates being presented to the workpeople. The Collector, Mr. Price, has found difficulty in preventing large extra numbers from coming to work on Saturday with a view to secure the free Sunday wage. In Bellary, Mr. Price was able to stop the issue of the weekly Sunday present. Relief wages in Boodrail are paid in grain. Wages for women and children are proportionately lower than those quoted above. Attempts are made to enforce taskwork, and a scale of work has been laid down. But practically the task is not rigorously enforced, as the supervising establishment is insufficient. About six lakhs of rupees have been spent on relief works up to the present time.

10. The number of people returned as present on relief works in each taluk, according to the latest (11th January) figures, is :—

	Total number on works.					
Roychoti - -	17,068,	equal to	13	per cent.	of the population	of the taluk.
Cuddapah - -	9,953	„	6	„	„	„
Palumpet - -	7,854	„	5	„	„	„
Prodotore - -	9,021	„	9	„	„	„
Jamamadigu - -	14,082	„	13	„	„	„
Boodrail - - -	5,663	„	6	„	„	„
Maddanpally - -	35,101	„	26	„	„	„
Kadiri - - -	39,074	„	28	„	„	„
Voilpard - - -	27,899	„	19	„	„	„
Sidhout - - -	6,180	„	8	„	„	„
Pulivendla - -	22,591	„	20	„	„	„
Total - -	195,476, or					
According to the latest total furnished by the Collector - -	204,000, equal to		15	per cent.	of the population.	

11. Relief works began in the plateau taluks towards the end of September, and at Cuddapah on the 18th October. When the people came on the works at first some of them were in a physically depressed condition, especially in Boodrail. But the relief labourers are well and strong. From one-fourth to one-third of the labourers are ryots or their families, but the majority are pariahs (labouring people of low caste). The great increase in the number of relief labourers occurred in the latter half of December ; the numbers are now nearly stationary. The tahsildar of Cuddapah considers that perhaps one-eighth of the workpeople in his taluk could subsist, for a time at any rate, without relief wages. Sir Richard Temple visited gangs in two or three directions round Cuddapah, and he found the relief labourers for the most part stout and well clad. In one village, where a considerable breadth of irrigated crop was coming forward, he found a number of ryots with their wives in receipt of wages on a relief work close to their homes. The variation in the percentage of the population on relief works in the northern and southern taluks was attributed partly to the circumstance that the failure of crops was worst in the southern (or plateau) taluks, and partly to the comparatively less strict administration of relief under the Sub-Collector of Muddanpally.

12. No gratuitous relief is being given from State funds, save in the sub-division of Maddanpally, where 915 persons are receiving charitable relief, the cost of which is defrayed half from Government and half from private funds. About 1,500 persons (infirm, children, sick, and beggars) are being relieved daily in Cuddapah town from private subscriptions.

13. The cattle of the district have hitherto been kept alive with fodder from the canal banks, or with grass from the hills. Some are driven away to the pastures of the hills* within the district. On the whole, the cattle are much better off than in the Bellary district. The local officers expect that most of the valuable cattle, both plough and draught, will be kept alive one way or another.

* Palkonda hills, Nalla Malla, Seshachesham, Zena Malla, most of which are practically branches or offshoots of the Eastern Ghâts.

14. There is apparently no present cause for fearing a failure of the water supply. But water may hereafter run short in the black soil taluks, but as yet no difficulty is experienced.

15. The collection of the land revenue is stayed for the present. Probably about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the district demand (14 lakhs) will have to be suspended, and eventually some portion of this may have to be remitted. One quarter of the abkari (liquor excise) revenue has been suspended in Cuddapah, as compared with one half in Bellary and Kurnool.

C. Bernard,
Secretary to Sir R. Temple.

Vellore, the 20th January 1877.

XI.—Minute by Sir R. Temple, dated 22nd January 1877.

In continuation of my minute of the 19th and the 20th January, describing the relief operations in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, and suggesting certain measures of economy, I desire to submit, for the consideration of the Government of Madras, a suggestion respecting administrative control.

2. If measures of additional control are to be adopted, it is to be apprehended that local difficulties of various kinds will be adduced, and questions will be raised, which can only be settled by some officer with plenary power on the spot, if they are to be settled with the necessary promptitude and vigour. Further, with such very extensive operations of relief, spreading over so large an area, and affecting so many classes, it is difficult to secure that degree of uniformity of system which is necessary to be maintained, even after allowing for all local peculiarities, unless there is some authority immediately at hand to whom all the local officers must defer.

3. I would therefore suggest that some officer be thus appointed by Government to reside within these three districts for the present, and be vested with full power, subject immediately to the Government of Madras, to direct and control all the relief operations. I believe that this measure will be conducive to economy as well as efficiency.

Richard Temple.

XII.—MEMORANDUM on the Condition and Prospects of Relief Affairs in the district of North Arcot, as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple at Conferences with the Local Officers on the 20th January.

Sir Richard Temple met in the North Arcot district—

Mr. Whiteside, the Collector.

Mr. Irvine, the Sub-Collector at Vellore, who has charge of the Vellore, Arcot, and Gudiatam taluks, and also of the Kangundy zemindari.

Mr. Austin, Head Assistant in charge of the Wallajah Taluk, and also of the great zemindaris of Karietnuggur and Kalastri.

Krishnaswamy Ayah, late Sheristadar, and at present Special Deputy Collector of North Arcot.

The North Arcot district comprises an area of 7,139 square miles, and a population of 2,015,278. It contains two considerable towns, Vellore and Wallajahpet, and it is traversed by a railway which passes across the whole district. It is divided into nine taluks, and it comprises, besides these taluks, 13 zemindari estates, some of which are very large. Two of its taluks, Punganur and Chendragiri, are situate upon the uplands of the Mysore plateau. The zemindari estates contain nearly one third of the whole population of the district.

2. The rainfall of the district was short last year, but this year it has failed; thus—

	Average rainfall of the Arcot district for the year.
1874–75 - - - - -	50
1875–76 - - - - -	23
1876–77 - - - - -	16

While 16 inches is the average for the whole district, in some taluks the rainfall has been much smaller still. The yield of the harvests of 1874–75 was excellent; that of the year 1875–76 was short, being estimated at little more than eight annas, or one-half an ordinary good crop. The yield of the current year may be estimated to be a four-anna (or about quarter of an ordinary good) crop for the whole district. The outturn has varied greatly in the different taluks. The wet crops under tanks have failed altogether, as the tanks, great and small, were empty. The dry crops in the Gudiatam, Wandewash, and Poloor taluks were fairly good; there is a great deal of irrigation from wells in those taluks, and in the two great zemindaris of Karvetnagar and Kalastri, where the land is rich; in the two taluks on the Mysore plateau, near to and of the same character with the plateau taluks* of Cuddapah.

* Muddenpilly, Voilpard.

3. If distress should unhappily become general, the zemindars and their establishment will assist greatly in the administration of relief, excepting the few who are heavily in debt. The zemindar of Punganoor has already been of much help to the Collector, and has displayed much liberality. The ryots and landholders in the zemindaris are, generally speaking, well off. The total rental of the zemindaris is 14 lakhs, and they pay 4¾ lakhs revenue to Government. In their estates Government has no revenue establishments.

4. The markets of North Arcot, both in town and villages, are well supplied with food; private trade is remarkably active; carts and draught cattle are abundant; and the district roads are remarkably good. Up to about three weeks ago rice and ragi were being largely exported from the district; but then prices stiffened, the tide turned, and importations of rice began from Madras. During the last three or four days prices have fallen again somewhat in consequence of the large importations which took place, and the appearance of which drew forth the local stocks.

5. Current prices in markets near the railway are quoted at—

Ragi (small millet), 9½ seers per rupee.
Rice, 7¾.

There is but little cholum to be had in the bazaars, and ragi is the ordinary food of the common people. In markets remote from the railway prices rule about 5 to 8 per cent. dearer than the above quotations. The Collector has no doubt whatever that private trade will suffice to meet the wants of this district. He was asked how much Government grain his district would require, and he answered as above. Certain wealthy and trustworthy dealers of the district have engaged to import grain and put it down at depôts near the relief works in case supplies should ever be required for relief labourers.

6. In ordinary years the ryots and peasantry of North Arcot are prosperous people. They have comfortable houses and fine cattle. In the taluks on the plateau the villagers are poorer, still even then they are not in a depressed condition. Even this year the people were fairly well off, and the Collector for long abstained from opening relief works, because he thought they were not absolutely necessary. Prices no doubt were high, and there were signs of distress or uneasiness in the shape of dacoities and robberies. The police officials, high or low, much urged the Collector to interfere, saying that the people were starving, but the Native revenue officials confirmed the Collector in his opinion that the time for administering Government relief had not come. One or two deaths were reported by the police as caused by starvation, but the Collector after inquiry satisfied himself that the deaths in question were due to ordinary natural causes.

7. In December relief works were opened, and the highest number yet on the relief works was about 40,000. The latest published return shows a smaller total, but the temporary decrease was due to accident. Some few of the people on the works near Vellore were in a depressed physical condition when they first came, but the rest were, and still are, in good condition. Sir Richard Temple saw about 3,000 relief labourers at work on a tank in the Vellore cantonment, and they seemed to him to be, as a body, more in need of relief, and poorer altogether, than any relief gangs he has seen in the Madras Presidency. Taskwork is not exacted from the work-people, and all the works have hitherto been under the supervision of the local revenue officials. The officials† of the engineering department are now going to direct the

* 1 Executive engineer.
3 Range officers (assistant engineer).
1 Overseer for each taluk.

works. Hitherto the relief labourers have been employed on roads, but orders have recently been received to work them on clearing tanks and irrigation channels.

8. Wages are paid to relief labourers in cash; once a week seven days' wages are paid in full, though no work is done on the Sunday. Originally the rate began at 2½ annas for an adult male per diem, but this was, by Mr. Thornhill's order, reduced to two annas a day, at which it has since stood.

9. The Collector says that, instead of 40,000 persons, 80,000 are ready to come upon the works if only he would admit them. And he estimated that at the worst season as many as 150,000 persons might be upon the works in Arcot. After reading Sir Richard Temple's suggestions for economy, which have been laid before the Government of Madras, the Collector said that, provided he had competent agency to carry out those suggestions, he might keep the total numbers of relief labourers considerably below 150,000 without endangering the safety of the people.

* Now the estimate was—

80,000	average of	February.
100,000	„	March.
130,000	„	April.
150,000	„	May.

This estimate for May may be fulfilled if no rain falls in May. But if rain comes then the numbers ought to fall at once to 80,000 during May.

10. Until a few days ago nobody in the district was receiving gratuitous relief from the State, though some few hundreds were getting a daily meal at the Vellore municipal house. On the occasion of Sir Richard's visit the pauper recipients of relief at Vellore were inspected, and many of them were in a really emaciated condition. The medical officer, however, reported that the applicants for relief were greatly increasing, and that some of these applicants appeared to be in real need. The Sub-Collector accordingly, on the 31st December, sanctioned the opening of a relief house, and at present some 4,000 are receiving a daily dole of rice (1 lb. for adults). When appliances are ready cooked food will be given, but it is expected that the rate and costs of relief will be kept at about one-half of the cost per head of relieving paupers at the Red Hills camp near Madras. Mr. Irvine explains that Vellore town contains a considerable pauper population; he adds, however, that when relief began to be given a good many applicants came into Vellore from the neighbouring villages. As yet, however, no applicant has been granted a ticket for daily relief until the medical officer (or one of his subordinates) had certified him or her as a suitable recipient of charity.

11. The Collector is satisfied that in the interior the village officials will, after all the admonitions they have received, watch and bring up for relief people who are really in danger of starving. Some few paupers are receiving gratuitous relief at the cost of private charity at Gudiatam.

12. Hereafter there may be cause for apprehension in regard to the cattle or in regard to the water supply. Water is falling short in Vellore itself, but the district generally is full of wells, which are being deepened. In the taluks on the plateau the level of the sub-soil waters is sinking rapidly. Up to the present time the cattle have managed to pick up a living.

13. The Collector apprehends that one half of the land revenue demand (8 lakhs out of 16) will have to be suspended this year. There will be considerable loss, also, on the abkari (liquor excise) revenue.

C. Bernard.

XIII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated 20th January 1877.

In forwarding the accompanying memorandum of the facts learned during my visit to the North Arcot district I desire to record the following observations:—

2. The district has suffered a severe loss of harvest from drought; not more than four annas of the total harvest have been saved. It has a population of two millions of souls, scattered over an area of 7,139 square miles. It is almost entirely surrounded by distressed districts; it has several large towns inhabited by a poor population. There are many signs of coming distress upon a large scale, Nevertheless, the Collector, Mr. Whiteside, has managed so far to hold his hand as to give relief to only a limited number. It is true that great pressure has been, and is being, put upon him by the people to extend relief operations, and he may very shortly have to do so. But the fact remains, that on the 20th January there are not more than 40,000 persons receiving relief from Government, and that the total expenditure by Government on relief is considerably less than one lakh of rupees, viz., Rs. 66,000.

3. These circumstances are somewhat remarkable when contrasted with the facts shown in the memorandum regarding the Cuddapah district, which adjoins North Arcot. In Cuddapah the crop saved amounts to nearly three annas. Out of a population of 1,300,000 souls, 200,000 are on Government relief on the 20th January, the expenditure on relief up to that date amounting to six lakhs of rupees.

4. There may be local variations of circumstances between Cuddapah and North Arcot, a detailed comparison of which is not perhaps necessary here. But as affecting the scarcity, the numbers on relief works, and the expenditure, I can discover no essential difference between the two districts, save this, that in Cuddapah there is a three-anna crop, and in North Arcot a four-anna crop; that is to say, Cuddapah is 25 per cent. worse than North Arcot.

5. The questions then arise: Can the difference in result between the two districts be satisfactorily accounted for? Are they not mainly attributable to difference of management? The financial effect of such difference may be seen thus. Supposing that a precise calculation were made on the data above stated. If Cuddupah, with its three-anna crop and its 1,300,000 persons, had been managed in the same manner as the North Arcot district, the numbers on relief on the 20th January would have been 26,000 and the expenditure Rs. 40,000, instead of 200,000 persons and six lakhs of rupees respectively, as they actually were. On the other hand, if North Arcot, with its four-anna crop and its two millions of people, had been managed in the same manner as, Cuddapah, then on the 20th January the numbers on relief would have been 225,000 persons and the expenditure would have been 6¾ lakhs, instead of 40,000 persons and Rs. 66,000

respectively, as they actually were. All this is arithmetically demonstrable even after allowing for the loss of harvest in Cuddapah being 25 per cent. greater than in North Arcot. And if the inference were to be fully drawn to its logical length, it would show the difference, viz., 6 lakhs, has been lost, whereas in North Arcot the difference, viz., 6 lakhs, has been saved, to the Treasury, mainly through the variations in the policy carried out. Inasmuch as there has been no loss of life proved* to result from starvation in North Arcot, it would seem to follow that the Collector there has done enough. If that be so, it would then seem, *primâ facie*, to follow that the authorities in Cuddapah had been, and are, doing too much.

6. Without unduly pressing the logical conclusions to be drawn from these calculations, I would still represent that, *primâ facie*, a strong case arises for reconsidering the arrangements in Cuddapah with reference to financial economy, so far as that may consist with the safety of the people.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

XIV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated 22nd January 1877.

In my minute of the 19th January, I recommended that relief wages in the Madras Presidency should be experimentally reduced from 2 annas to 1½ annas a day for a male adult, that is, a diminution of 25 per cent. The financial effect may be approximately estimated thus:—The present number of labourers may be taken at 1,200,000; the average wage may be taken at 1½ annas (including men, women, and children, receiving 2 annas for a man, 1¼ annas for a woman, and 1 anna for a child per diem), or Rs. 2½ per mensem per head all round. This will give a total of 30 lakhs of rupees per mensem on the whole. A reduction of one-fourth of 30 lakhs, if it can be maintained, would at once cause a saving of 7½ lakhs per mensem. This saving will accrue even if the present total of relief labourers shall fortunately not increase. If it were, however, to increase, the saving would be proportionately greater. If a saving of 7½ lakhs a month were to be carried out for four months, which is the shortest time computable, then the total saved on this heading alone would be 30 lakhs of rupees. In all probability this saving will really be much more. Under some circumstances, which are unfortunately but too probable (that is, increase in the number of relief labourers), it might amount to 50 lakhs or half a million sterling. This is, I submit, an important consideration financially, which cannot be lightly set aside.

2. I mention this because I apprehend that objections will be raised to this particular proposal, which objections may in effect be thus stated; namely,—

(1.) That 1¼ annas per diem will not at present prices purchase sufficient food.
(2.) That it will not sustain the people in robust health.
(3.) That it will not enable a man to perform taskwork with all his strength.
(4.) That a reduction will make the relief labourers discontented, and tempt them to rioting.

3. In my judgment these objections are not valid as against making an experiment upon which such large financial results depend.

4. As regards the first objection, at a price of 8 seers a rupee for common food grains, 1½ annas will purchase one pound avoirdupois of grain, and will leave a margin for vegetables and condiments. Experience has shown that, though this may not be a large ration, still it will sustain life. In prosperous times the peasantry perhaps eat more, but even in ordinary times it is probable that the poorest classes in many parts of India do not really get more. So much is this the case, that in many parts of India half a seer a day, meaning one pound, has passed into a proverb for bare subsistence. I submit that, in such an emergency as this, to give more than such subsistence is beyond the power of the Government. Nor can it be said that a man ought to receive more than 1½ annas per diem, bare subsistence, because he has to feed those dependent on him; for, as a matter of fact, under the relief system, not only the man, but the wife and children, also receive wages.

5. Next, as to the objection that 1½ annas per diem will not sustain the people in robust health, I should rejoin that this question would be solved in the course of a very few weeks by an examination as to whether any signs of physical depression begin to manifest themselves among the recipients of relief. That these poor people might wish for more is probable. But then the principle to be remembered that Government cannot undertake to avert distress nor mitigate the pressure which arises from a somewhat short ration; it has not the means of doing more than save life.

6. Then as to the third objection, that 1½ annas per diem will not enable a man to perform taskwork with all his strength, it is sufficient to reply that the task will be regulated according to the strength of the people. It will be out of the question to give high relief wages merely to get a high degree of taskwork. The relief roads and other works are undertaken, not so much for their own sake, but for the purpose of affording relief. It is, of course, an object to get as much of good work as can be got. Still it is to be remembered that these operations are undertaken, not because they are absolutely required in themselves, but because they afford relief. Therefore considerations relating merely to public works must be subordinated, as I submit, to the financial consideration of disbursing the smallest sum of money consistent with the preservation of human life.

7. Lastly, as to the objection that a reduction from 2 annas to 1½ annas would make the relief labourers discontented, and tempt them to rioting, it is sufficient to reply that there is no chance whatever of this, if only those are admitted to the works who are absolutely in need of

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* I understand that some very few casualties have been reported by subordinate officials, but have not been admitted by the district authorities as real cases of starvation.

assistance. Persons who are thus situated are necessarily thankful for what they can get, and are the last people in the world who would resort to violence in order to obtain more. If, indeed, they were to attempt anything of the sort, that would *per se* be a proof that they were not really in need. And any such attempt would be put down with the necessary firmness and promptitued. It is probable, indeed, that the headman of gangs and other petty officials, who might have some sinister interest in keeping up a higher rate of wage, might instigate the people to be clamorous, and even riotous. But these misguided efforts would soon be stopped.

8. I therefore submit that, on the one hand, there are no adequate objections to deter the Government from making a trial to reduce the rate of relief wage for adult male labourers from 2 annas to 1½ annas per diem; while on the other hand, there are important financial considerations to render the trial worth making.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

XV.—MEMORANDUM on the Condition and Prospects of the Coimbatore District, as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple from the Collector, on 21st January 1877.

Sir Richard Temple had not time to visit Coimbatore, where distress was believed to be as yet inconsiderable. But the Collector, Mr. Wedderburn, was good enough to meet Sir Richard Temple at Erode, and to travel with him through the Coimbatore district.

2. This district comprises 7,432 square miles, with a population of 1,763,274. It is divided into 10 taluks, of which two, and part of a third in the north, consist of hilly and forest country, where the population is extremely sparse. The Madras and Beypore Railway passes right across the more distressed part of the district, while the railway to Trichinopoly passes down the south-eastern taluks.

3. The south-west (or early) monsoon does not in ordinary years reach any part of the Coimbatore district, save the forest tracts to the north and the southernmost taluks. The main population of the district depends upon the crops watered by the north-east (or late) monsoon, and upon the crops raised by means of irrigation from wells and river channels. The staple dry crops are cholum and cumboo (big and lesser millets). Ragi and rice are grown on lands irrigated by wells. In ordinary seasons they get two or three crops off the irrigated lands within the year. The area under irrigation from river channels is about 116,000 acres; under well irrigation, 300,000 acres.

4. This season the north-east monsoon failed. The district average rainfall during the October rains is 12 inches; this year (1876) the average fall was only two inches. Consequently the greater part of the dry crop land was unsown. Even in the lands under river channels and wells the yield is small, and the ryots will be unable to raise a second or third crop by reason of the smallness of the supply in the rivers, and by reason of the failure of water in the wells. As Sir Richard Temple passed by railway over the best irrigated part of the district, where a channel from the Bhowani passes near the Cauvery River, the Collector pointed out fields of rice which, though sown and come up, were yet withering, because the Bhowani water had failed them. Along the railway line, however, Sir Richard saw a considerable breadth of capital irrigated rice land. Giving credit for the probable yield of the irrigated lands, the Collector puts the estimated yield of this whole district at four annas, or about one quarter of a good crop. He mentions, however, that Coimbatore, with its uncertain rainfall, rarely secures a full or even a good crop all round.

5. The parts of Coimbatore most affected by the failure are the central thickly-peopled taluks of Palladam, Darapuram, and Perundoray (or Erode), containing a population of 700,000 people. Caroor, with a population of 170,000, also had a very short rainfall; but the Bhowani channels water the eastern side of the taluk. The people of Coimbatore are fairly well off in good years; their staple food is cholum and ragi. They grow enough food for their own consumption, and in ordinary years the district neither exports nor imports food. The people are thrifty; and on account of the uncertainty of their climate, they habitually store up the surplus produce of good years. They have been living this year on those stocks. Last year's (1875–76) harvests were good everywhere except in the taluks of Palladam and Caroor, where the north-east monsoon (or latter rains) failed; the harvests of 1874–75 were up to the average of the district, but a bumper crop is seldom seen in Coimbatore.

6. There is ample supply of food-grain in all markets; private trade is active; there is an abundance of carts and plough cattle, and the district roads are decidedly good. Only during the last few days have importations of food to any appreciable extent come into the district, and they are mainly from the district of Malabar, whence rice comes to Coimbatore cheaper than from the east coast. The price of food at present at Coimbatore is—

Cholum	9	seers per rupee.
Ragi	9	ditto.
Rice	6	ditto.

Prices in the interior of the district are about the same. The Collector does not anticipate that the supply of food in this district can fall short; private importations by rail can always supply any deficiency. He was asked whether any Government grain should be sent to his district, and he replied that there was no need of any such help in Coimbatore.

7. A few weeks ago the paupers of the district, and other people who found difficulty in getting subsistence, came flocking into the towns. There were no deaths from starvation, but there was some pressure, and the Collector opened a few relief works. At present, there are about 24,000 persons receiving relief wages for work on roads and tanks. The irrigation channels of the district are all in good order, so the Collector cannot employ relief labourers thereon. The work is done under the supervision of the revenue officials. The workpeople, even when they first came, were in good condition, and they give a fair tale of work. Wages are two annas a day for adult males, and proportionately for women and children. The Collector estimated

that he may have to provide work and wages for 150,000 relief labourers at the worst time; that number at any rate is the highest he expects ever to have, and he may be able to keep the number from ever reaching that maximum.

8. No gratuitous relief is being distributed at the public expense; but in two or three towns charitable people are distributing cooked food to paupers.

9. The Collector fears that he may have to suspend 5 lakhs of land revenue out of a total of 19 lakhs. The abkaree (liquor excise revenue) yield will be very far short of the yield of the previous year.

10. There is no present need for anxiety about the supply of drinking water or the state of the cattle in the Coimbatore district.

C. BERNARD,
Secretary to Sir. R. Temple.

Madura, 22nd January 1877.

XVI.—BRIEF MEMORANDUM concerning the Condition of the Trichinopoly District.

As the Trichinopoly district is but little affected by the recent failure of crops, Sir Richard Temple could not spare time to stop therein. But as some small relief works are going on there, and the district finds a place in the published returns of affected districts in the Madras Presidency, he desires that a short record should be made of such general facts as he was able to ascertain. Mr. Sewell, the Collector, was away in camp, but Mr. Whynne, the Assistant Collector, was good enough to wait upon Sir Richard for an hour at the Trichinopoly railway station.

2. The district comprises 3,515 square miles, with a population of 1,200,408. It is watered by the Cauvery River and its affluents; and the Southern Madras Railway (narrow gauge) passes through the district. A great part of the cultivated land, roughly estimated at about one-third of the crop area of the district, is irrigated. The present season is the third year of indifferent harvests. The rainfall was deficient, not equal to half the average of previous years. Good rain, however, fell in the last week of December, whereby the rice and pasturage were greatly benefited; and, while the irrigated area has probably given a fair average yield, the dry-crop area has not given more than a four-annas (or quarter an ordinary good) harvest. The total yield of the district might be put down at seven annas, or less than half of an ordinary good harvest.

3. There is plenty of food in the district, and markets are well supplied. If need arise, private trade will bring in food. The habit of the district is to export largely the finer kinds of rice and cotton, and to import the coarser grains for the food of the poor.

4. The ordinary food of the common people is coarse rice; and this is quoted in the Trichinopoly bazar at $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{3}{4}$ seers per rupee. Prices in the interior of the district are much the same as at head-quarters. The shortness of two harvests before the present season must have reduced the stocks; and thus these prices (extremely high for Trichinopoly) are explained.

5. There are about 600* people employed on relief works, which were only recently opened for some of the poorer classes, especially strangers from other districts, who, in time of dear prices, could not manage to buy food. The people were not in a very reduced condition. About 1,000 people are being relieved by private charity. The district officers (so far as Mr. Whynne represented their views) do not consider the Trichinopoly district to be distressed at present, though distress and need for relief on a considerable scale may hereafter arise.

* The published return for the 16th January gives 1,656 labourers on relief works.

6. It is expected that 3 lakhs out of a total land revenue of 15 lakhs may have to be suspended or remitted. The first instalments have, however, been, and the second are now being, collected. Still, the local officers anticipate that some suspensions or remissions will be necessary, especially on the wet-crop lands, which have failed to produce anything by reason of the failure of water in the tanks.

7. There is plenty of water and pasture; and, so far as Sir Richard Temple could judge from the appearance of the taluks through which the railway passes, there is plenty of water, and there is also pasture everywhere. The people look well and comfortable, and some of the ryots have doubtless reaped advantage from the high prices.

Madura, 22nd January 1877. C. BERNARD, Secretary.

XVII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madura, 22nd January 1877.

With my minute of the 12th January was submitted an estimate, compiled on the data then available, and subject to correction, of the probable relief expenditure in the Bombay Presidency. Since that minute was written I have visited the three most distressed districts of the Madras Presidency, and have anxiously considered what steps could be taken to reduce relief outlay in the present and to prevent its excessive increase in the future.

2. I have now offered for the consideration of the Government of Madras suggestions for securing economy, which may be summarised thus:—

(1.) To stop all fresh admissions to the relief works in the three worst districts, save under a certificate from an official not under the grade of a deputy tahsildar.

(2.) To re-examine as soon as possible every gang, person by person, with a view to eliminating and discharging for the present everyone not in absolute need of State relief. By "absolute need" is meant danger of starvation if not supported by Government.

(3.) To reduce the adult wage from two annas to one and a half annas per diem, and the rates for women and children proportionately; the grain wage, where given, to be adjusted exactly according to this standard.

(4.) To impress upon the reddi and karnum (patel and kulkarni) of every village the responsibility of bringing before the nearest revenue inspector (revenue or relief officer) every case of dangerous distress.

(5.) These measures, if adopted, to be quite tentative and subject to reconsideration after one month subsequent to their introduction.

3. My minutes of the 19th and 22nd January set forth my reasons for making these suggestions, and they also advert to certain objections which may possibly be urged against the suggestion for reducing the wage rate to one and a half annas. I need not, therefore, again go into those points.

4. I think that it may be possible to apply these suggestions, in part at any rate, to the distressed districts of Bombay; and I would ask his Excellency the Governor in Council to consider whether this cannot be done. My impression was that Mr. Norman, Collector of Poona, and Mr. Robertson, the Commissioner of the Southern Division, considered that it would be possible by careful examination to eliminate and discharge from the works a considerable number of the labourers in the relief gangs.

5. As I hope that it may be possible to adopt on the Deccan relief works my suggestion for reducing the wage rate, I proceed to revise my estimate of relief expenditure in Bombay, which was framed on the supposition that the present wage of two annas for an adult male labourer would be maintained. If the reduction of wage can be carried out and can be maintained, then the estimate previously offered of the Bombay relief expenditure can be modified thus :—

Relief Works Expenditure.	Previous Estimate.	Present Revised Estimate.
	Rs.	Rs.
January to March, 416,000 persons for three months - -	37,44,000	32,76,000
April to June, 705,000 persons for three months - -	63,45,000	47,59,000
July, 340,000 persons for one month - - - -	10,20,000	7,65,000
Total of relief works expenditure - -	1,11,09,000	88,00,000
Add for charitable relief at 10 per cent. on the relief works expenditure - - - - - - -	11,00,000	11,00,000
Estimate for extra establishments - - - -	13,00,000	13,00,000
Add for estimated expenditure to the end of December 1876 -	14,00,000	14,00,000
Grand total - - - - -	1,49,00,000 or £1,490,000	1,26,00,000 or £1,260,000

To this minute is appended a short memorandum explaining how each of the figures of my reduced estimate has been computed.

6. It will be seen that the reduction of the rate of relief wages will, if maintained, secure a saving of 23 lakhs. I have not reckoned upon any direct saving accruing from the adoption of the first and second of my suggestions, because in some of the Bombay districts discretion has already been exercised in opening relief works. Still it is possible that under those two suggestions some additional economy may be secured which may be set against possible excess of relief labourers, or other unforeseen relief expenditure of other kinds.

RICHARD TEMPLE.

MEMORANDUM explanatory of the Reductions made by Sir Richard Temple's Minute of the 22nd January, on his previous (dated 12th January) Estimate of Relief Expenditure in Bombay.

ITEM I.

	Previous Estimate.	Present Estimate.
	Rs.	Rs.
Relief works expenditure from January to March -	37,44,000	32,76,000

It is supposed that the suggested reduction in the wage rate cannot be carried fully into effect before the middle of February; therefore, the previous full rate of expenditure has been estimated up to the 14th February, and the reduced (25 per cent. less) rate has been estimated from the 15th February onward to the end of July.

ITEM II.

	Previous Estimate.	Present Estimate.
	Rs.	Rs.
April to June relief works expenditure - - -	63,45,000	47,59,000

The estimate under this head has been reduced one-fourth, as above explained.

ITEM III.

	Previous Estimate.	Present Estimate.
	Rs.	Rs.
July relief works expenditure - - - -	10,20,000	7,65,000

The estimate under this head has been reduced one-fourth, as above described.

Other Items.

No reduction has been made in the estimate for "establishment," because these will have to be maintained at full strength notwithstanding the reduction of wages.

The numbers on charitable relief may somewhat increase when the relief gangs are scrutinized and new admissions are less readily permitted. On the other hand, Rs. 3 per mensem was perhaps an outside estimate for the cost of relieving each pauper. On a review of all the circumstances, therefore, this item in the previous estimate has been left unreduced.

C. BERNARD, Secretary.

Revenue, No. 26.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 22nd March 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 2nd February, No. 6 of 1877, relative to the scarcity in Western and Southern India, has been considered by me in Council.

2. I have read with great interest the reports of Sir R. Temple, which give a clear and vigorous sketch of the condition of the affected districts in the Madras Presidency. I note with satisfaction that the Madras Government has been able to accede substantially to all the proposals made by Sir R. Temple, and that orders on the subject will at once be issued.

3. There appears to be no material change in the condition of the distressed districts in either Presidency. The worst feature is the prevalence of cholera in the Madras districts.

4. I shall hope soon to receive the reports alluded to in the last paragraph of the Despatch of your Lordship in Council.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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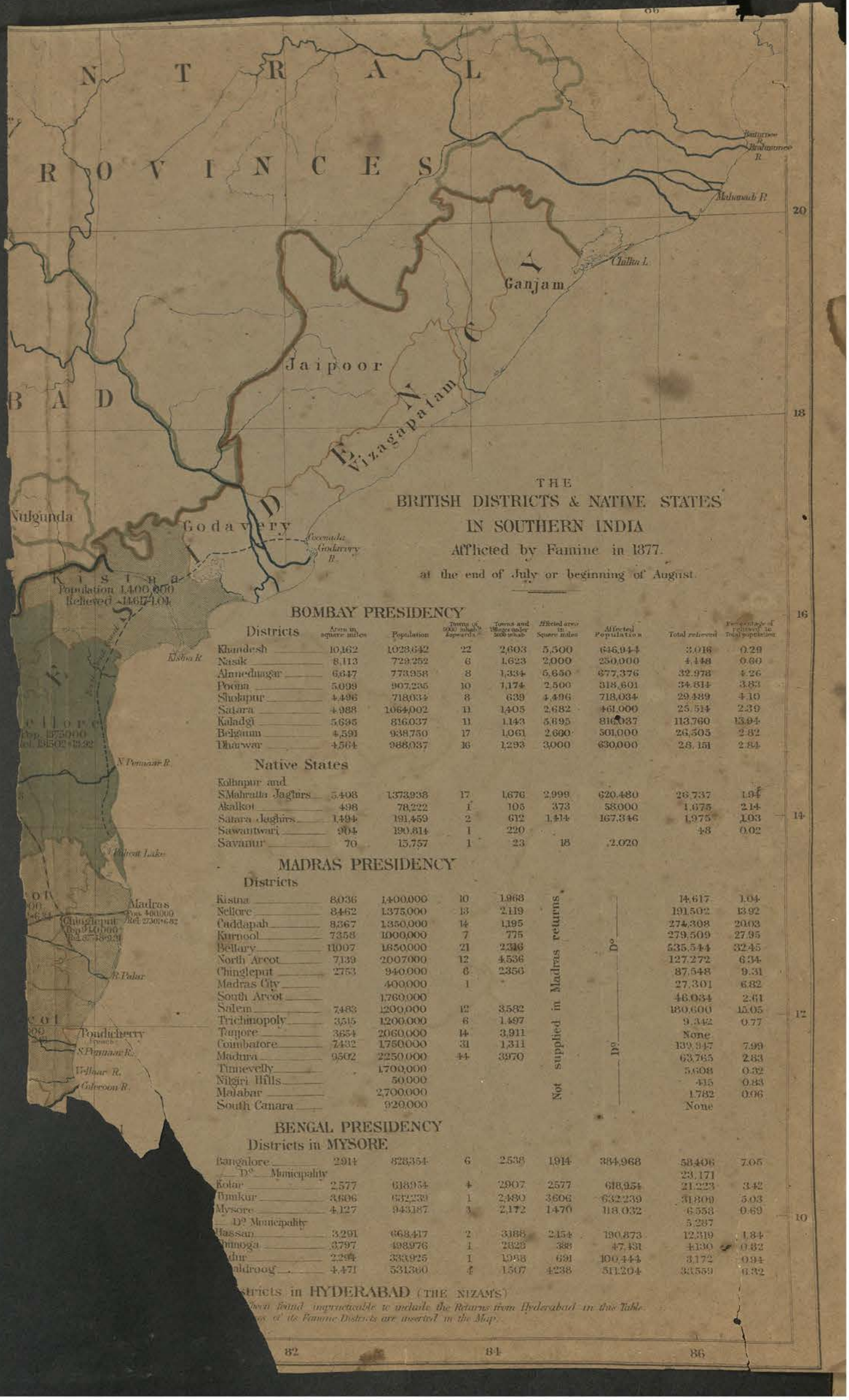

THE BRITISH DISTRICTS & NATIVE STATES IN SOUTHERN INDIA

Affected by Famine in 1877.

at the end of July or beginning of August.

BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

Districts	Area in square miles	Population	Towns of 9000 inhab.ts &upwards	Towns and Villages under 5000 inhab.	Affected area in Square miles	Affected Population	Total relieved	Per-centage of relieved to Total population
Khandesh	10,162	1,023,642	22	2,603	5,500	646,944	3,016	0.29
Nasik	8,113	729,252	6	1,623	2,000	250,000	4,448	0.60
Ahmednagar	6,647	773,958	8	1,334	5,650	677,376	32,978	4.26
Poona	5,099	907,235	10	1,174	2,500	318,601	34,814	3.83
Sholapur	4,496	718,034	8	639	4,496	718,034	29,489	4.10
Satara	4,988	1,064,002	11	1,405	2,682	461,000	25,514	2.39
Kaladgi	5,695	816,037	11	1,143	5,695	816,037	113,760	13.94
Belgaum	4,591	938,750	17	1,061	2,600	501,000	26,505	2.82
Dharwar	4,564	988,037	16	1,293	3,000	630,000	28,151	2.84
Native States								
Kolhapur and S.Mahratta Jagirs	5,408	1,373,938	17	1,676	2,999	620,480	26,737	1.94
Akalkot	498	78,222	1	105	373	58,000	1,675	2.14
Satara Jaghirs	1,494	191,459	2	612	1,414	167,346	1,975	1.03
Sawantwari	904	190,814	1	220			48	0.02
Savanur	70	15,757	1	23	18	2,020		

MADRAS PRESIDENCY

Districts								
Kistna	8,036	1,400,000	10	1,968	Not supplied in Madras returns	Dº	14,617	1.04
Nellore	8,462	1,375,000	13	2,119			191,502	13.92
Cuddapah	8,367	1,350,000	14	1,195			274,308	20.03
Kurnool	7,358	1,000,000	7	775			279,509	27.95
Bellary	11,007	1,650,000	21	2,316			535,544	32.45
North Arcot	7,139	2,007,000	12	4,536			127,272	6.34
Chingleput	2,753	940,000	6	2,356			87,548	9.31
Madras City		400,000	1				27,301	6.82
South Arcot		1,760,000					46,034	2.61
Salem	7,483	1,200,000	12	3,582			180,600	15.05
Trichinopoly	3,515	1,200,000	6	1,497			9,342	0.77
Tanjore	3,654	2,060,000	14	3,911			None	
Coimbatore	7,432	1,750,000	31	1,311		Dº	139,947	7.99
Madura	9,502	2,250,000	44	3,970			63,765	2.83
Tinnevelly		1,700,000					5,608	0.32
Nilgiri Hills		50,000					415	0.83
Malabar		2,700,000					1,782	0.06
South Canara		920,000					None	

BENGAL PRESIDENCY

Districts in MYSORE

Bangalore	2,914	828,354	6	2,538	1,914	384,968	58,406	7.05
Dº Municipality							23,171	
Kolar	2,577	618,954	4	2,907	2,577	618,954	21,223	3.42
Tumkur	3,606	632,239	1	2,480	3,606	632,239	31,809	5.03
Mysore	4,127	943,187	3	2,172	1,476	118,032	6,553	0.69
Dº Municipality							5,287	
Hassan	3,291	668,417	2	3,186	2,154	190,873	12,319	1.84
Shimoga	3,797	498,976	1	2,825	388	47,431	4,430	0.82
Kadur	2,294	333,925	1	1,988	691	100,444	3,172	0.94
Chitaldroog	4,471	531,360	4	1,507	4,238	511,204	33,559	6.32

Districts in HYDERABAD (THE NIZAM'S)

It has been found impracticable to include the Returns from Hyderabad in this Table. Portions of its Famine Districts are inserted in the Map.

EAST INDIA (FAMINE CORRESPONDENCE).

PART III.

COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

THE FAMINE IN WESTERN AND SOUTHERN INDIA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
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FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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NOTE.—*The following correspondence may be classed under three heads, namely :—*

1. *Letters from the Government of India to the Secretary of State.*
2. *Enclosures in the same.*
3. *Despatches from the Secretary of State.*

The correspondence is arranged simply in order of date, the connexion of subjects being secured by marginal numbers and by an index.

The marginal numbers in a line with the heading of the document refer to the accompanying enclosure next in order of date, and to the covering letter of the Government of India. Where there is a single number the latter only is indicated. In the same way, in the case of letters from the Government of India, reference is made to the answering Despatches of the Secretary of State.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 1.

LETTER from Mr. H. T. Ross, Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the COLLECTOR OF BELLARY, No. 332, dated Pennakonda, 10th December 1876. Nos. 6. 221.

Ever since I opened relief works in my three taluks, they have been resorted to by Mysore subjects in distress. For some time the number of these was inconsiderable, and I directed my tahsildars personally not to exclude any persons who came for relief to our works, no matter what their villages were. Now, however, the number of Mysore coolies on our works is considerable and believed to be on the increase, and it becomes a matter for serious consideration whether large sums of our Government money should be expended in supporting Mysore subjects who have their own Government to look after them. I have not liked to turn them off my works, because they have represented to me earnestly that they have no means of living as no work has been provided for them in their own taluks, and there could be no mistake about their distress and their gratitude for the relief given them. I have the honour to request early instructions whether I am to continue admitting an unlimited number of Mysore subjects to my relief works or not.

Difficulty caused by Mysore subjects resorting to relief works in British territory.

No. 2.

No. 713, dated Kolhapur, 14th December 1876.

From the STATE KHARBHARI,* Kolhapur, to the POLITICAL AGENT, Kolhapur and Southern Mahratta Country. No. 147.

With reference to Government letter No. 6,975, dated 25th November 1876, calling for further particulars regarding the state of Kolhapur District and of its finances, I have the honour to report as follows:— Kolhapur State.

A closer inquiry into the state of the crops has revealed a much better state of things than was at first anticipated. It now appears that the Kolhapur State proper may fairly realise on the whole two or three annas more than the first calculation, that is, about six lakhs out of nine, which is the average amount of land revenue collections. The crops have, no doubt, partially failed here and there, but the cultivator has been able to make up his loss to a great extent by the enhanced prices which the surplus produce of his fields fetches in the market. The sale of the karbi and grass grown upon his lands has also given him material help.

2. There is thus no immediate danger of distress occurring among cultivators, who form a large portion of the population, excepting those of the easterly districts of Shirol, Raibág, and Katkol, where it has already prevailed, and where relief works have been, and are being, started to counteract its effects. Except the population inhabiting these famished villages, the rest have yet been able to shift for themselves, and things will probably continue to move in the same course till the end of March. In the months of April, May, and June larger number of labourers will apply for employment, and it will be necessary to make provision for them by opening more relief works at appropriate places in the district. During the rainy season they will again return to their agricultural pursuits, and the demand for employment at the relief works will be considerably lessened. But if prices again rise, which is likely to be the case, special measures will have to be adopted for bringing the supplies of corn within the reach of the afflicted people.

3. The population in the whole district is a little more than eight lakhs. Of these, about one tenth (*i.e.*, 80,000) may be supposed to live from hand to mouth. Half of these will manage to shift for themselves by serving their brothers in well-to-do circumstances, and the State should be prepared to make provision for the remaining half, that is, about 40,000 people, in the shape of charity or relief works, the relief being paid either in cash or in kind.

* Minister.

Kolhapur State.

4. Corn has been imported from Bombay and other places in large quantities by private dealers. The policy of strict non-interference has had a very healthy effect upon the Kolhapur market, there being in it at present a far larger quantity of cereals than it ever could command before. The State has also made very large purchases from districts where the season has been more favourable, and this example was followed by the local traders. Hitherto they never ordered out supplies from out-stations, being generally satisfied with the small quantities brought in by itinerant cartmen and occasional wanjaris. But the present distress has given a new impetus as it were to the commercial activity of the people of Kolhapur. The example set by the State in ordering stores of cereals was not lost upon the traders; importations have been made by them, and the market is well supplied with corn. Prices have gone down a little in consequence of these large importations, but this state of things is not to be relied upon. The district of Kolhapur is not favourably situated with respect to its intercourse with Bombay and other places, where the importation of cereals is facilitated by the proximity of the railway line. In the rainy season the coast communication is all closed, and the few local traders are always in a condition to monopolise the grain traffic. Up to the end of May the present rates will probably continue with slight variations, unless the new crops in Guzerat and other exporting districts suddenly change the scale either one way or the other. With the setting in of the rainy season, the traders will again be in a condition to combine and to sell such grain as they hold at famine prices, when it will be necessary for the State to supplement the supplies in the country from the stocks which it has laid in. Under ordinary circumstances the State always requires a large quantity of cereals to feed its large number of dependants, but this year it will have to support an unusually large number of labourers, who will have to be partly paid in kind, and I very much doubt if even the large purchases already made will suffice to meet the extraordinary requirements of these exceptional times.

5. The financial condition of the Kolhapur State and of the States subordinate to it is, as will appear from the annexed statement, on the whole satisfactory. There are surplus funds enough to meet the extraordinary expenditure necessitated by the scarcity.

6. Cattle are still pouring in from the eastern districts, and full freedom of forage is given to the owners in places available for the purpose. People it appears have been making provisions of fodder for the dry season, and I believe no special remedial measures are necessary as far as the wants of the people of Kolhapur in respect to fodder are concerned.

7. The water supply will become more and more scanty as the season advances in the eastern talukas of Alta and Shirol. The distress has already begun to manifest itself, but the great rivers Krishna, Warna, and Panchganga are generally within a distance of five or six miles from almost every village in this part, and the villagers are generally accustomed in the hot season to fetch water from such distances when wells and tanks fail. It does not appear, therefore, that people will leave their villages on account of the water scarcity, though no doubt their resources will be tested to the utmost in procuring this most important element of life. In the western parts of the district, which abounds in small rivulets, it will be necessary to construct temporary dams at the intervals of a few miles, and the water thus stored will serve the wants of the villagers as well as of the numerous cattle that have been draughted from the more famished districts in the east.

A.

STATEMENT showing the Financial Resources of the Kolhapur State, including its principal Feudatories, for the year 1876–77.

Consecutive Number.	Names of States.	Balances.			Estimated Receipts of Revenues for the Year 1876-77.	Total.	Expenditure.			Surplus.	Deficit.	Remarks.
		Cash.	Invested.	Total.			Current.	Extra-ordinary.	Total.			
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1	Kolhapur -	2,00,000	18,44,000	20,44,000	11,38,000*	31,82,000	9,87,850	5,00,000	14,87,850	16,94,150	—	* Regular land revenue - 6,00,000
2	Vishalgarh -	11,800	1,72,400	1,84,200	63,700	2,47,900	73,400	20,000	93,400	1,54,500	—	Other receipts 5,38,000
3	Bawra - -	4,600	9,500	14,100	60,500	74,600	62,500	15,000	77,500	—	2,900	11,38,000
4	Kagal - -	900	2,44,100	2,45,000	89,100	3,34,100	76,900	15,000	91,900	2,42,200	—	Funds, if required, will be supplied by Kolhapur.
5	Inchalkaranji	1,05,000	1,57,300	2,62,300	1,51,800	4,14,100	1,37,100	1,05,000†	2,42,100	1,72,000	—	† This includes Rs. 85,000, the amount of half nazarana.
	Total - -	3,22,300	24,27,300	27,49,600	15,03,100	42,52,700	13,37,750	6,55,000	19,92,750	22,62,850	2,900	

MAHADEO WASSOODEO BURVE,
State Kharbhari.

B.

Kolhapur and Southern Mahratta States.

STATEMENT showing the Financial Resources of the following Native States under direct Management of this Agency, for the year 1876–77.

Names of States.	Cash Balance.	Invested in 4 per cent. Government Securities.	Total surplus Funds.	Estimated on probable Income for the Year 1876–77.	Total Receipts.	Expenditure.			Balance available.
						Ordinary.	Extra-ordinary.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Miraj (Senior) -	2,28,137	5,37,900	7,66,037	1,15,309	8,81,346	2,72,297	48,928	3,21,225	5,60,121
Mudhol - -	99,891	6,38,000	7,37,891	1,34,284	8,72,175	1,50,879	50,000	2,00,879	6,71,296
Mhysal - -	6,400	10,000	16,400	6,449	22,849	9,417	9,287	18,704	4,145

F. SCHNEIDER, Political Agent,
Kolhapur and Southern Mahratta Country.

No. 3.

No. 505, dated Kolhapur, 15th December 1876.

From the POLITICAL AGENT, Kolhapur and Southern Mahratta Country, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY. No. 147.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 6,975, of the 25th November, calling for more specific information than previously given as to the ability of Kolhapur and Southern Mahratta States to cope financially with the necessities of the present time.

2. The States under direct control are—

1. Kolhapur and its four feudatories, all minors.
2. Miraj (Senior branch).
3. Mudhol.
4. Mhysal.

3. Sangli, which is the chief of the Patwardhan Jaghirs, is managed by the Chief and Major West as Joint Administrator.

4. The following States are wholly under their own Chiefs:—

1. Miraj (Junior).
2. Jamkundi.
3. Ramdurg.
4. Kurundwad (Senior).
5. Kurundwad (Junior).

5. The statement A. shows the financial condition of Kolhapur and its feudatories, and it will be observed that, with the exception of Bawra, which State had only recently begun to show a surplus, the late Chief having died in debt, all are in a position to meet the present crisis. Should Bawra be in the end driven to straits, Kolhapur can provide whatever may be required.

6. Appended is a report from the State Kharbari, which shows that on a closer investigation the revenue receipts will be considerably in excess of what was at first expected, the addition being partly from a more favourable outturn of the crops in some districts, and again from the high prices of grain and khurbah enabling the ryots to realise more money on lesser crops.

7. Though the present state of things is fair, still there is in many parts of the State considerable distress, particularly among that portion of the population which depends on labour for subsistence; and relief works have been opened wherever it seemed necessary, and other projects have been prepared to be opened as they may be needed, consisting of local roads, tanks, &c. It is thought that in the course of two months there will be a large accession to the number of persons requiring work both in the Ghât districts and to the eastward. At present the ryots are busy getting in their early crops. After that shall have been finished, they will have nothing to do, and will begin to clamour for work. It is impossible now to give any estimate of the numbers who may hereafter have to be employed, but it would hardly exceed 30,000 to 40,000 at the outside, and for that number works have to be held in readiness.

Kolhapur and Southern Mahratta States.

8. What the requirements of the country may be in the next four months it is difficult to say, but as grain is becoming cheaper, the fear that prevailed for the last two months, that people with money would starve for want of grain, no longer exists, that is, so long as the fair weather lasts.

9. On what will happen when once the coast is closed for trade and the whole of this part of the country, as far to the eastward as Mudhol or even Bijapoor, becomes dependent on local stocks either original or imported, no one can tell. It is not believed that the supply will be equal to the demand, and the nearest centre of trade will be Poona, distant from here above 150 miles.

10. I have been unable to ascertain what stock of grain there is in the country, but it is impossible to suppose that it is large. The owners would never have lost such a market as the past two months afforded, and I believe that those who have grain have little more than for their own wants till the next harvest. Large importations by dealers are in progress, but they disappear into the interior as fast as they arrive, and are for the most part purchased in the towns and villages for present consumption. When recently in the districts, I made particular inquiries on this subject, and found that in the small towns and large villages where bazaars are held the importations were limited to the week's supply, and this is what will probably continue to be the rate of importations into such places from the coast or large marts nearest to it during the fair season. Directly the rain begins to fall, however, things will change and assume a very serious aspect. The coast and the roads from it will be closed, and all the country beyond the Krishna will become very difficult of access. Carriage, too, will not be obtainable in the same quantity, as, apart from the custom of housing carts in the rains, all having bullocks will be able to make fortunes by them in the fields. With such a prospect in view it is well to be prepared, and Kolhapur is laying in a stock for itself and feudatories that it may be prepared for the hard times which people look to, and which to me appear inevitable.

11. The statement B. shows the financial condition of the Southern Mahratta Country States under direct management. The first is Miraj (Senior). I was there for some weeks after the scarcity began. It is likely to be a great sufferer by the drought, but fortunately it has a large balance, and is in a position to meet its extraordinary expenditure. There are at the present moment numerous relief works in progress as the weekly returns show, and the number of applicants for work is constantly on the increase. The cause is the utter failure of the kharif all round the Miraj mhal, that is, the head-quarter petah; not even any khurbah has been got in many villages, only a little by the river side. The importations of grain into the town are large, but it is an extensive place with a large population and a larger one in mhal villages all depending on its weekly bazaar.

12. Mudhol is a compact little State, and has a sufficient balance for all required of it. This State also is a great sufferer. The Kharbhari reckons on only two annas in the rupee; and when there recently, I should say from what I saw that it would be hard to expect much more.. There are several relief works in progress which will last for a time; others are ready whenever needed. Grain is brought in small quantities not more than enough for immediate consumption. The rates are much the same as those at Kaladgi.

13. Mhysal is but a single village sub-jaghir. It is at present managed by the Assistant Political Agent, though properly it belongs to Sangli. It is believed that it will just meet its expenditure this year, but advances can be made by Miraj to it if ever considered necessary. It is situated near Miraj, and the state of its crops is much the same as in that State.

14. Sangli is next in order to be mentioned, and I regret not to be able to speak more favourably of it. It is most unfortunately placed with heavy previous debts, a loss of half its land revenue for the year, no balances, cash or invested; the position is awkward. It is calculated that there will be a deficit of nearly four lakhs. Several relief works are in progress and others will be prepared. Major West estimated that his extraordinary expenditure for this season would be nearly three lakhs, for he has some very bad outlying districts, and will need to employ large numbers of men there, in fact, is doing so now. Like Miraj, the town of Sangli has a large bazaar, and much grain is being imported, sufficient for the wants of the inhabitants of it and the neighbourhood for about 10 or 15 days.

15. The condition of the finances of this State has been before brought to notice, and Government sanctioned some pecuniary assistance being given by Kolhapur. But what has been done is only a temporary measure pending the decision of Government as to

the future management. The following is a rough estimate of the position of the State :—

		Rs.	Rs.
	Total receipts		4,00,000
Deduct	Ordinary expenditure	5,00,000	
	Extraordinary expenditure	3,00,000	
			8,00,000
	Deficit		4,00,000

16. I now come to the States wholly under their own Chiefs, and I regret that I cannot supply any figures to show their condition; but I can speak generally about them, having recently visited each and discussed its prospects with its Chief.

17. Miraj (Junior) has means, though it is impossible to judge the amount. He is very careful, and will not lay out more than he can help. He has some small works in progress. The crops in his State have suffered a good deal, much the same as in Senior Miraj and Sangli. I do not doubt the Chief will manage his affairs without assistance.

18. Jamkhundi is in much the same state as Mudhol; no kharif crop except by the riverside; most of the villages have been deserted by a large proportion of its inhabitants, who have gone towards the ghâts with their cattle. There will be considerable loss of revenue, and some money is being spent on relief works. I ascertained from the Kharbhari that there was a sufficiency of money to go on with. He believed that the Chief would not require to ask assistance. The Chief has himself imported and stored a large quantity of grain.

19. Karundwad (Senior) has no money, but he is not so much a sufferer as his neighbours. All round Karundwad itself the land is flourishing, being watered and flooded by two rivers. There will, however, be some loss on his outlying villages, and as assistance, either in money or grain, will have to be given, the Chief said he should ask to be permitted to put off till next year paying his contribution in lieu of sowar service, which amounts to Rs. 9,612–8, but has not yet done so. He has carried out one small relief work near Kurundwar. I do not think any more in that quarter are needed, certainly not for the present. The Chief has imported and advanced some grain on his ryots asking for it.

20. The Karundwad Join, or Chiefs, do not appear to have any cause for anxiety. They expressed none to me beyond general regret for the condition of things. I am not aware that they have any works in progress, but they have imported some grain. I believe they have quite enough means for anything required of them in their *Elaka*.

21. Ramdurg is not in affluent circumstances. He has no cash balance, but he has hitherto managed to raise sufficient to meet the extraordinary charges * in connexion with the scarcity. He said it was his intention to apply for permission to postpone paying certain dues amounting to Rs. 5,000 into the Dharwar Treasury.

* Several relief works in progress.

22. An emergent call has been made for more detailed information from all the States, and as soon as it reaches me I shall submit it.

No. 4.

Local.—No. 280 C. W.—1,062 of 1876. No. 65.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

II.—Civil Works.

Bombay, December 18, 1876.

I am directed to transmit, for the consideration of the Honourable the President in Council, a note which it is considered advisable by his Excellency the Governor in Council to place on record at this juncture, with the object of describing the main course of events during the last few months in the Deccan and the Southern Mahratta Country, and the principles by which this Government have been guided in their efforts to relieve the existing distress.

No. 5.

No. 65. NOTE on the GENERAL POLICY of the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY in respect to Scarcity now prevailing in a part of the Bombay Presidency.

The general progress of the scarcity in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country has been recorded fully, but concisely, in the weekly statements which have been published by the Government, and which commenced from the week ending the 31st of October last.

2. These statements exhibit facts of great value as regards the state of the season and crops, the condition of the people, the comparative prices of grain, the progress of imports, and the measures adopted for the relief of distress; but the information is given in a concentrated form, and the time may now have arrived for reviewing the position of Government in regard to the scarcity somewhat more at length.

Commencement and progress of the scarcity.

3. The previous season, that of 1875, had been an average one. The monsoon of 1876 opened at about the usual time, but the fall of rain up to the middle of August, though not wanting, was scanty. About that time uneasiness began to be felt as to the prospect of the season in parts of the Deccan and the Southern Mahratta Country, but it was not until September that this ripened into serious apprehensions that great distress was impending, and that it would be necessary for Government to undertake the relief of a large number of the population, who, owing to the failure of the monsoon crops and the absence of agricultural operations in preparation for the rabi crops, would be without food and without the means to purchase it.

4. The danger first began to manifest itself in the Khandesh Collectorate, and the first work of relief was authorised there on the 28th August, but rain fell in the eastern part of the Collectorate early in September, and the difficulty that was anticipated in a great measure passed away. In Sholapur relief work was first authorised on the 4th of September, and from that time up to the present there has been no relaxation of the stringency of the situation, either in that Collectorate or in any of the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country Districts, though distress, which at one time promised to be very severe in Satara, Kaladgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar, was somewhat mitigated by a slight fall of rain which occurred in some parts of those districts in October.

5. As soon as it became apparent that there was a serious failure of the monsoon crops, and that there would probably be an almost entire absence of cold weather crops, the price of food grains at once rose, and on the 15th of November the staple grains, jowari and bajri, were selling in some parts of the Southern Mahratta Country at 12 and 14 pounds per rupee respectively. In some localities, especially in Belgaum, Dharwar, and Kaladgi not only were the nominal prices high, but grain could hardly be procured at all, and much of that which was offered was old and of bad quality. The holders of local stocks refused to dispose of them, except in very small quantities, either waiting for higher prices, or in view to husbanding their stores in anticipation of still greater scarcity, and, possibly, another year's drought. At the present time of writing, prices have fallen, the markets throughout the country are fairly well stocked, some of them over stocked, and although the fall in price has been slight, the quality of the grain has greatly improved, and it has been brought closer to the homes of the people. The average price of jowari is now $21\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per rupee, and of bajri $20\frac{1}{2}$. Jowari is dearest in Kaladgi, where its price is $15\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. per rupee, and cheapest in Nasik, where it is selling for 32 lbs. per rupee.

6. Owing to the long-continued drought and absence of crops, there is a general want of forage throughout the eastern part of the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country, which presses very hardly upon the cattle and their owners, and many of the owners have left their villages, and have driven their cattle away to distant pastures. The drought has also occasioned a considerable difficulty in respect to water supply in some localities. The absence of forage and of water upon some of the lines of road, especially in the eastern districts, has greatly complicated the question of transport, and has rendered it on a very large scale almost, if not quite, impracticable in some parts of the country.

Area and population.

7. The area of the districts which are more or less affected is 54,355 square miles, and the population is 7,963,927.

8. The area of the most affected parts of these districts is 33,873 square miles, and the population is 4,981,616. The population is almost entirely agricultural, there are few large towns and no extensive manufactures; the land tenure is ryotwari, and there are no large landlords or persons corresponding to the Zemindars of Bengal.

9. The above are briefly the main conditions of the problem that has arisen, and it now remains to note—

The General Policy of the Government of Bombay.

Grain Supplies.

Policy of non-interference with grain trade decided on.

10. As soon as it became apparent that, owing to the rise of the price of food-grains, and to the action of the local holders and dealers, large importation would be necessary to prevent great distress, the Government had to consider and decide what course they should take; whether they should follow the precedent of the Bengal Famine of 1874, and themselves undertake to import grain, or whether that necessary work should be left to the operations of private traders. The matter was most carefully and anxiously considered, and it was at length determined that Government might safely leave it to the trade to do all that was needed; and although the Government have been strongly urged to depart from this policy, they have firmly and consistently adhered to it with entirely satisfactory results up to the present moment.

Reasons which led to decision.

11. In weighing the matter the Government considered that any decided movement on their part would be likely to act prejudicially on the trade; that if the merchants were led to expect that they would be subjected to the competition of the Government, they would withdraw; and as it was clear that, no matter how powerful the Government might be, and that on however extended a scale their efforts might be made, they could not hope to effect all that the trade, if it exerted itself, could do, it was held that it would be better for Government not to enter into the market at all; for, though the Government might be able to do more than many merchants could do, they could not hope to effect so much as could be done by all of them. It was, therefore, publicly made known that Government would not in any way interfere with the grain trade or with the movements of grain, unless actually forced to do so by failure of supply or by excessive extortion on the part of dealers; that they would buy nothing on their own account for importation into the affected districts, though they were ready to enter into contracts for the delivery on their own works of food-supplies to their own labourers; that, in fact, they were not prepared to do more than to act through the trade on behalf of those who come upon their relief works, and that they would not in any way themselves assume the position of traders or importers, so long as they could ensure the people on the works being supplied with food.

Decision made publicly known.

Justified by result.

12. The expectations that the natural demand for food would produce the usual effect on the supply have been justified so far by the result, and the relief works the Government have commenced have acted as powerful auxiliaries in heightening this effect, and have been not only directly useful in supporting persons employed upon them, but have been indirectly useful to the rest of the population by causing money to circulate, and, by thus providing purchasers, have encouraged and stimulated the supply.

Great activity of grain traffic.

13. In October the Great Indian Peninsula Railway began to deliver large supplies of grain at their stations in the affected districts, and up to the present time have conveyed 58,585 tons to these stations; the grain movement has been most extraordinary, the railway company could not provide engines and rolling stock for its conveyance, and their stations and sidings did not contain room for its accommodation, the station and traffic staff had to be largely increased, and along parts of the line the accumulations, that could not be at once disposed of, became very large. At this moment there is little, if any, diminution of the grain traffic, and it is a fact that all the towns in the affected districts along the railway are overstocked; from these towns, as fast as carriage can be obtained, the grain is passing into the interior, and most of the local markets are now reported to be well supplied. In one district only has it been necessary for Government to take any active or decided steps as regards grain imports. For this district, Kaladgi, from its remoteness, and from the fact that it contains few Marwaries, or Bunyas, the grain stocks being chiefly held and sold by the Patels and Kulkarnis of the villages, and by the more wealthy ryots, who manifested great reluctance to sell on any terms, it became necessary for Government to take exceptional steps; this was done by sending grain gradually, but not in large quantities, from Belgaum, and also from Sholapur, and the result, according to late accounts, has been to induce the dealers to do the same, and to cause the local holders to open their stores, and there is now no great difficulty as regards food supply in this district, though it is not yet so well provided for as the more westerly parts of the affected area; this defect, however, is in process of rectification.

Large imports by sea to Southern Mahratta Country.

14. At the ports of the Southern Mahratta Country the grain imports have also been very large, and have already amounted to 36,812 tons. The roads leading from the ports to the interior, all of which cross the great barrier of the Western Ghats, are crowded with grain carts, and apparently the only limit to the movement is the amount of carriage that can be obtained, and the supply of available forage. Up to the present

General policy of Bombay Government.

time there has, however, been no failure in this respect, and Government are now turning their attention to measures which are calculated to help and facilitate the traffic later on in the season, without directly interfering with the arrangements of the dealers. From inquiries that were made of the grain merchants, it was ascertained that any interference by Government with the transport arrangements, or, indeed, any direct attempt to aid the merchants in obtaining carriage, would only have the effect of increasing the price of cart-hire, and the Government were requested to let matters take their own course. Acting on the general principle which guided them in respect to grain importation, Government therefore decided that it was better to leave the trade to itself; but, as above remarked, they now have under consideration questions connected with the transport (such as the cutting and storage of forage), which, if satisfactorily settled, will materially aid the transport without interfering with it.

15. It may be added that police arrangements have been made for ensuring the safety of the grain while in transit through the country, and Government have also permitted the traders to deposit in the Kutcherries the sums received for the grain sold.

16. Such has been the general policy of the Government as regards grain supplies, and, as above remarked, it has been completely successful up to the present time; and the Government have the gratification of knowing that this policy has received the approval of the Government of India, as expressed in the 12th paragraph of their letter, No. 365, of the 25th of October. This approval was accorded, it may be remarked, at a time when its generally successful result was not so apparent as it has since become.

Measures taken to relieve Distress.

These were—1st, The Organisation of Relief Works; 2nd, The Distribution of Charitable Relief.

Relief Works.

October estimate of distress to be anticipated.

17. It was calculated about the middle of October, that the number of persons who might have to be relieved in the three Deccan Districts, Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur, would amount to about 220,000, and that continued relief, or employment, would have to be found for them for eight months; adding the probable number that would require relief in the other six affected districts, it was not safe to reckon that a less average number than between 400,000 and 500,000 persons would require support in some shape during the period up to the next monsoon, perhaps until the next harvest.

18. Assuming that the failure of crops had not been less serious in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country than it had been in Bengal in 1874 (it has probably been more serious), and taking, as a basis, the proportions adopted on that occasion, it was afterwards calculated that relief might have to be given at the worst season to about one million of people, *i.e.*, to 20 per cent. of the population of the affected districts, and a rough approximate estimate was made of the outlay that would devolve on the Government, amounting to 1,400,000*l*. At first, *i.e.*, in September and part of October, the Government endeavoured to meet the case by the application of the resources within their own command by using the provincial and local funds, and by anticipating, to some extent, the local resources of the ensuing year, but it soon became apparent that these efforts would only to a very small extent meet the exigency of the case.

19. Many small and scattered works had been undertaken in the period, but about the middle of October it became clear that, if the difficulty was to be met at all, far more serious and extensive operations must be set on foot.

Measures taken by Bombay Government.

20. It was the opinion of the Government that properly to deal with the crisis in a manner that would ensure the object in view, *i.e.*, the profitable employment of the people, and the avoidance, as far as practicable, of waste of public funds, it was necessary to set on foot works on which large bodies of men could be concentrated, supplied with food, and properly organised and controlled. This view was in accordance with the ruling of the Government of India, laid down in the 12th para. of the Resolution No. 1—59–71, dated 18th February 1875, where it is expressly enjoined that at an early stage of distress "large works should be opened at once, small local works subsequently, as the necessity for them arises."

21. Acting on this principle the Government proposed to the Government of India the commencement of the earth-works of the contemplated railway between Dhond and Manmar—a work which, from its circumstances and surroundings, was recommended to the Government by their officers as especially adapted for affording relief. The proposal was not approved by the Government of India on grounds of general policy,

and this Government at once accepted the decision that was communicated to them. With this work fell also a similar work which this Government had intended to commence for the relief of the Southern Mahratta Country, *i.e.*, that portion of the Karwar and Bellary Railway which lies within the Dharwar Collectorate. General policy of Bombay Government.

22. The Government had been informed by the Government of India, in their letter No. 365, of the 25th October, that they had "no desire to impose upon the Bombay "Government any restrictions beyond those which are afforded by the experience of "the past, as authoritatively recorded by the Government of India," and that they had "the fullest confidence that His Excellency the Governor in Council will exercise the "discretion vested in him so as to prevent any loss of the lives of Her Majesty's "subjects, without incurring any expenditure of public money in excess of the "necessities of the case."

23. Believing that a discretionary power had been thus granted to them, the Government proceeded, under the advice of their responsible officers, to draw out a programme, on a fixed and intelligible principle, of other large operations, both road and irrigation works, the works being so disposed as to provide for each affected district; but when this programme was submitted to the Government of India, objections were taken in detail by the President in Council to several of the proposed works; it was ordered that no work should be commenced in the Irrigation Department likely to cost more than Rs. 30,000 without the previous sanction of the Government of India, and the Government were given to understand, by the tenor of the orders passed, that before any large work could be undertaken, it would be necessary to establish sometimes the necessity for it as a relief work, sometimes its general merits as a necessary improvement.

24. A correspondence then commenced, which is not yet terminated, but Government were compelled, by the necessity of the case, to commence several of the works which were prohibited by the Government of India, feeling sure that, when the subject had been more fully considered by that authority, their action in this respect would be approved, and that it would be seen, and admitted, that they could not have acted otherwise without incurring very grave responsibility, or without possibly endangering the lives of Her Majesty's subjects.

25. This prohibition by the President in Council of the commencement of large works on the principle enjoined in para. 12th of the Resolution of the 18th February 1875 above alluded to, has undoubtedly embarrassed this Government, and has necessitated the prosecution of small local works in large numbers, over which very little supervision can be exercised, and on which there must be much waste of public funds.

26. People who would otherwise starve must be employed, and instead of employing them on large public works, where they could be properly looked after, they are now in many cases provided with work nearly at their own doors, and the result is not only that they do, it is believed, as much or as little work as pleases them, but, what is still worse, many more resort to the relief works than would come if to reach these works they had to travel some distance, and if when they arrived there they were made to work properly. Efforts are being made to get these scattered works into better order, the scale of relief wages has been adjusted more in accordance with the lower and prevailing cost of food, and it is hoped that the Government of India will shortly accord their approval to the commencement of more large works, and will see that the situation is not one which will admit of any delay consequent on nice inquiry into the relative merits of such works, and that as a certain number of persons must be supported, it is a secondary consideration what particular work is undertaken, provided it is a useful one, that it will entail as little after liability as possible, that it has the approval of the local officers, and is suited for relief purposes. One class of works, it may be mentioned, that has been entirely objected to by the President in Council is that of tanks other than those of small dimensions; yet, it is almost self-evident that there is no description of work so well suited for the immediate purpose in view as the excavation of tanks and the construction of bunds, or so well calculated to prevent in their neighbourhood a recurrence of a calamity similar to that which their present construction is intended to mitigate. At this time there are about 250,000 persons on relief works, and they are daily increasing in number, and it must not be forgotten that as the operations advance, and as works are completed, it will become more and more difficult, not only to devise means of employment perfectly unobjectionable, but even to find those which will be moderately beneficial.

Charitable Relief.

27. There have been very few applications for relief of this nature. In October an allowance of Rs. 25,000 was made to the Collectors of the districts marginally noted, of

General policy of Bombay Government.

Poona, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Satara, Kaladgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar.

Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 5,000 respectively to the Collectors of Nasik and Khandesh, to enable them to provide for the feeble and infirm poor, and for indigent people incapable of performing work; but up to present time, out of the whole sum so allotted of Rs. 1,90,000, only about Rs. 5,000 has been expended for the purpose for which the grant was made. Later on it will be necessary, probably, to establish poor or relief-houses, and to organise relief committees in communication with a central committee and with Government. Measures are in preparation, but the time has not yet arrived for carrying them out.

Remissions.

28. The subject is under consideration with the Local Revenue Officers of this Government, and it is believed that remissions to the extent of over half a million sterling in the affected districts will be necessary.

Condition of the People, and anticipated Distress.

29. The condition of the people, considering the circumstances, is not unsatisfactory, and their behaviour, with very few exceptions, has been very praiseworthy. It may be hoped that this will continue so as long as employment is found for them, and they can earn money with which to purchase food. As has been stated above, there is no actual scarcity of food in the country, and none is anticipated at present, but there is no employment for the people, and it is this that it is the task of Government to provide. As above stated, 20 per cent. of the population of the affected districts may come on the hands of the Government at the worst period of the year, and of that number probably 10 per cent. will require gratuitous relief or relief in poor-houses in return for light labour. It is probable too that when relief works are of such a character that they can be properly organised and superintended, and can therefore be carried on systematically, when wages are restricted to what will provide a bare subsistence, when labour is exacted from all who can work, and when cooked food is distributed in poor-houses to those who cannot, the numbers that will remain on the hands of Government will be very much reduced.

Government importation of grain unnecessary at present.

30. The Government do not at present think that it will be necessary to undertake grain importation or transport on any large scale, and they will certainly endeavour to avoid either measure if it be possible to do so. Hitherto, as has been shown above, any interference on their part was not only uncalled for, but would have been mischievous. The Government will, however, carefully watch the state of the trade and of the market, and act accordingly.

Failure of forage for cattle.

31. One serious feature of the present distress is the state of the cattle. Owing to the almost entire failure of the crops in some of the districts there has been a corresponding failure of forage, and the owners of cattle have found it very difficult, if not impossible, to find food for their animals.

32. The preservation of sufficient cattle for agricultural purposes is of course a subject of very grave importance, and although the Government could not undertake to import or provide forage for the animals, they have done all in their power to meet the emergency by opening their forest reserves for grazing, by granting free passages for cattle by rail from Sholapur to Poona, and by instructing the Collectors of the Western districts to receive and pass on to lands where there may be grain and water all cattle that may be sent to them from the Eastern districts; at the same time the Collectors of the Eastern districts have been instructed not to send the weak and useless animals, of which numbers are to be found in every village; such animals must take their chance; they are of no use or value, and would only consume the grazing, already too limited, which would otherwise preserve more serviceable cattle.

The water supply.

33. The long-continued drought has affected the ordinary supply of water, and though no calamity from this cause is anticipated in a country which, like the Deccan and the Southern Mahratta country, is intersected by rivers and streams which all contain water in their beds, yet it is no doubt the case that in many villages the difficulty as regards water supply, which in ordinary years occurs at a later period, will now be sooner and more severely felt. This cause will probably in some villages necessitate migration of the people, irrespective of the migration that has already taken place in connexion with the movement of cattle to distant grazing lands, and with the movements of the people to more or less distant relief works.

(Signed) M. K. KENNEDY, Major-General R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 6.

EXTRACT from LETTER from ACTING HEAD ASSISTANT COLLECTOR to COLLECTOR OF BELLARY, No. 16, dated Camp Hindupur, 11th January 1877. Nos. 14, 221.

Moreover the influx of a large number of Mysore subjects migrating into our territory in families has swelled, and threatens to swell still more the numbers both on our relief works and in our relief houses. From the tahsildar's return for the week ending 6th instant it will be seen that the number has increased to 10,867. Influx of Mysore subjects.

No. 7.

Local. No. 21 E.—86 of 1877. Nos. 41. 65.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

V.—Establishments.

18th January 1877.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt, on the 11th instant, of your letter No. 521, of the 15th ultimo.

2. In reply, I am directed to state that his Excellency the Governor in Council receives with great gratification the assurance given in your 2nd paragraph, that nothing was further from the intention of the Government of India than the withdrawal of the confidence which was formerly expressed as regards the measures adopted by the Government of Bombay to cope with the distress which is now afflicting a large portion of the Bombay Presidency. General policy of Bombay Government.

3. I am also to convey the acknowledgments of his Excellency the Governor in Council for the recognition of the President in Council, as expressed in your 4th paragraph, of the efforts made by this Government to utilise the provincial and local resources at their command on the first appearance of distress, of the avoidance of interference with the grain trade, and of the success by which these efforts have hitherto been attended.

4. This Government does not forget that on the 20th December, five days after your letter was written, his Excellency the Viceroy, then staying in Bombay, in replying to an address from the Chamber of Commerce, and alluding to the famine, was pleased to observe, "I gladly take this opportunity to express the satisfaction of the Government "of India with the manner in which the Government of Bombay is grappling with the "difficult task imposed upon it. The principles avowed by that Government as those "which will guide its action appear to me to be generally sound and excellent."

5. His Excellency in Council would therefore have been very glad if, after this very flattering expression of his Lordship's opinion, this Government could have abstained from prolonging the correspondence, but there are certain passages in your letter of the 15th ultimo which render it imperative on them to remove all doubt as to the principles they have maintained and the measures they have recommended for dealing with the famine.

6. The 3rd paragraph of your letter summarises the principles which, up to the end of October, had been laid down by the Government of India. One chief principle was, that minor local works should be undertaken in preference to the commencement of large projects.

7. The revenue resolution of this Government No. 5,890, of the 16th October, stated, that the Government had, for the previous six weeks, been ordering minor works, and set forth fully the reasons for considering such works to be totally inadequate to meet the distress which had then evidently become inevitable. This Government, in the 9th paragraph of the same resolution, recorded their opinion, "that in all cases in which, "with due regard to sanitation and other local circumstances, it may be found practicable, it will be far more convenient, and in the end far more economical, to select "for relief works those of considerable magnitude, which have been well examined and "approved, though unavoidably postponed, on which the labour of large bodies of men "can be advantageously concentrated. There may be cases in which it may be necessary to have recourse to isolated works of a trifling nature, but these should, as far as "possible, form the exceptions."

8. You observe in your 5th paragraph that it would have been desirable to direct the Collectors to commence with minor local works, and to submit programmes of further works of a like nature, and it is on this latter point that the chief difference has unfor-

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tunately arisen between the President in Council and the Government of Bombay. Both agree that at the commencement, and while the extent of the evil was uncertain, minor works should be preferred. But as that uncertainty was passing away, this Government were constrained to turn to works of a large character, on which the labour could be more concentrated, and subjected to more efficient superintendence. Moreover, they did not, nor do they now, attach importance to the works on which the able-bodied were to be employed, being close to their own homes; but on the contrary, regard this proximity as a temptation to people who are not greatly in want, to seek relief under circumstances where it may be found without much trouble or inconvenience to themselves.

9. The President in Council was pleased to accept several of the larger undertakings submitted to him by this Government, but his rejection of many of the proposals made for similar works necessarily threw this Government back on minor operations, some of which have been difficult to properly organise and supervise, and are likely to be of little value when completed. Some of the public money which has been expended in relieving distress has not therefore, his Excellency in Council believes, been so well applied as it might otherwise have been, and the last paragraph of your present letter announces that this Government will only be left free to carry out such operations as may be deemed most suitable and necessary after it has furnished returns of the most detailed nature, requiring much time for their preparation. His Excellency in Council considers it necessary to place on record that for this practically unprofitable result his Excellency's Government cannot, in any degree, hold itself responsible.

10. His Excellency in Council will only point out further that on large works the labour and wages tests can be applied with good effect, while on the small works, although the tests can, to some extent, be made available, it is almost impracticable, for many reasons, which need not here be detailed, to secure their full beneficial effect. I am to add that this fact has been fully recognised by the local district officers, and more especially by the Collectors of Poona and Sholapur, who are referred to in your 5th paragraph as having proved the feasibility of finding such minor works.

11. Another principle described as laid down by the Government of India by their letter of the 25th October, was, "that the Government should abstain from making "purchases of grain in the general market on its own behalf, except in the last resort." On this point it is only necessary to observe that the Government of Bombay had already, on the 16th October, publicly announced its intention to adopt that course.

12. The instructions contained in your 10th paragraph, have, it seems almost needless to state, been anticipated. Both the Revenue Commissioners are now engaged in visiting the distressed districts, and are in the exercise of such powers as this Government deem it necessary and advisable to delegate to them. These powers do not extend to authorising any outlay of public money without previous reference to this Government, with whom communication is always easy and rapid.

13. I am also directed to state, in conclusion, that this Government fully recognise the paramount importance, on every ground, of exercising the utmost economy in dealing with the distress in this Presidency. His Excellency in Council has never lost sight of this necessity, and has, from the first, acknowledged it, *vide* my letter No. 142 C.W.—718, of 9th October last, 5th paragraph, quoted in the margin. This was followed by the Resolution No. 268 C.W.—1,038, of the 13th December 1876, clearly indicating the wish of Government to obtain a reasonable return for the money spent, and making the rate of wages dependent on the price of food for the time being. On the 5th January another resolution was issued, disallowing pay for Sundays; and the Government are at this moment devising measures which they hope will still further diminish the expenditure. No measures have yet been proposed, of the necessity of which for saving life, or preventing excessive or dangerous suffering, his Excellency in Council has not been fully satisfied; and his Excellency in Council, in the future measures he may be compelled to take or to advise, will not fail to bear in mind that he shares, with the Government of India, the responsibility for properly utilising the public funds, and for avoiding all needless or wasteful expenditure.

"His Excellency in Council, I am desired to say, is awaiting the receipt of a letter from the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, dated 29th September, of the despatch of which he has been advised in the telegram last quoted above, in which, he understands, he is to receive instructions as regards the provision of funds for famine relief works, and in respect to the incidence of the charge for such works. Some considerable outlay of Imperial money will, no doubt, be necessary, but his Excellency in Council, I am desired to say, believes that, if confidence be placed on this Government, all that is needed may be done without extravagant or lavish expenditure of public money, and without any great ultimate loss or waste."

No. 8.

No. 401, dated Bombay Castle, 22nd January 1877. Nos. 23. 66.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Land revenue remissions.

You will have learnt from my telegram of the 18th instant that, in obedience to the instructions conveyed by your telegram of the 16th instant, the several Collectors have been instructed to make no more promises of remissions of land revenue to the ryots, and I am to state that his Excellency in Council will now await the further instructions of the Government of India on the subject.

2. This Government, however, think it their duty to point out that the principle of making remissions final, instead of holding the claims over for settlement in subsequent years, has been consistently acted upon under the revenue survey system of this presidency. His Excellency in Council therefore deemed it desirable in the present case to follow the usual practice; and I am to observe that the resolutions passed by this Government with that intent were discussed in your letters No. 806 and No. 458 of the 3rd and 30th November last, without any indication of a desire on the part of the Government of India that suspension of claim should be substituted for positive promise of remission. The promises have consequently been made in several instances, and must, it is presumed, be carried out; and it will be for the Government of India to consider how far it will be expedient or practicable to have the two systems brought concurrently into operation.

3. Steps will immediately be taken for ascertaining to what extent promises of remission have already been made.

No. 9.

No. 438, dated 22nd January 1877. Nos. 10. 181.

From the TRAFFIC MANAGER, JUBBULPORE, to the AGENT, CALCUTTA.

BLOCK OF GOODS AT JUBBULPORE.

Railway grain traffic. Block at Jubbulpore.

On the 20th instant there were 400 of our waggons laden with goods for and *viâ* G. I. P. standing at Jubbulpore for want of engine-power; the yard was blocked, and we had to stop waggons on the Jubbulpore line.

On hearing this, I at once (17-0 on 20th) wired the Deputy Traffic Manager and District Traffic Superintendent, Toondla, to stop booking through, and also advised the traffic manager, G. I. Peninsula and his superintendent at Jubbulpore that our waggons detained at Jubbulpore must be unloaded and contents made over to that company, if they could not be cleared.

Mr. Conder replies 21st, 9-0 A.M.

"There are 330 of your waggons only under load for G. I. P. at Jubbulpore; these will be worked out by Monday; if you will delay sending more until then, stoppage of through booking from your line *viâ* Jubbulpore and unloaded there not necessary; please withdraw early."

I need hardly point out that this is very vague indeed.

Mr. Conder promises to clear our waggons out if we send no more, and at the same time asks me to withdraw all restrictions on through booking.

At 18-30, on the 21st, there were still 272 waggons on hand, and I see no prospect of the G. I. P. being able to push our waggons *on to destination* and return them in due time unless we give them breathing time, so I have left the restriction in force.

I wired the District Traffic Superintendent, Howrah, and Burn & Co. to day to be prepared for a heavy rush into Howrah, and included your name that you might have early advice.

If the G. I. P. Railway clear off to-day the waggons we tendered them on Saturday, they will have from 1,200 to 1,300 of our waggons on their line.

Nos. 67. 181.

No. 10.

No. 441, dated 22nd January 1877.

From the TRAFFIC MANAGER, JUBBULPORE, to the AGENT, CALCUTTA.

WAGGONS SENT to G. I. P.

Railway grain traffic.

In reference to my No. 438 of date as to block of waggons at Jubbulpore, and the steps taken in consequence, it may be as well to give you a sample of what we have been doing for the traffic in that direction of late.

I take Cawnpore exports for a fortnight (*i.e.*, the 15 days from 6th to 20th of this month), and find that of 1,359 waggons despatched from that station under load, no less than 635 were sent to and *viâ* Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and that the daily average stood thus,—

To Great Indian Peninsula - - - -	42
To East Indian Railway - - - -	38
To all other stations - - - - -	9
Total - - - - -	89

This is exclusive of through traffic from Oudh and Rohilkhund in their waggons, and it will serve as an illustration, and will show that we have not lost sight of the importance of the traffic to Western India at this crisis, even though the diversion of so many waggons has been a serious detriment to our own local traffic, delay to which is, and has been, causing most serious and well-grounded complaint, as you are aware.

Traffic Statement, Jubbulpore.

Date.	1. East Indian Railway Waggons (Main and Jubbulpore Lines) on Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	2. Waggons on hand at 6 p.m. Daily waiting despatch.	3. Through Waggons loaded for Great Indian Peninsula Railway cut off and detained at Sutna, owing to block of Waggons at Jubbulpore.	4. East Indian Railway Waggons sent to Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	5. Great Indian Peninsula Railway Waggons received by East Indian Railway.		6. Waggons received at Jubbulpore for loading in the direction of Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	7. Goods on hand each Day at 6 p.m.
	Number of Waggons.	Number of Waggons.	Number of Waggons.	Number of Waggons.	Loaded.	Empty.	Number of Waggons.	Number of Maunds.
1st January 1877 -	529	170	—	22	4	11	8	138,463
2nd " " -	547	139	—	114	—	7	8	138,463
3rd " " -	626	131	—	84	3	91	9	138,135
4th " " -	690	154	—	102	8	23	10	138,017
5th " " -	733	140	—	120	14	100	8	137,651
6th " " -	708	88	—	126	4	133	2	137,231
7th " " -	649	121	—	47	8	120	23	137,231
8th " " -	653	112	—	99	8	55	5	135,322
9th " " -	645	116	—	78	6	58	7	135,322
10th " " -	680	93	—	97	5	68	16	134,659
11th " " -	709	99	—	80	9	90	25	132,996
12th " " -	705	90	—	74	7	77	18	131,783
13th " " -	638	107	—	101	6	138	37	130,930
14th " " -	589	295	—	38	7	117	37	128,538
15th " " -	574	239	—	119	11	64	39	125,427
16th " " -	593	313	—	117	—	61	22	122,534
17th " " -	649	366	—	148	11	78	27	118,808
18th " " -	728	399	—	107	9	74	20	115,525
19th " " -	770	342	—	109	4	104	22	115,098
20th " " -	762	332	—	108	9	60	27	112,310
21st " " -	823	316	80	65	5	55	36	110,740
22nd " " -	865	209	162	112	6	41	57	106,708
23rd " " -	878	125	177	87	9	143	47	98,431
24th " " -	825	66	112	58	2	40	18	93,720
25th " " -	859	124	99	76	5	73	42	91,633
26th " " -	839	174	4	70	3	44	36	87,939
27th " " -	827	250	2	87	10	98	39	83,820
28th " " -	840	251	—	69	6	72	19	80,773
29th " " -	855	155	—	102	9	80	22	79,601
30th " " -	841	255	—	103	4	49	25	77,322
31st " " -	917	184	—	158	14	74	9	76,818
Total - -	22,546	5,955	636	2,877	205	2,298	720*	3,591,948
Average per day	727·3	192·1	20·5	92·8	6·6	74·1	23·2	115,869

* Of this number, 226 were for goods transhipped, leaving 494 for the grains and seeds traffic; and of the 494, 174 were coaching vehicles carrying 3 tons of goods only apiece.

No. 11.

Local. No. 42 E.—126 of 1877. No. 66.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

V.—Establishments.

23rd January 1877.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1, of the 5th instant, conveying the instructions of the Government of India, that the restriction which had previously been placed on the organisation and commencement of large works to afford relief during the present distress in this Presidency has, under certain conditions, been removed. Necessity for commencement of large relief works.

2. One of these conditions is, that no works shall be undertaken unless, in each case, this Government is satisfied by evidence which it considers sufficient, that delay in commencing work will involve serious danger to the lives of the people. On this point all that can be said is, that the autumn and spring crops over a large area in this Presidency have almost if not entirely failed, while in other parts they have been extremely scanty; that the prices of food-grains have consequently risen to an abnormal height; that the mass of the people are very poor; and that those who usually depend on the product of their own small holdings, or on agricultural or other labour for subsistence, are now deprived of their means of livelihood, and would probably fall into very great straits, and starve, if aid were not given to them in some shape.

3. In the early part of the season, before there had been time to organise any relief works, the uneasy movements of the people indicated, if not great distress, at least anticipations of it. In some districts signs of disorder manifested themselves, and had the people been of a less patient and docile temperament, they would probably have broken out into serious rioting. When relief works were opened, numbers flocked to them, notwithstanding that the wages offered were more than 30 per cent. lower than the wages of ordinary years, and that the price of food-grain was over 100 per cent. higher. Under these conditions, there are now upwards of 300,000 persons seeking employment on relief works, the mass of whom, this Government believe, would suffer the most serious privation, and many of whom would probably perish, if employment were not given to them; while it is quite certain that, but for the relief offered them, agrarian disorders, dacoities, and crime of every description would prevail, and the country would be greatly disorganised.

4. If these main facts be considered by the Government of India as supplying the evidence required by them, his Excellency in Council will, I am desired to say, consider that he is free to act under the authority which has been conditionally given to him; if these facts are not held to be sufficient to establish the case, his Excellency in Council begs that it may be so intimated to him, in order that he may pause until he is in a position to offer more conclusive testimony.

5. His Excellency in Council, I am desired to add, has repeatedly expressed his sense of the necessity for the most rigid economy, and has endeavoured to practice it, to the extent he considered permissible under the instructions given him in paragraph 19 of your letter, No. 365, of the 25th October last, viz., that he should "exercise the discretion vested in him so as to prevent any loss of the lives of Her Majesty's subjects "without incurring an expenditure of public money in excess of the necessities of the "case." His Excellency in Council feels strongly that the obligation which rests on him of properly and economically administering the public funds is not less in degree, though it may be less in extent, than the obligation which rests on the Government of India itself; that in fact, in common with all other public officers administering the resources of the State, it is his duty to enforce such careful and prudent economy as may be compatible with good and efficient government. It is, therefore, no small cause of satisfaction to his Excellency to find that not only this principle, but also all the others which he has endeavoured to enforce from the commencement for dealing with this Famine, is adopted by the Government of India, and embodied in their letter of instructions to Sir Richard Temple. There is, however, undoubtedly one exception of the utmost importance. This Government has been acting on the assumption that no person was to be allowed to die of starvation if the Government could prevent it. But the letter to Sir Richard Temple says, "even for an object of such paramount im-"portance as the preservation of life, it is obvious that there are limits which are "imposed upon us by the facts with which we have to deal." The Government of India cannot fail to appreciate the extent to which this limitation, however sound in

List of relief works proposed to be set on foot.

itself, must increase the responsibility of the local Government in controlling relief operations.

6. I am now to state that, subject to the stipulation made in my 4th paragraph, his Excellency in Council proposes to proceed with the following works as soon as he is satisfied that the time has arrived for providing the means of relief which these works are calculated to afford :—

(*a.*) *The Malsej Ghaut.*

(*b.*) *The Nira Canal.*—On the subject of this work I am to refer you to page 5 of the statement which accompanied my No. 309, C.W. 1,110, of the 23rd ultimo. The complete project is ready, and will be submitted, together with a proposal for the modification of the entire scheme to secure a canal for monsoon irrigation as a distinct project to afford relief. This modified scheme is calculated to cost Rs. 19,52,000 to provide water for the irrigation of 56,849 acres, and to yield a net revenue of 4·4 per cent. This work will provide employment for about 30,000 people for six months. The line of canal traverses the Purandhur, Bhimthari, and Indapur Talukas of the Poona Collectorate, one of the driest parts of the Deccan. There are already over 30,000 persons employed on small scattered works under the Collector, for whom it is most difficult to find profitable employment.

(*c.*) *Dhond and Ahmednagar Road.*—This work is already in progress, and cannot be stopped; on the contrary, it will be necessary to grant further funds for it when the amount already allotted—from which a sum of Rs. 20,000 was temporarily transferred to the continuation of the same road north of Ahmednagar—has been expended. There are now employed upon it 4,378 people.

(*d.*) *Metalling the Mail Line between Poona and Hurryhur.*—This road traverses the Collectorates of Poona, Belgaum, and Dharwar, and the State of Kolhapur. The work will probably be required for extensive relief later in the season. It has the advantage of being placed in a part of the Presidency where the local distress is not great, where the water-supply is ample, and where communication, and consequently food transport, is easy. It is a work also that can be stopped at any moment without involving any after liability, and, on these grounds, it is one peculiarly fitted for relief purposes. This Government have always reckoned on this work as affording a large reserve for relief purposes; and, under the authority now granted in your letter under reply, will hold themselves at liberty to proceed with it, when occasion arises, to any extent that may be needed.

(*e.*) *Dholkheir and Bellary Road.*—Under the authority granted in your letter, this work will be proceeded with to the extent of the original grant, or to a greater extent should it be necessary to do so. It is not known to this Government that there are many cross-roads in the Kaladgi Collectorate requiring improvement. Certainly there are no such cross-roads which would be more useful than the completion of this through line, or which would afford better means of relieving the distressed persons of the district. It is not at this stage (and it is believed that the Government of India will admit this to be the case) desirable to provide work for the people at their very doors. The vast number of persons—some of whom are not thought to be in great distress—which the prosecution of small scattered works have brought on the hands of this Government, are the cause of great anxiety, and his Excellency in Council has adopted every means that have suggested themselves to him to put a stop to this evil, short of organising the relief works on a more efficient and concentrated scale, and this, in consequence of the orders he has received, he has hitherto been unable to do to the extent that he considered desirable and necessary.

7. Small cross-roads are, for the reasons just stated, objectionable, and, for the same reason, minor tank-clearances are not advisable. Good enough at an early stage of distress, when the numbers of applicants for relief are not large, these small roads and clearances are unprofitable at an after period, when strict and complete organisation becomes imperative to save great waste of public funds. The small tanks have also this inherent disadvantage, that they are useless as regards prospective droughts unless they can be cleared (as is very seldom the case) to hold two or more years' supply. A tank containing only one year's supply is useless in season of drought, when it does not fill, and it is not very greatly needed in good seasons. Large irrigation works, especially tanks and storage reservoirs which contain two or more years' supply, are, perhaps the most suitable works to undertake for famine relief, not only because they usually involve

heavy earthworks, but because they tend in their immediate neighbourhood to prevent a recurrence of drought; such works usually cost more than Rs. 30,000, and his Excellency in Council now acknowledges gratefully the removal of the restriction that had previously been placed upon this class of works. Were it in his power, his Excellency in Council would gladly undertake works of this character in preference to any others, but it is difficult to find suitable locations, for it is only a concurrence of favourable circumstances as regards rain-fall, configuration of ground, and the like, that renders works of this class possible. It is a fortunate circumstance that the investigations of former years have placed within reach a few of such works on the present occasion. Proposed irrigation relief works.

8. In addition to the tank works which have already been undertaken, his Excellency in Council will, as occasion arises, proceed under the authority now given with the following:—

The Shersoful, Mullet, and Patus tanks in the Poona Collectorate.
The Ojhar Canal extension in the Ahmednagar Collectorate.
The Doni tank in the Dharwar Collectorate.
The Banknari tank in the Kaladgi Collectorate.
The Krishna Canal extension in the Satara Collectorate.
The Chunkapur tank in the Nasik Collectorate.
The Bhokur and Dymel tanks in the Khandesh Collectorate.

9. Information as regards these works is given in the statement which accompanied my No. 309, C.W. 1,110, of the 23rd December, and I am to add that, as regards the Bhokur tank, the work now contemplated is not the large project which was before the Government of India in 1872, and deferred from want of funds—*vide* the Government of India's letter, Public Works Department, No. 917 I., of 22nd November 1872—but a smaller scheme, involving the restoration of an old irrigation work, calculated to cost about Rs. 84,000, nearly the whole of which is for earthworks, and to secure a probable net revenue of 5 per cent. In addition to this work, it may also become necessary to undertake the Gokak Canal in the Belgaum Collectorate, which was not included in the original programme of works by this Government. This canal, for which there are complete plans and estimate, is calculated to cost Rs. 9,62,307, and it will carry water sufficient for the irrigation of 38,200 acres.

10. I am now to observe that, should the distress in this Presidency continue to increase, and should the measures which have been adopted by this Government, as regards the labour and wages tests, and the careful examination of applicants for relief, not have the effect of checking the rapid accumulation of persons on relief works, it will become necessary to undertake still more extensive operations than any of those adverted to above, and the only effectual measures which suggest themselves to this Government are the commencement of the Dhond and Munmar Chord line, connecting the two branches of the Great Indian Peninsula Rail above the Ghauts, and the Karwar and Bellary Railway. A proposition has already been before the Government of India as regards the first-named work, and has been rejected by them; but it is understood from paragraph 8, sub-head *a.*, of your letter, No. 521, of the 15th December, and also from the general tenor of your letter, now under reply, that the Government of India are not unwilling to re-open the subject should occasion arise for doing so. Again urging importance of Dhond-Munmar, and Karwar-Bellary lines.

11. Not to encumber the text of this letter, I am directed to attach a memorandum respecting each of these railways, containing information as regards its cost and conditions of execution, as well as the extent of relief it is calculated to afford, and I am to add the following observations:—

12. The Dhond and Munmar Railway will afford ready means of relief in three districts, Nasik, Ahmednagar, and Poona, in which there are already 99,273 persons employed on relief works, many of which are small and overcrowded. It will also afford relief to the people of Sholapur, where there are already 1,18,700 labourers on the relief rolls.

13. On the earth-works of this railway, relief labourers can be properly organised, supervised, and tasked, and the line is admirably situated as regards food and water-supply. If even it be considered unadvisable for the present to carry out the line to completion, it would still, in the opinion of this Government, be better to undertake the earth-works, which, at some period will be worth the full amount of money that may now be spent upon them, rather than to fritter away an equal sum on useless works, such as cross-roads and tank clearances, which are not needed; on the earth-works of this railway a fair proportionate return for the money spent can be secured, which cannot be done on scattered village works.

Dhond and Munmar railway.

14. Of course his Excellency in Council would greatly prefer to see the Chord line commenced and completed without check or stoppage, but if this cannot be at present done it would still be a measure preferable in every respect, and economical as regards the further prosecution of a work, which some day or other must be done, to employ the persons for whom Government must find occupation in making the cuttings, which will remain for years without deterioration, and throwing up the embankments, which will also stand without material loss or damage, if stopped short of the influence of flood-water at the river crossings and if protected at such points.

15. Apart from the great and obvious political and military advantage of connecting the two great branches of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway above the Ghats, and thus connecting the whole northern and southern system of railway communication of India, there is this further consideration, that, in the event of famine or scarcity prevailing in any part of India at a future period, such as now prevails in the southern part of the continent, this Chord line would be of very great value.

16. The experiences of the present season are sufficient to establish this point. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway, chiefly from having been compelled to work an enormous traffic over both its weak points, the Ghat inclines, has been unable to deal effectually with the grain that has come upon it. Engine and waggon stock have run short, there has not been enough station and siding accommodation, and the staff has proved insufficient, especially as regards engine-drivers. The railway has carried 857 tons of grain per diem on an average for 82 days, nearly the whole of which has been forced down the Thull and up the Bhore Ghats; it is still carrying at the same rate, and it may be safely said that if the Chord Line from Dhond to Munmar had been in existence the railway would have been able to convey double the quantity it has done to the affected districts, and would also have enabled the traders to deliver at cheaper rates. Much too of the valuable food-grain, stated to have been recently damaged and destroyed by rain in the North-west Provinces, would have been preserved to its owners and for the use of the people suffering from distress. This grain, as the Government of India is aware, had accumulated at stations were there was insufficient shelter for it, having been offered in such quantities that the railway could not carry it away.

17. What has proved to be the case as regards the grain traffic may some day operate as regards military movements; and should any such occasion arise, the necessity of dealing with two such obstructions as the Ghaut inclines may be found to exert a very detrimental, possibly a fatal, influence on movements that may be of the utmost importance.

18. The line from Dhond to about 10 miles north of Ahmednagar has been finally located and is approved by this Government; the further portion has been surveyed, but not yet finally located; this can, however, be done while the first portion is under construction.

Karwar and Bellary railway.

19. The Karwar and Bellary Railway has already formed the subject of a correspondence, which ended with the Government of India, No. 2,133 R., dated 5th September 1874, estimates have been framed, and the line has been surveyed. On the subject of this railway, I am to refer you to my letter, No. 367 (railway), dated 16th March 1874. All necessary details regarding that portion of the line which is suitable for meeting the present emergency in the way of relief are comprised in the accompanying memorandum.

20. It is believed that the Madras Government are desirous of undertaking the earthworks of this line, as a means of providing employment for distressed persons in the Bellary and the adjoining districts. The work has, therefore, the merit that it would materially aid two or more districts in two presidencies, and when completed, it would not only, as has been shown in the previous discussions in respect to it, be a valuable commercial line of communication likely to return fair interest on any money borrowed for its construction, but in future season of scarcity or famine in the Southern Maharatta country, it would greatly add to the power of the Government and of the people to deal with, and meet failure of crops.

21. In Dharwar there are already 30,000 people on relief works, in Belgaum 27,000, and in Kaladgi 41,000, and these numbers are increasing and probably will continue to increase.

22. His Excellency in Council does not, I am desired to say, propose the immediate commencement of this work, though there is reason to apprehend that, if not commenced shortly, many small scattered works must be undertaken, on which it is probable that much money may be wasted.

23. It is probable, however, that the Government of India will be inclined to deal with this question on a general review of the measures to be adopted in both this Presidency

and in Madras; and I am, therefore, desired to say that this Government will be prepared to carry out their portion of the line on learning from the Government of India that they have permission to do so, and they are of opinion that it would be a wise and prudent measure to commence it at an early date. Dhond-Munmar, and Karwar-Bellary railways.

24. Should the Dhond and Manmar and the Karwar and Bellary Railways, either or both, be undertaken, it will be necessary for this Government to indent on the Government of India for officers to form the engineering staff that will be required to properly supervise and carry out the works.

25. As regards the 5th paragraph of your letter, I am to state that his Excellency in Council understands that the stipulation it contains would not apply to works of Imperial character, such as the Dhond and Munmar Chord Rail line, and the Karwar and Bellary Railway; and as regards the rest, I am to observe that, in applying to them any principle which the Government of India may deem equitable in respect to provincial responsibility for meeting the charges for extraordinary public works, it will not be forgotten that these works are not voluntarily undertaken by this Presidency, but have been forced upon it under circumstances which have left its Government no choice but to undertake an outlay, which, on other similar unhappy occasions, has been met, and provided for mainly as a charge against the general Imperial revenue of the Empire.

26. In conclusion, I am to add that it is of the utmost importance that this Government should be informed, at the earliest possible date, whether or not the Government of India are prepared to permit the commencement, when needed, of either or both of the two railways. As, in the event of refusal, this Government will be immediately obliged to apply itself to the very difficult task of seeking for the means of other suitable employment for very large bodies.

DHOND AND MANMÁR RAILWAY.

Standard Gauge.

	Distance. Miles.
Dhond to Nagar	47½
Nagar to Manmár	84½
Total	132

Probable cost, 90 lakhs.
Receipts, Rs. 8,32,920.
Working expenses at 60 per cent., Rs. 4,99,752.
Net profits, Rs. 3,33,168, or about 3·7 per cent.
Number of people it will employ for five months, from Dhond to Nagar, 37,500 persons; for three months, from Nagar to Manmár, 110,000 persons.

HUBLI AND BELLARY RAILWAY.—METRE GAUGE.

Summary.

	Distance. Miles.
Kirwatti to Hubli	29
Hubli to Gudduk	35
Guduk to Tungabuddra	49
	113
Tungabuddra to Bellary	42
Total miles	155

Probable cost, 93 lakhs.
Probable receipts, Rs. 9,30,000.
Working expenses at 55 per cent., Rs. 5,11,500.
Net return, Rs, 4,18,500, or 4·5 per cent.
Number of people it will employ for five months, from Kirwatti to Tungabuddra, 35,000.
Tungabuddra to Bellary, 12,000 persons.

No. 12.

Nos. 15. 66. XX.—MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir R. Temple, on the CONDITION and PROSPECTS of the MADURA DISTRICT as ascertained by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE at his CONFERENCES with LOCAL OFFICERS during the 22nd and 24th January.

Tinnevelly, 23rd January 1877.

Madura District. At Madura Sir Richard Temple had the advantage of meeting—

Mr. McQuhae who has been Collector of the district for several years, but who only returned from furlough a month ago and had not yet inspected the more distressed parts of the district.

Mr. Turner, C.S., who has been for some time in charge of the Ramnath semindari, under the Court of Wards, and who is now Relief Officer of the district; two Deputy Collectors and the Sub-judge, who had served long in the district, and also the Tahsildars of the Dindigul and Madura taluks.

2. The district of Madura has an area of 9,502 square miles, and a population of 2,266,615 persons; it is traversed by the Southern Madras Railway. Somewhat less than one-half the district belongs to Zemindars, with the administration of whose estates the Collector has but little concern. The ryotwari portion of the district, managed by the Collector on behalf of Government, is divided into six taluks and contains a population of about 1,300,000. In the north-west of the district are the Pulni and other hill ranges which are sparsely peopled; from Madura town southwards and eastwards to the sea coast the country of the great zemindaris is open and flat.

3. The average rainfall of the cultivated part of the district is 34 inches; during the past season the rainfall has been in some places as little as 5 inches, and nowhere has it been half the average. In ordinary seasons Madura gets a fall of from 4 to 6 inches in April and May, a fall of 6 to 10 inches in July and August, and a fall of about 13 inches in the October or latter rains. During the past season the district got the April rainfall only. The rain fell unequally over the district; thus, while Ramnath, as a whole, fared very badly, a belt of land 10 miles broad along the coast was favoured with good October rain. The parts where the rainfall was shortest are the whole of the Palni taluk, the north (about one third) of Dindigul taluk, and the southern half of the Ternmangalam taluk, and nearly one third of the great Ramnath zemindari. In these tracts no rain fell after August, and no crop at all has been secured save under wells and river channels. The tanks in these tracks are all rain-fed (as distinguished from river-fed), and they are dry; so no crops have been saved by tank-water. In the rest of the district the failure of rain was not so utter; still the dry crop was extremely poor, where it did not wholly fail. Fair crops have been secured under wells and river channels.

4. The area under different kinds of cultivation and under the main food crops is, in ordinary seasons, as follows:—

	Acres.
Under well irrigation	22,150
Irrigated from river channels	20,183
Sown with rice	137,511
Sown with cumboo (bajra millet)	98,849
Sown with cholum (jowari millet)	162,794
Other food grains	300,000

As there are such great variations in the circumstances of the different taluks, the Collector has difficulty in offering a general estimate of the out-turn for the whole district. He would put—

The dry crop yield at perhaps	1 anna all round.
Wet crop	2 annas under tanks.
Ditto	10 annas under irrigation channels.
Crop irrigated from wells	12 annas;

and he would put the average yield of the district at a 3-annas crop, or something less than one quarter of an ordinary good yield.

5. The ryots and the people of the Madura District are in ordinary times prosperous, save in part of the Shevagunga zemindari in the south-west corner of Ramnad, where the crops often fail. Even this year the ryots are keeping on and supporting their regular farm servants (pádials) everywhere except in a part of the Palni taluk; still there are a good many ryots, 94,000 out of 129,000, who hold less than seven acres a piece. The population living by daily labour and the prœdial serfs (pádials) constitute about one

fourth of the whole population. Pressure on the lowest classes has been considerably relieved by an unusually large emigration of labourers to the coffee lands of Ceylon.

6. The ordinary food of the people is cumboo (bajra), ragi (small millet), and cholum (jowari); in parts, the poorer classes consume a very coarse millet known as *black cholum*. At present all the larger markets are well supplied with grain, principally foreign rice from Bengal; in parts of the south there is black cholum to be had, but the quantity of this grain in the district is not large. Several cases have already come to the Collector's notice in which the supply of grain was not equal to the local demand; still there is food in the district for those who have money to buy, and the Collector believes that private trade will sufficiently supply local needs, though occasionally petty dealers may not be quick enough in supplying the wants of remote localities. Roads are good, and there are plenty of carts. Madura dealers are men of capital and enterprise, and they are already importing grain direct to the petty district ports, such as Kilakari, and bringing it up to Madura.

7. The food crops of the two previous years (1874–75 and 1875–76) in Madura were fairly good all round. Last summer there was at one time promise of a good ragi crop, and much of the old ragi stocks was exported to Mysore, where the need was then great. Stocks of common local grains are believed not to be large, but there is already a good deal of foreign rice in the district. Prices at Madura are now quoted at—

—	Number of Seers per Rupee.	
	13th January 1877.	Average of the Season in ordinary Years.
2nd sort rice -	7¾	16
Cholum (jowari) -	8½	29
Ragi (small millet) -	10¾	35

In the interior prices are much the same, except in the Dindigul taluk, where they are a little dearer. Black cholum is still for sale in the south of the district at 16 seers per rupee; it is eaten by the poor only, and the supply will not last long.

8. At present there are but few labourers on relief works. Local fund undertakings have been pushed forward, such as the clearing of tanks and other such works debitable to the "village improvement fund." On these works people are made to give full tale of labour. In the south of the district and in the Palni taluks some few relief roads were opened; and other works, such as tanks and roads, are ready marked out. The total number of real relief labourers is only 5,531; the numbers decreased a fortnight ago, but are now increasing again. The Collector expects a rush of labourers on the works in the south, where the people are very badly off, and for two months past some of them have prayed to have relief works opened. If it had not been for the outlet by emigration to Ceylon, there would have been danger of starvation down there before now. The Ramnath zemindari is under the Court of Wards, and it can afford to find work for its own people, provided Government will sanction the Collector's proposal to suspend (not to remit) a portion of the Ramnath tribute (peshkush). If these arrangements be sanctioned, then the Collector would hope that the total number of relief labourers chargeable to the State will not exceed 20,000* during the worst times of the Madura district. If seasonable rain falls in April (and Mr. Nelson's Madura manual shows that in average years 5 or 6 inches fall between April and May), then the people will leave the works and go off to their fields. If no April rains fall, then there may be disaster, and as many as 100,000 people might possibly come upon the relief works. But if the coming season be ordinarily prosperous, Mr. McQuhae hopes that the number of relief labourers will not exceed 20,000.

* Estimates of this kind differ according to the officers who frame them. A previous Collector, it is understood, estimated that Madura would have to employ 100,000 relief labourers before the end of February. There is often a risk of subordinates, without any conscious extravagance, working up to high estimates of this kind.

9. The rate of wages on the relief works is two annas a day for an adult male, and a fair tale of work is exacted from the labourers. In Madura town in ordinary times no man will accept a day's work under four or five annas a day; and though wage rates in the interior may be a little cheaper, still the Collector thinks that a man of the Madura district must be feeling some pressure before he goes on relief works at two annas a day. People who have, as yet, come on the relief works were not in a specially depressed physical condition.

Madura District.

10. In the town of Madura the distribution of gratuitous relief from private charity has begun. In the Palni taluk gratuitious relief, in the shape of cooked food, is being given to some 900 persons at Government expense. The Collector is inquiring into the necessity for continuing this relief. The tahsildar stated that some of the people,—infirm and aged persons from the surrounding villages,—who came for this relief were in a very destitute state.

11. Up to the present time there has been no very great difficulty in maintaining the cattle. There is still some pasture in the tank beds, and in the withered rice and cumboo fields. But difficulty will certainly be felt in Ramnath, and in the Madura, Meloor, and Terumangalam taluks, and in parts of the Shevaganga Zemindari, if showers do not come. Slight showers, such as usually come in Madura at this time of year, will produce enough pasture to keep the cattle alive.

12. In parts of Ramnath the people will have difficulty in getting water to drink. They may sometimes have to go four or five miles for it. Still water will not absolutely fail.

13. The Collector expects to have to suspend 15 lakhs of land revenue out of a total demand of 24 lakhs. The whole of the zemindari tribute (peshkush) will eventually be collected. But according to the revenue custom of the Presidency, the Government is more or less bound,* though not absolutely pledged, to remit land revenue due on "wet" lands, which have failed to get any crop by reason of failure of the tank water. The Collector cannot as yet precisely say how much this may be. According to the revenue customs of the Presidency, a good deal of the suspended revenue, due from dry crop lands, would also be eventually remitted.

* Note.—So the Collector of Madura says.

No. 13.

Nos. 19. 92. Proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the Public Works Department, dated Bombay Castle, 23rd January 1877, No. 92.

Extra engines for grain traffic.

Read.—The following telegram from the Director for State Railways, to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, Bombay, dated 22nd January 1877.

> "Please arrange with Peninsula Company to have the 12 engines, purchased for State Railways, erected immediately, and kept available in Bombay for the present in running order."

Resolution.—To be communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, and Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, for information and guidance. The Agent should be requested to submit an estimate for erecting the engines, and, if possible, to put the work in hand immediately. If the Locomotive Superintendent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, cannot undertake the work, the Baroda Railway Company should be asked to do so.

No. 14.

Nos. 35. 221. Extract from Letter from Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Bellary, No. 34, dated Pennakonda, 23rd January 1877.

Migration from Mysore.

With reference to your letter No. 1,978, dated 16th December last, I have the honour to enclose a statement exhibiting the numbers and distribution of Mysore Coolies who have been resorting to my relief works. This shows a total of 17,618 in my three taluks, but from what I have personally seen of them I am inclined to think their number is understated.

* * * * *

There are considerable numbers of Mysore paupers now being fed at my relief houses. These I have not liked to turn away in common humanity, and I am getting a return of the numbers fed at each of my relief houses, which I will submit shortly for your information and orders. I think I informed you demi-officially that I had, on the 10th instant, counted 1,321 of them at the Hindupur relief house alone. I regret to report that three cases of death from starvation, two in Hindupur and one in Madaksira, have within the last few days come under my notice. These three persons were Mysore paupers who had dragged themselves to these relief houses in the last stage, and though they were cared for immediately, I am satisfied they were beyond saving.

No. 15.

XXI.—Memorandum by Mr. Bernard, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, on the Condition and Prospects of the Tinnevelly District, as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple during his visit of the 24th January. Nos. 16, 66.

Tinnevelly, 24th January 1877.

At Tinnevelly Sir Richard met Mr. Stewart, the Collector, who has had five years' experience of the district, and at Tuticorin he met Mr. Davies, the head assistant in charge of the southern taluk of the Tinnevelly district. Tinnevelly district.

2. The Tinnevelly district contains an area of 5,176 square miles, with a population of 1,693,979 persons. It is traversed from end to end by the Madras Railway. The (ryotwari) tracts administered directly by the Collector are divided into nine taluks; while the 22 zemindaris constitute one quarter of the district. The zemindaris are mostly situate in the distressed tracts. Some of the zemindars are poor and unable to do much for the support of their people in the present year; others, and especially Ethiapoorum, which is now under the Court of Wards, can afford to find works for the relief of their tenantry. The zemindari tribute (peshkush) is said to be about two thirds of the gross rental, so that Tinnevelly zemindars have not so large a margin of profit as in North Arcot and other districts.

3. The district is divisible into two distinct sections,—

(1) the valley taluks of Tenkarai, Tinnevelly, Tenkasi, Ambasamudram, where the lands are for the most part irrigated, and where crop after crop is taken off the ground, which is bare for only about two months of the year. These irrigated taluks are the most thickly peopled;

(2) the black soil taluks, where there is comparatively little irrigated land, and where in ordinary years dry crops of cholum (jowari) and cotton are grown.

The average rainfall of the lowlands of the Tinnevelly district is about 20 inches; at Tuticorin on the Coromandel coast it is as low as 10 inches. During the last season the rainfall was in some places as low as 5 inches, and did not anywhere exceed half the average fall of ordinary years. The area of failure of crops is nearly identical with the unirrigated section of the district. The yield is estimated at—

In the irrigated taluks—wet crop, 14 annas, full crop; dry crop, 4 annas, quarter crop.

In the dry taluk,—wet crop, 1 anna, no appreciable crop; dry crop, 3 annas, nearly a quarter crop.

The Collector is unable to offer a correct estimate of the yield for the whole of the district because the variations are so great in different parts, but perhaps the yield of the whole district might be put down at about 6 annas, or $\frac{3}{8}$ of a good harvest.

4. The yield of the previous (1875–76) harvest was fairly good all round, while the yield of 1874–75 was good. Stocks are supposed not to be large; but the rice now ripening in the irrigated taluks will, the Collector estimates, give food enough for the whole district for at least four months. The ordinary food of the people is rice over a great part of the district, but in the dry crop taluks cholum and cumboo are the staple food. The breadth put down with the main food crops in the last ordinary year in 1875 was—

Rice - - - -	212,000 acres.
Cholum (jowari) - - -	66,000 „
Cumboo (bajra) - - -	195,000 „
Samary (small millet) - -	169,000 „
Ragi - - - -	49,000 „

The area sown with cotton was 150,000 acres; during the present year the cotton yield will be very small indeed.

* The imports of grain into Tuticorin have been—

—	During December.	During first 20 days of January.
	Tons.	Tons.
Rice - - - -	984	1,532
Paddy (rice with the husk on)	—	132
Cumboo (bajra) - -	32	276
Cholum (jowari) - -	—	9
Total - -	1,016	1,949

5. All the district marts are well supplied with grain. The district possesses plenty of carts for inland traffic; and ample shipping comes to Tuticorin for the maritime trade. At one time the supply was short in places; but during the last few weeks foreign rice has been coming largely into the district* by the port of Tuticorin from beyond the sea. The Collector believes the food supply will be maintained everywhere by private trade. The earliest crop of next season will not come in until

Tinnevelly District.

September; no harvest will be reaped in August. The present and the ordinary prices of some of the cheap food grains in Tinnevelly town are quoted thus :—

—	Present Price.	Ordinary Price.
Rice - - -	7¼	11 seers per rupee.
Cumboo (bajra) - -	11¼	23¼ „
Cholum (jowari) - -	7¼	24 „
Ragi - - -	12	27 „

At marts in the interior of some of the distressed tracts prices are 20 to 30 per cent. dearer; and four weeks ago, before the trade from across the sea set in, prices were quite 20 per cent. dearer than they are now.

6. In ordinary years the people of Tinnevelly are well off; the ryots have a high "standard of comfort;" and in the irrigated taluks they are sometimes quite wealthy. A large proportion of the ryots, however, have small holdings of three to seven acres each. The Collector estimates that about half the population of the taluks affected by failure (say 400,000 out 900,000) are daily labourers and farm servants. One great outlet for the poorer classes of Tinnevelly is the labour-field of Ceylon, whither tens of thousands go to work on coffee estates and other farms. The day Sir Richard Temple was at Tuticorin, he saw some hundreds of Ceylon Coolies returning after their six months' working season. This year emigration to Ceylon is greater than ever.

7. As yet the condition of the people even in the distressed taluks is by no means depressed. But some weeks ago it became clear that in the distressed taluks were a certain number of people who had not emigrated, had no food and no means of earning any. Accordingly works were opened, and about 2,500 labourers are employed on roads and irrigation channels under the civil officers. The engineer officers help in supervising, and task-work is rigorously exacted from the labourers. Works have been sketched out costing—

8½ lakhs for road work.
2 „ irrigation channels.
¾ lakh for miscellaneous improvements.

7. There is no very large work in the district on which a great number of labourers could be usefully employed. But Tinnevelly relief labourers could be taken to the Periyar scheme in Madura, if it were not for the extreme unhealthiness of those valleys in the hot season. The Collector estimates that at the worst time he may have as many as 100,000 persons on relief works; that time will be in May and June, for he considers that the people will not leave to begin ploughing until late in the month of June. The Collector will keep down the numbers on the works as much as he, with safety to the people, can. But there are in the distressed tracts very large numbers of families who can have no means of earning a living off the works.

8. The rate of wages on the works is two annas a day to male adults, and to women and children proportionately lower, as ordered by the Government. The Sub-Collector at Tuticorin appeared to contemplate purchasing a certain quantity of rice for Government and paying the relief labourers in grain. But if the markets are sufficiently supplied, these arrangements will, under present orders, not be required.

9. No relief houses for distributing gratuitous relief at the State cost have yet been opened. About Rs. 500, however, have been spent on such relief by village officials,* who are directed to relieve temporarily casual cases of clear distress and to send in the bill to the tahsildar. The precise number of persons so relieved up to date cannot be stated. If matters get worse, relief houses will have to be opened; but no estimate can be furnished at present of the probable total numbers who may hereafter want relief. There is a private relief house at Vendipattam, and the recipients are mostly the infirm and feeble and the beggars of the neighbourhood. No cases of starvation have been reported up to the present date.

* Called village moonsifs in the Tamil districts.

10. There has not been much loss yet among the cattle. But no doubt the supply of fodder is very short. Some cattle from the western taluks can go to the ghât pastures. But in the south there will be loss of cattle, for, unless plentiful showers come (which is not probable) there will soon be no pasture at all in the black soil taluks.

11. Failure of water-supply has not yet been felt to any severe degree. But during the hot months there will be difficulty about water in the unirrigated taluks. Still the Collector anticipates that people will generally be able to get water for themselves and cattle if they go three or four miles at most for it. There may thus be often dearth of water and difficulty in getting it, but still it will be obtainable.. Tinnevelly District.

12. The Collector estimates that he may have to suspend 12 lakhs of land revenue out of a total demand of 27. Probably out of this, 3 lakhs, the estimated (roughly) assessment on wet lands, which got no crop, may have to be remitted. Remissions of the abkaree (liquor excise revenue) will not be absolutely necessary, as the revenue is leased for a term of years, and a bad year might be set off against good ones. The Collector, however, may find it expedient to recommend some remission. The salt revenue as yet is coming in satisfactorily.

No. 16.

XXII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated 24th January 1877. No. 66.

In presenting the* accompanying memoranda of facts ascertained in the districts of Madura and Tinnevelly, I desire to offer the following observations:— Madura and Tinnevelly Districts.

2. In both these districts, which in ordinary years have such unfailing harvests, there has been an extraordinary drought, which has destroyed nearly all the crops throughout this large area, save in a few parts which are irrigated by watercourses from certain rivers. It is probable that in both districts the stocks of grain are considerable, being the stores reserved after previous harvests. Both districts are permeated from end to end by railways; in both districts the grain trade is very active, and the markets are well supplied; the agricultural peasantry are fairly well off; the prices of grain range at about eight Government seers the rupee. In both districts distress is thought likely to occur as the season advances; already here and there are signs of trouble. *Nos. 12. 15.

3. Now, in these two districts, so much alike in general features, there is a remarkable difference in the anticipation formed by the two Collectors regarding the amount of relief which may become necessary. In Madura, the late Collector Mr. Horsfall thought that relief might have to be given to 100,000 persons during the worst season; but the present Collector Mr. McQuhae now thinks that the number need hardly exceed 20,000. Even if this comparatively small number shall be exceeded, he hopes that the total will not rise considerably, provided always that the usual showers fall in April. If these early rains shall not come, then, of course, the case may be worse. On the other hand, the Collector of Tinnevelly thinks that it may be very desirable to afford relief to as many as 150,000 persons during the worst season; but when considerations of economy are urged upon him, he seems to think that relief might possibly be restricted to 100,000 persons. Now, how can this difference in the opinions of the two Collectors be accounted for? certainly not by any essential difference between the condition of the two districts. If any thing, the Tinnevelly estimate might have been expected to be lower than the Madura estimate: *firstly*, because the Tinnevelly population is less than that of Madura, being 1,700,000 as compared with 2,300,000 persons; and *secondly*, because the position of Tinnevelly is slightly better than that of Madura, the Tinnevelly district having the advantage of a seaport—Tuticorin—which Madura has not, and having irrigation from the Tambrapúrni river—somewhat superior to the irrigation from the Vaigai, the river of Madura.

4. I believe that the difference between the two estimates partly arises in this wise. In Madura, it is now understood that relief is to be afforded only for the purpose of averting danger of starvation, whereas in Tinnevelly it seems to have been thought that distress also must be prevented. I should consider that the Madura estimate is a far more reasonable one, and more nearly in accordance with the views of Government, as set forth in the Despatch of the Government of India of the 16th January, than the Tinnevelly estimate. I believe, however, that the Collector of Tinnevelly, Mr. Stewart, is quite able and willing to restrict relief operations to any extent that may be compatible with the safety of the people, if he be clearly instructed as to whether his responsibility is confined to the preservation of life from starvation, or whether it extends to the prevention of mere distress. I have drawn his attention to the published Despatch of the Government of India of 16th January, which has just been received, a consideration of which will doubtless cause the Tinnevelly estimate to be largely modified. It appears

to me that there ought to be much stronger evidence than anything we now have regarding imminent distress before any extensive relief operations ought to be allowed in this district.

No. 17.

No. 66. XVIII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Madura, 24th January 1877, on the Subject of the Relief Administration of Districts of the Bombay Deccan.

Want of strictness in relief administration in the Deccan Districts.

In continuation of my minute of the 22nd instant, urging certain measures of economy which would lead to reductions of expenditure on relief, I would beg the consideration of the Government of Bombay to the conditions set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Despatch of the Government of India, dated 16th January 1877. It seems to me that they apply in some degree, not a very great degree perhaps, but still in some degree, to the relief operations which we have conducted in the Deccan districts. While admitting the need of extensive relief in those districts, and acknowledging the large amount of good which has been and is being done there by the exertions of the local authorities, I still think that, in the words of paragraph 3, some "persons are employed to whom "relief is not absolutely essential, and who without it would have been able to maintain "themselves at all events for some time to come."

2. Although there is good supervision on the larger works, yet in many of the petty village works I fear that "the people can obtain almost for the asking, and in return for "next to no work at all, wages in money or in grain."

3. I apprehend also that in some places the authorities, in the words of paragraph 2, are "attempting the task of preventing all suffering and of giving general relief to the "poorer classes of the community," a task which the Government of India has in this Despatch declared itself unable to undertake. These instructions from the Government of India seem to me to render some reconsideration necessary in detail to see especially whether many persons on all the works, larger or smaller, could not be selected to be discharged, and whether some stricter check could not be imposed on admission to the works. In other words, I would say, let every person now on the works be discharged who apparently can get on for a time without such employment, and let no person in future be admitted unless there be reason to suppose that he or she is absolutely in need and would be in danger of starvation if employment were to be refused.

4. In respect to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Despatch of the Government of India, urging that relief labourers be employed on large works of a permanently useful character, I have represented what occurred to me in my minute of the 12th January.

5. In paragraph 7 of the Despatch of the Government of India it is stated that "when "distress becomes extreme, and a state of absolute famine has been reached, the Govern- "ment may be driven to set up relief works near the homes of the people on a scale "inconsistent with careful supervision or searching tests."

Although numerous works of this character have been set up in the Deccan districts, I doubt whether the stage contemplated by the above passage has been yet reached, though it may be reached hereafter. And with this view I would recommend that many of these petty works be reconsidered with a view to their being discontinued, wherever possible, for the present at least.

6. I should anticipate that, if the measures recommended in this minute and in my minute of the 22nd January can be at all adopted, a considerable reduction can be effected below the estimate of expenditure, one million and a half, submitted with the minute of the 12th current.

No. 18.

NARRATIVE of INSPECTIONS made by CAPTAIN BISSET, R.E., who was deputed to investigate and suggest Remedies for the Block in Grain Traffic between Northern India and the Famine Districts of the South. Nos. 26. 66.

Raichore, 24th January 1877.

Khandwa, 19*th January*.—About 200 tons of grain are waiting for despatch; some for Madras line (Adoni) has been detained for some weeks. Block in railway grain traffic.

About 100 tons a week have been forwarded from Holkar Railway, but none now accepted by Madras.

On the 1st January there were about 13,000 tons of grain lying at the stations in this district, which extends from Nagpore to Nandgaum, and in addition to this there were 1,000 waggons standing loaded for the South-eastern district, *i.e.*, Lanowlee to Raichore and Madras Railway.

District Traffic Superintendent's Office, Bhosáwal, 19 January.

The accumulations at the stations increased up to a maximum of over 17,000 tons on the 13th, and are on this date 15,500 tons, of which 8,500 tons are at Nagpore itself.

Detail of Accumulations of 19*th January.*

Nagpore - - -	8,500	Tons.
Small stations to Khamgaum	2,000	„
Mortizapore - -	1,500	„
Badnera - - -	700	„
Akola - - -	1,700	„
Nandora and Shegaum -	800	„
Bhosawal to Nandgaum -	300	„
Total - -	15,500	Tons.

It appears to me that open preference is given to cotton and linseed over grain and other seeds.

The allotment of waggons during a recent period of six days was—

525 for cotton.
136 for linseed.
153 for grain.

Total 814 for waggons from Nagpore district.

The preference given to cotton and linseed over grain which has been for weeks at the stations is intelligible only on the supposition that the whole of the grain in question is intended for the Madras Railway, for which supplies up to the full working power of the Madras line were already on the road.

I do not think the above supposition is in accordance with the facts, but as the question does not affect the supply to the Madras districts, I do not consider it of immediate importance to dwell on it further.

During the same period 714 empties were given to the Jubbulpore side, and returned chiefly loaded with grain. The estimated maximum capacity of the line here is 18 goods trains or 450 goods waggons.

Full working power of double line, Bhosawal to Egutpura.

This may probably be increased if the Thull Ghât can pass more.

20th January.

The greatest day's work I could find in the recent books* was 451 loaded waggons worked towards Bombay on the 20th December.

The highest average of six days was on 4th to 9th December, when 336 daily were worked towards Bombay.

* Egutpura,—Thull Ghât.

The average of nine days, 8th to 16th January, was 263 loaded waggons towards Bombay and 362 waggons (including empties) from Bombay.

The estimated capacity is, however, over 500 waggons, and the present working cannot be taken as a fair average, as the numerous special trains running have not only taken train room, but have upset the regularity of working of all the goods trains.

Thull Ghât estimated capacity.

The working maximum of the Thull Ghât is not likely to exceed 450 waggons a day, but if this is done the Ghât is equal to the same work as the line above it.

22nd January.

With the cotton season coming on, a large portion of the 450 waggons will be for Bombay itself, and as the powers of the Bhore Ghât are about equal to those of the Thull Ghât, there is no difficulty to be feared on the former, even allowing for grain traffic and ordinary traffic from Bombay itself.

Bhore Ghât estimated capacity.

Block in railway grain traffic.

Between Lanowlee and Poona there were difficulties felt early in December, and crossing stations were at once put in at two points between Lanowlee and Poona.

Single line above the Bhore Ghât, Lanowlee to Poona.

When the Sholapur demand increased, the long distance stations between Poona and Sholapur were also divided by crossing stations, four of which have been already opened.

Poona to Sholapur.

Similarly, between Sholapur and Shahabad, a crossing station has been put in to divide Gulburga and Shahabad.

Sholapur to Shahabad.

There are still some long runs between Sholapur and Gulburga, and also between Shahabad and Raichore, but the powers of the worst part of the line are equal to about seven goods trains a day, or much in excess of the working of the Madras Railway.

Shahabad to Raichore.

The promises made by Mr. Conder and the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and by the Government officers, that from 150 to 200 waggons a day shall be delivered at Raichore (if required) is apparently practicable without more crossing stations, and the further addition to the carrying powers of this section of the line is considered practicable if the powers of the Madras line are increased so as to make this necessary.

There is ample material for sidings in store, and both the Government and the railway officers are ready to put them in as soon as there are any signs of their being wanted.

Madras Railway, Raichore to Gooty or to Bellary.

The powers of the railways have now been traced from the sources of supply to Raichore, and the powers of the Madras Railway have now to be considered.

If no other circumstance had to be considered than the interval between stations, the line should be able, notwithstanding two or three long runs, to pass about nine trains a day.

But the long runs of 18, 12, and 14 miles which follow each other from Kosgee to Adoni, Adoni to Auspree, and Auspree to Nemcherla, should in my opinion be divided by crossing stations.

Whether the long run of 18 miles between Goondacul and Vurapoor on the Bellary branch should be divided or not, depends upon the number of trains required for Bellary.

With two passenger trains and with engines of the same power as those now here, these nine trains would not carry the 200 waggons with which the Bombay Railway can undertake to deliver.

The first difficulty, however, is the want of engines, and whether or not this section has its proper share of the engines on the line, there is evidently work for more.

Want of engines.

Having found in Bombay that there were too few engines here, and that two trains of engine gear for 12 engines were just being despatched to the State railways, I asked the Director by telegram to suspend despatch, and I received a reply that the Consulting Engineer had been asked to erect and keep in Bombay the 12 engines referred to.

12 State railway engines ordered to be erected in Bombay.

Colonel Hancock was in communication with the railway officers about the erection, and I hope the work is now in hand. Unfortunately they are all passenger engines.

Want of sidings at Raichore.

Discussions have apparently been going on about this for some time past between the Traffic Managers of the railways.

Although they did not agree on the subject, neither appears to have referred the question for settlement till within a fortnight.

The reference made by the Consulting Engineer, Madras, was at once replied to by the Consulting Engineer, Bombay, who stated that while he was informed that more might be done with the existing siding accommodation by night working and extra staff, he was directed to consent at once to anything which the Madras Government desired in this matter. On arrival here, I found that the Assistant Traffic Manager attached the greatest importance to a very easily constructed siding, and after looking at the work being done in the yard, and the difficulties which will be noted on hereafter, I sent the following telegram to the Consulting Engineer, Madras :—

Raichore, 23rd January.

"Bombay Government consent to additional sidings here; 12 engines, promised by Director, State railways, will increase work, and early execution by district engineer requested."

Telegram asking for execution of additional siding.

I met the District Engineer in the afternoon, and found that materials were available, and that the work could be done within a week of receipt of orders.

Block in railway grain traffic.

Mr. Conder and others say—

Complaints by the Great Indian Peninsula railway officers.

1st, that the engine power should be at once increased.
2nd, that the line should be worked night and day.
3rd, that there should be night staff for transferring goods.

If it is possible to give more engines from the other parts of the line, there is no doubt that their services on this short run would result in the delivery of three tons of grain at Bellary for one which they could bring from Madras to the same market.

I propose to discuss this subject at Madras.

Complaints of Madras Railway officers.

The night staff was put on from the 22nd January.

1. The want of proper marshalling of the trains brought in from the Bombay line gives a great deal of trouble at Raichore.

2. The use of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway cotton waggons for through traffic involves transhipment of a good many waggons at Raichore. (I talked to Mr. Conder in Bombay about this, and I ascertained that he had issued orders against the use of such waggons when it could be avoided.)

Telegram to Mr. Conder, despatched 23rd January.

On both of these subjects I telegraphed to Mr. Conder yesterday asking him to give the desired assistance.

3. Earlier notice of trains ordered for Raichore was also asked for.

Interruption to through booking.

This is a grave calamity. It not only harasses traders, but it adds to the cost of transport, and to the time occupied in transport.

It thus diminishes the powers of the railways.

I have deferred my remarks on this subject till now, because it is at Raichore that its evil effects are most prominent. The yard is now filled with grain, which has been brought to Raichore and stopped there, chiefly because of the interruption to through booking.

I saw a number of the merchants and brokers here to day. All were anxious to turn a penny by moving on their grain to Bellary and Adoni.

They have a good deal of grain on the road now booked from Cawnpore and elsewhere to this place, and they all want to pass it on to the more distressed districts.

The grain blocks the yard, occupies valuable space, and demands infinitely more work and attention than if it was booked through in suitable waggons.

Some of the grain certainly belongs to Raichore merchants, but much wanted to go on to Adoni, and all of it now wants to go on, as the prices here have fallen to 10 seers and 10½ seers per rupee.

As there is no obstacle now to a limited amount of through booking, I despatched the following telegram to both the General Traffic Manager, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and the Consulting Engineer for Railways, Bombay :—

Raichore, 24th January.

Telegram asking for re-opening of through booking up to 90 waggons a day.

"Raichore crowded with grain, booked locally from your side, but intended to go on. This is a serious evil. Stop this and re-open through booking as far as Gooty and Bellary, distributing the 90 waggons which Madras can probably take daily in such a way as to keep private trade moving, at the same time avoiding rushes."

The Honourable Mr. Gibbs, whom I met in Bombay, mentioned that he had trustworthy information that the Berars could supply over 200,000 tons of grain without *difficulty*.

Some doubts may exist as to the good quality of all the grain thus taken up, as it must be from pits.

I have sent a letter in continuation, inviting attention to the Nagpur district, and although I do not think it is possible to clear any district without neglecting another equally important one, I trust that the equitable distribution of the waggons according to the register of consignments, and the re-opening of through booking on the limited scale now possible, will restore confidence to the private traders.

After visiting Madras I shall be able to report how soon the limit of 90 waggons can be enlarged; and I trust that the powers of the Madras line may soon be equal to a larger number.

The actual despatches of waggons from Raichore station during the 19 days just ended have amounted in all to 1,367 waggons, or an average of 72 per day. Much remains to be done before the office of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway can be worked up to, but there are hopes that by marshalling of trains, and more care in selecting waggons for through traffic, the present engine stock will be able to carry more than the 90 waggons referred to in my telegram.

Actual despatches from Raichore southwards, 4th to 22nd January.

Block in railway grain traffic.

On my journey here I found everywhere, from Poona onwards, that carriage was wanted for grain to the Madras line, and I learnt from Mr. Hamilton Maxwell of Bombay, whom I met at Shahabad on his return from Hyderabad, that the same demand existed there and especially at Dharur, where the merchants were particularly anxious to get their grain on to Bellary.

No. 19.

Nos. 21. 92.

Telegram, dated 24th January 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, Public Works Department.

Through booking between Great Indian Peninsula and Madras Railways, temporarily suspended as per telegram to your Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated 8th instant, resumed to day. At present no Great Indian Peninsula waggons under load for Madras stations; but unless Madras Railway Company arrange to clear away all through waggons as they arrive at Raichore, say 150 daily, a block will recur and through booking will have to be again suspended. Madras Company are understood to be prepared to take 90 waggons only per day at Raichore, but they did not employ night staff at Raichore station till the 21st and do not work night trains. If Madras Railway Company cannot at present clear off through waggons with due despatch, they should establish a depôt for temporary storage of grain brought to Raichore by Great Indian Peninsula until they are in a position to deal with it, as such a block and detention of rolling stock as occurred lately deranges entire railway system. Reference particularly requested to letter from Colonel Hancock to Colonel Shaw-Stewart, No. 130, dated 12th instant.

No. 20.

Nos. 42. 43.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY in the Public Works Department, No. 50 E.—158, dated 25th January 1877.

Mode of dealing with persons refusing to accept terms of relief.

RESOLUTION.—By Resolution No. 26 E.—93 of the 18th instant, his Excellency the Governor in Council approved of certain orders issued by the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, prescribing the mode of dealing with labourers employed on relief works, who might think fit to leave them from dissatisfaction with the rules laid down by Government for regulating the rates of wages.

2. By those orders, the village officers were directed to "take care that no person is allowed through obstinacy to die of starvation." This injunction was quite in conformity with the principle on which the Government was then acting, viz., that no person was to be allowed to die of starvation, if it was in the power of the Government to prevent it. But his Excellency in Council now observes that, in the instructions issued by the Government of India to Sir R. Temple on the 16th instant, the following very important qualification is introduced: "Even for an object of such paramount importance as the "preservation of life, it is obvious that there are limits which are imposed upon us by the "facts with which we have to deal."

3. The letter in question does not lay down any general principles by which the district officers should be guided in refusing the aid needed to preserve life; and his Excellency in Council would view with satisfaction the issue of supplementary instructions on that point. In the meantime, however, he feels convinced that in no case could assistance be more properly refused than in that of a man who wilfully and deliberately refuses to render the reasonable equivalent demanded by the Government for the means of subsistence which it is ready to afford him.

4. It is therefore ordered, in modification of the instructions issued by the Revenue Commissioner, that in the case of an individual refusing to perform work which he is capable of doing on the terms fixed by Government, no relief shall be afforded him at the public expense during the continuance of such refusal.

No. 21.

No. 98, dated Bombay Castle, 25th January 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department (Railway), to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, Public Works Department (Railway). Nos. 37. 92.

With reference to my telegram, dated 24th instant, copy of which accompanies letter, I am directed to state that through booking between the Great Indian Peninsula and Madras Railways having been resumed after being suspended for a fortnight, it is expected that large consignments will be immediately made to stations on the Madras line from the North-western Provinces, the Nerbudda Valley, and the Berars as well as from Bombay and certain stations on the south-eastern branch of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, Poona, Sholapur, and Hyderabad, where supplies have accumulated. Block in railway grain traffic.

2. The General Traffic Manager, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, reports that provided the Madras Railway Company can arrange for the prompt despatch and return of waggons at the junction of the two railways at Raichore, he could, if necessary, carry grain into Raichore at the rate of from 150 to 200 waggons a day; and he anticipates that the traffic will immediately reach the former figure.

3. It is, however, understood that the Madras Railway Company now consider themselves in a position to take not more than 90 through waggons a day at Raichore, and it is obvious that unless arrangements are immediately made for more rapid clearance or for unloading and returning the balance of Great Indian Peninsula waggons at Raichore as fast as they arrive, a block, such as that which compelled the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company to suspend through booking from the 7th to the 22nd instant, will soon recur.

4. It has been suggested that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company should now restrict through booking to Raichore to the number of waggons that the Madras Company are prepared to pass through, but the General Traffic Manager has represented that this is impracticable, and that through booking must either be allowed in full or not at all. Moreover, it does not appear expedient to check the flow of grain towards the famine districts of the Madras Presidency, even if for the present a temporary check at Raichore is inevitable, and rather than there should be another complete stoppage of through booking, it would seem preferable for the Madras Railway Company in their own interests to establish a depôt at Raichore at which the Great Indian Peninsula waggons could be unloaded, and the grain stored until the Madras Company are in a position to forward it. It is true that they will thus incur some risk and expense, but they will eventually obtain traffic which might be lost to them altogether if they refused to take the traffic at all, and so long as the difficulty arises with them it is unfair to throw the onus and loss entailed by refusing traffic on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company.

5. As stated in my telegram, the Bombay Government are given to understand that no night staff was employed at Raichore till the 21st, though on an urgent representation made by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company the employment of night staff was ordered on the 12th, and that even now the Madras Company do not run night trains, and are not therefore making full use of their engines. On the Great Indian Peninsula Railway the engines have for some time past been worked night and day with reliefs of drivers.

6. As explained in Colonel Hancock's letter to Colonel Shaw-Stewart, No. 130, of the 12th instant, the Bombay Government are prepared fully to co-operate with the Government of Madras in carrying out any improvements in siding accommodation required at Raichore, and the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, has intimated that he will raise no difficulties on this score. As regards the State railway engines, which it is understood are to be offered to the Madras Railway Company, I am directed to forward a copy of Resolution of the Bombay Government, No. 92, dated 23rd January, and to state that the work of erection will be commenced and pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

No. 22

No. 44. EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, dated the 26th January 1877.

Cause of the defects in Bombay system of relief alluded to by Sir Richard Temple.

RESOLUTION.—His Excellency the Governor in Council has had under consideration the minutes addressed to the Government of India by Sir Richard Temple on the 9th and 12th instant, conveying his impressions on the state of matters connected with the famine in this Presidency as formed on the information he was able to obtain from Bombay officers during his rapid journey from the North-west Provinces and during his stay at Sholapur.

2. The views expressed in these minutes agree, on almost all points, with those which this Government has throughout enunciated and endeavoured to carry out; and the Government feel it due to themselves to state clearly the principal cause of defects indicated as existing in the system of relief in this Presidency.

3. So far back as the 16th October 1876, they announced that they had for six weeks been spending money on minor works, which they were satisfied were entirely inadequate to meet the serious demands they must inevitaby encounter. They added "His "Excellency in Council is clearly of opinion that in all cases in which, with due regard "to sanitation and other local circumstances, it may be found practicable, it will be far "more convenient, and in the end far more economical, to select for relief works those "of considerable magnitude, which have been well examined and approved, though un- "avoidably postponed, on which the labours of large bodies of men can be advantage- "ously concentrated. There may be cases in which it may be necessary to have "recourse to isolated works of a trifling nature; but these should, as far as possible, "form the exceptions."

4. About this time, in consequence of the departure of his Excellency the Viceroy on tour, the administration of the Government of India fell into the hands of the President in Council; and in the reply addressed to the Government of Bombay by his direction on the 25th October 1876 is to be found the origin of the embarrassment with which this Government has had to contend, and of the defects of system which Sir Richard Temple is understood to notice.

5. In that letter, after reviewing what was believed to be the condition of the distressed districts, and pointing out how they should be dealt with, the President in Council intimated that the remarks of the Collector of Poona as to the inexpediency of collecting large gangs away from their homes on large works have the full concurrence of the Government of India. The Collector of Poona had observed "I am strongly of opinion "that as many small works should be undertaken as possible. I much fear that the "collection of large numbers of people in localities where they must live in great dis- "comfort and without shelter may lead to the outbreak of disease, which it would be "difficult to combat;" and he added, speaking of prickly pear clearance, "it would "certainly be more popular, because it would not take people away from their homes." It is not too much to say that at the present time there is nothing which more obviously requires to be checked than the "popularity of" the relief works.

6. The position was still further complicated by the President in Council, in the same letter, inviting the attention of this Government to a resolution of the Government of India of the 18th February 1875, the 12th paragraph of which contained the following passage:—

"The experience of former famines with respect to the advantage of opening public works, especially at an early stage of the distress, has been fully confirmed. Large works should be opened at once, small local works subsequently, as the necessity for them arises."

7. This letter was followed by further communications setting forth the objections of the President in Council to several of the large works recommended by the Bombay Government, and, as a consequence, the Government was reduced to greater dependence on the small works, of which the effect is now evident.

8. About the middle of December his Excellency the Viceroy arrived in Bombay, and on the 20th December, in replying to an address from the Chamber of Commerce, he observed—"I gladly take this opportunity to express the satisfaction of the Government "of India with the manner in which the Government of Bombay is grappling with the "difficult task imposed upon it. The principles avowed by that Government as those "which will guide its action appears to me to be generally sound and excellent."

9. On the same day on which these words were uttered, the Government of Bombay received a letter dated the 15th December, communicating the dissatisfaction of the President in Council with their measures on several points, and again urging the prosecution of minor works.

10. This letter was subsequently much modified, and in that form, though still dated the 15th December, was not received in Bombay until the 11th instant.

11. Sir Richard Temple has since been formally deputed to examine and criticise the proceedings in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay. The instructions to him in his reports, and the Despatches with which the latter have been transmitted to the Secretary of State, have been immediately published. With the tone and spirit in which those reports have thus far been framed, his Excellency in Council is quite satisfied. But he claims the right in cases in which this Government is concerned to supplement them with the information necessary to the full understanding of the bearings of the case; and having thus, in the present instance, explained the chief cause of the defects to which Sir Richard Temple has alluded, his Excellency sees with pleasure that, by the publication of the instructions to him, as well as of his minutes, all points of difference with regard to the mode of relief have been removed, and that, subject to certain conditions, the Government of Bombay may, with confidence, use its best endeavours to carry out the policy which it from the first advocated, and which is now accepted by all.

No. 23.

Telegram, dated 26th January 1877. No. 30. 66.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta, to Revenue Secretary, Madras.

Sir Richard Temple represents importance of not promising to the people remissions of land revenue, but only suspending the demand. We commend question to your notice in consultation with him. Land revenue remissions.

No. 24.

XXIII.—Memorandum by Mr. Bernard, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, on the Condition and Prospects of the Salem District, as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple at his meeting with the Collector, Mr. Longley, on the 25th January. No. 66.

Madras, 26th January 1877.

The Salem district comprises 7,483 square miles, with a population of 1,966,995 persons. It is divided into nine taluks, and about one quarter of its area consists of permanently settled estates. The Madras Railway passes through it from one end to the other. Salem District.

2. The Salem district consists of two distinct sections, the upland section on the Mysore plateau, containing four taluks, and the lowland section containing five taluks. The rain-fall of the year was 18 inches as against an average of 30 inches, but the latter rains (October monsoon) have been short all over the district, averaging 2 inches only as against the usual fall of 10 inches. The failure has been greatest in the northern or upland taluks, namely, Dharumpuri, Oossoor, Kristnagiri, Trichengode. One taluk only, Ahtoor, which lies just under the hills, enjoyed a fair October rain-fall, and its crops are comparatively good. Salem differs from some of the other coast districts, in so far that almost all its "wet" or irrigated land gets water from rain-fed tanks, which this year had failed entirely. Its only river channels come from the Cauvery River and irrigate 12,000 acres. The acreage under "wet" crop is about 8 per cent. of the total cultivated area of the district. And the Collector estimates the out-turn of the year at 6 annas, or less than half an ordinary yield for dry crops, 4 annas, or about one quarter of ordinary yield for wet crop. This would give something better than a 5 anna crop, or about one third of an ordinary good yield for the whole district. The harvest of last year (1875–76) was poor in the four northern taluks, where the failure this year is greatest. Over the rest of the district there was an 11-anna (about three fourths of an ordinary yield). The harvest of 1874–75 was a bumper harvest all over the district. In ordinary years the Salem district exports surplus food; the ordinary food of the common people is ragi and cholum. The ryots of Salem are well to do; the revenue rate for dry crop land is about Rs. $1\frac{1}{4}$ per acre, for the good soil of Salem is very light. There is a large population of weavers, very few of whom, however, have as yet come on the relief works.

3. The marts of the district, both large and small, are fully supplied with grain. Trade is very active; about 900 tons of food have come in by rail during the last two weeks from Beypore and Madras. The Salem demand will undoubtedly continue to be supplied by private trade. The district roads are very good. The cattle which do the cart traffic are quite distinct from the ordinary plough cattle, and they belong to a class

Salem District.

of people in the southern taluks who, in ordinary years, carry away the surplus grain, and now will distribute imported grain. Prices in Salem town are—

	Present Prices.	Average of Ordinary Years at this time.
Rice	7½ seers per rupee	12 seers per rupee.
Cholum	9¼ „	24 „
Ragi	11 „	34 „
Kumboo	10 „	32 „

4. There have been no real cases of starvation; but in the northern taluks belonging to the subdivision there was distress among the poorer classes, and relief works were opened about two months ago. One month ago works were opened in the head-quarter taluks. The Collector does not consider the relief labourers to be generally in a depressed physical condition, though they are not so stout as in ordinary years. At first the relief labourers were paid daily wages, 2 annas a day for male adults. About three weeks ago task-work was introduced, and the numbers on the works fell from 21,000 to 10,000. The numbers have gone up again, and now about 23,000 labourers are on the works. The labourers are paid in cash at task-work rates, which are just twice as dear as the Public Works Department rates of ordinary years. At these rates adult males can earn about 2½ annas a day if they work hard. Still, good work is being done, and the labourers are chiefly employed in repairing tanks which were breached in the cyclone of 1872. There is a larger and better organised staff for supervising the works than have been found in many districts. Besides the range officers, each taluk has two overseers; and the affected tracts are divided into circles, which are placed under officials on Rs. 25 a month, who are drawn from the tahsil staff or from pensioned Government servants. The Amíns of the Survey Department are also doing good work. The Collector wants more European supervisors for his works, such as pensioned sergeants who know Tamil. Bengal officers who do not know the language would not be so useful.

5. The Collector expects that he may have a maximum of from 70,000 to 80,000 persons on the works by the middle of April, if things turn out badly. If rain were to fall in February, then there would be a great reduction in the numbers on the works, for the beds of the tanks would be sown with cholum, which would ripen in May. Government have allowed these tank beds to be cultivated this year at the dry rate of assessment. If the rains which usually fall in April should be favourable, then the number on relief works will materially decrease in the month of May.

6. About 8,000 people are receiving gratuitous relief at the State cost; the numbers increased when task-work was introduced, and some hundreds have come over from the Coimbatore and North Arcot districts. The recipients are being collected into four camps, where they are kept breaking stones all day, and are not allowed to go home. Eventually the number of such camps may, if things get much worse, increase to 9 or 11. The Collector requires more dressers (Native doctors) to help in supervising these camps. The cost of this gratuitous relief will probably be kept down to one anna a head per diem, and there will be the value of what work the people do to set against this charge.

Gratuitous relief is also being given through the village officials (Moonsifs and Karnams), who temporarily relieve casual cases of distress and send in the bill to the tahsildar. The Collector is not quite satisfied that this money is being well spent; but he sees no alternative way of preventing casual cases of starvation in outlying villages. The village officials are now rather badly off themselves, for, as the land revenue is not coming in, they do not get their per-centage thereon. The Collector proposes to pay them out of the savings of the "village officials fund" of previous years, and so to secure their hearty co-operation.

7. The cattle of the Salem district are as yet fairly well off. Many have been driven to the Shervaroy hills and to the other hills with which the district is studded. They will probably get through the present crisis sufficiently well.

8. Water also is still near the surface in wells all over the district, except in the Dharampuri taluk, where there will be dearth, but not absolute want of water.

9. It has been proposed that 10½ lakhs out of a total land revenue of 22½ lakhs should be suspended or remitted. The Collector says that the revenue custom of the Madras Presidency is to remit and not to suspend land revenue due in respect of land whereon the crop has failed. But he also admits that in the case of dry crop lands, whereon the land revenue is very light, the ryots could certainly pay this year's balance out of the profits they may make on good crops during the next two years. He further says that, though the share of the "wet" assessment, which may be reckoned as rent for water, could not be collected on account of a year when tanks were dry, still the dry rate might be collected on "wet crop" lands.

In regard to the theory that remissions and not suspensions of land revenue are the custom of the Madras revenue system, I may note here that I learn to-day in Madras that the instructions to assessing officers direct that 20 per cent. be deducted from the full revenue rate in making assessments, so as to leave the ryots a margin for bad seasons; and it is stated in those instructions that remissions will not hereafter be granted on dry crop land. I cannot learn that any distinct provision of law, or any engagement with the ryots exists, whereby Government would be bound to grant remissions, instead of suspensions, of the land revenue which the ryots may this year be unable to pay. Salem District.

No. 25.

XIX.—Memorandum of the Facts ascertained as to Failure of Harvests and Distress in the Nizam's Dominions, as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple at Hyderabad on the 12th January. No. 66.

Madras, 27th January 1877.

At Hyderabad Sir Richard Temple met Major Euan Smith, C.S.I., First Assistant Resident; his Excellency the co-Regent, Nawab Shams-Ool-Oomrah, and his nephew, also Mukkurrun-Ood-Dowlah, nephew of Sir Salar Jung. The Resident, Sir Richard Meade, and his Excellency the Minister, Sir Salar Jung, had not returned to the capital. But Sir Richard Temple was able, by the courtesy of his Highness the Nizam's Government, to obtain full information as to the condition of the country. The secretary to Sir Salar Jung in the Revenue Department has charge of relief operations, and he supplied much information. This gentleman had borne a share in relief works during the famine of 1869, on which occasion he was a deputy Collector, so he was conversant with the relief procedure under British administration. A European gentleman, who holds the office of Superintending Engineer, and who is directing relief works, also gave Sir Richard Temple a memorandum on the subject of the scarcity. Nizam's Dominions.

2. Out of the 17 districts which compose the dominion of his Highness the Nizam there has been bad failure of harvests in parts of six only, namely, in East Raichore, in part of West Raichore (known as Lingasoor), in the southern parts of Nalgonda abutting on the Kurnool district, in part of Shorapore, in part of Nuldroog near the Sholapore district, and in a small tract south of Pyton near the British district of Ahmednagar. The failure was most utter in the Alpur subdivision of East Raichore; there no crop whatever was saved this season. In the rest of the distressed tracts it is estimated that a yield of from 2 annas to 3 annas (one sixth of an ordinary crop) has been secured. In tracts adjoining the distressed districts the harvests have not been so good as usual, but over the rest of the country the harvests have been fair, while in the districts north of Hyderabad there have been decidedly good crops.

3. The Revenue Secretary was able to speak with confidence about the crops, for a Central Relief Committee had been formed at Hyderabad, and deputations from the Committee had visited the worst tracts, while the district officials had sent in full written reports from elsewhere.

4. The harvests of the two previous years (1874 and 1875) had been good throughout the country, save in one comparatively small tract of East Raichore, just where the present failure is worst. Stocks are probably considerable; the Revenue Secretary estimated that there must be quite a year's food in the country, for the Nizam's dominions always produce and export a considerable surplus of food (rice and jowari or cholum). Cholum (big millet) is the ordinary food of the common people, except in the south-east Telugu-speaking tracts, where rice and ragi are grown largely. The dealers of Hyderabad and other large marts are accustomed to do a large grain business. Even during the present year grain has gone and is still going* away largely to the Deccan and to the Madras ceded districts. Some of this grain comes from the country north of Hyderabad, where the crops have been good. The Nizam's country will not require grain from outside, though the southern districts may require and will get some of the surplus of the northern districts. An early but small crop of cholum and lesser millets will be reaped in September.

* Note.—On the Nizam's State railway between Shahabad and Hyderabad, Sir R. Temple saw a considerable quantity of grain waiting at the stations for despatch to Bellary.

5. At Hyderabad the price of jowari (cholum) ranges from 8½ to 10 seers per rupee. Rice is dearer. In the South cholum is 8 seers per rupee, and ragi is somewhat cheaper. To the north of Hyderabad prices are cheaper.

6. There have been no known cases of starvation or extreme distress. But some few hundreds of persons from the Alpur taluk in the extreme south went over to the Kurnool relief works. On representation being made relief works were begun on the Nizam's

Nizam's Dominions.

side of the border in East Raichore, and also in a very few other places; and there are now (12th January) about 5,000 persons on the relief works. The condition of the labourers is as yet by no means depressed. A gang of about 1,500 labourers on a road in the Alpur taluk in the eastern extremity of the Raichore Doab was inspected as Sir Richard passed along; men, women, and children were all in good physical condition. The engineer in charge, Mr. Brandt, said that the people were much in want of work, but that he had not seen any cases of great distress. Some hundreds of people had come over to his work from Kurnool, because the authorities there had reduced their wage rate; he intended at once to reduce his rates also. Hitherto he had paid 3 annas a day to adult male labourers.

7. The Relief Committee at Hyderabad expect that at the worst season they may have to give relief wages to 25,000 people in all, and that gratuitous relief in the shape of cooked food may have to be distributed to destitute paupers at some 10 or 12 centres. Should necessity arise, the organisation for doing all this is ready. The Nizam's Government has no thought of laying in any store of grain, as the local trade will supply all needs of those who can buy.

8. There are plenty of pastures to which the cattle can be driven, though these are rather remote from Alpur and Eastern Raichore. There will be scarcity of water in parts of this tract, but no absolute water famine.

9. Reports have been received from the Nizam's taluks bordering on the Sholapore and Ahmednagar district of the Bombay Deccan to the effect that a large immigration of cattle and men had taken place from those districts into the Nizamat country. The Central Relief Committee did not accept as correct the reported numbers of these immigrants, and have ordered further inquiry. The Revenue Secretary did not think that this temporary immigration was more than the country under his Highness the Nizam could well bear.

10. The Nizam's Government expects to lose a good deal of its land revenue in the tracts affected by failure. Land revenue due for this year on fields of petty ryots, who have lost all their crop this season, will ordinarily be remitted at once and for good.

11. So far as Sir Richard Temple was able to judge, the arrangements made to meet distress and the diagnosis of the coming trouble, were creditable to the prudence and foresight of his Highness the Nizam's Government. The distress in the Nizamat country will be more limited and less serious than was at first feared, and will not, it may be hoped, aggravate the pressure and the trouble in the adjoining British district.

No. 26.

Nos. 27. 66. SKETCH by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, showing the AMOUNT of GRAIN required in the distressed Districts, and the ability of the Railways to carry it, as bearing upon the question of doubling the Line from Madras to Arconum Junction.

Madras, 27th January 1877.

Grain requirements and carrying power of railways.

The districts which must draw their food supplies from Madras and the North belong to two distinct sections of the peninsula, namely :—

A. Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, with perhaps half a million of people on the north-west districts of Mysore, or a total population of (say) 4½ millions.

B. Salem, North Arcot, and Coimbatore, with perhaps 1½ millions of people in the south and south-eastern districts of Mysore, or a total population of (say) 7 millions.

NOTE.—The district of Chingleput can best be supplied from Madras itself by cart, or by other means, without any help from the main line to Arconum.

2. Now the districts in Class A. have suffered the most grievous failure of harvests, and it may perhaps be reckoned that one third of the population can live on the old food stocks, while two thirds of the population will require imported grain; that is to say, these districts will require, at the rate of 400 tons a day per million of population, 1,200 tons a day of imported grain.

Now 150 waggons a day from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway will bring in 1,050 tons, or say 1,000 tons, and this leaves to be provided from Madras 200 tons a day.

3. The districts in Class B. are not quite so distressed; three previous harvests and present harvests were better; and it will be quite safe to estimate that one half of the population will be fed from old stocks of food. There remains one half, who will eat imported grain. Of this demand probably one-third will be met from the west coast and from Negapatam; and thus two thirds of the half, or one third of the whole seven millions,

i.e., $2\frac{1}{3}$ millions, must be fed from Madras. And they will require at the rate of 400 tons a day per million (say) 1,000 tons. Grain carrying power of railways.

4. Thus the total requirements from Madras will be—

	Tons daily.
For districts in Class A. - - - - -	200
„ „ B. - - - - -	1,000
Total - - - - -	1,200

5. Now the section from Madras to Arconum can (so the railway authorities say) do at a pinch 9,000 tons a week, and they can do comfortably 7,200 tons a week. Thus, even if they worked quite smoothly, if there were no hitch, and if the supply of grain went on continuously, the Madras Railway from the sea to Arconum could first, by working full power, do the duty required of it. But practically things do not always work smoothly and continuously. Storms in May may prevent the landing of grain, and the quantity sent up during March and April ought to be more than the mere 1,200 tons per diem. It therefore seems that, to guard against possible disaster, the line to Arconum should be doubled, and the work should be done at once.

6. And further, to enable the proper supply of Northern* grains to come into the ceded districts, additional engines ought to be transferred from the Madras to the Raichore section of the Madras Railway. Within a month they can be set at liberty by the new engines borrowed from the State railways, and so they can be back in time for the increased work of the doubled line to Arconum. In order to keep up the supply to the ceded districts, it is absolutely necessary to send up these three engines, for the Great Indian Peninsula Railway undertakes to deliver 150 waggons a day at Raichore, and these waggons cannot be carried down, worked off, and sent back without extra engines on that length. These engines will, working over the short lead from Raichore to Bellary, bring into that part of the famine country twice as much grain as they could do by working over the long lead from Madras to Bellary.

* N.B.—These Northern grains are cheaper than rice; they are more sustaining, weight for weight, and they are the ordinary food of the people.

No. 27.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding the GRAIN TRAFFIC by RAILWAY into the FAMINE-STRICKEN DISTRICTS of the BOMBAY and MADRAS DISTRICTS. Nos. 28. 66.

Madras, 27th January 1877.

Narrative of inspections and inquiries by Captain Bissett, R.E.
Note regarding the amount of grain to be carried by railway into the famine districts.

By Sir Richard Temple's order, the papers marginally noted are submitted with the following remarks which embody his views and recommendations. Railway grain traffic. Means of removing block.

2. Captain Bisset has entered with energy and discretion upon the duty of remedying the block in railway-borne grain traffic into the famine-stricken districts. He has shown that, to a considerable extent, the want of power on the Madras Railway has re-acted upon the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and has impeded the transport of surplus grain from Hindustan and Central India into the Southern districts. Without following Captain Bisset through the whole of his narrative, it will suffice to note briefly the several points to which he draws special attention, and to state Sir Richard Temple's remarks and suggestions upon each.

The points are:—

I.—*The Great Indian Peninsula Railway should again begin to book grain through to stations on the Madras line at the rate of* 90 *waggons per diem, and should be ready to increase that rate up to* 150 *waggons a day, as soon as the Madras Railway is able to take and dispose of a larger number.*

Major-General Kennedy, on receipt of a telegram from Sir Richard Temple, replied thus:—"Booking through to Madras stations was re-opened on 23rd January. If it is "considered advisable, only ninety suitable waggons will be worked into Raichore daily. "But Agent and Traffic Manager state that booking cannot in practice be limited. "Surplus beyond ninety waggons must be dealt with when possible by Madras "Railway."

Railway grain traffic.

It therefore appears that the stream of through-booked grain has begun to come on the Madras Railway. If this stream is to be properly dealt with and to be kept up, then the Madras Railway must lose no time in strengthening its power of dealing with the grain traffic from the North. And the modes in which, according to Sir Richard Temple's judgment, the increase of power can be best attained are indicated at points III., IV., VI., VII., and VIII. below.

II.—*The booking of grain by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to Raichore with a view to its being re-booked there for Bellary and other Madras stations should be discouraged.*

General Kennedy in the same telegram says, " Booking is not now limited to Raichore. " Great Indian Peninsula Railway is doing all in its power. Remedy must be found in " Madras, where it is suggested effective remedy must be applied." On this point Sir Richard Temple has only to express his hope that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway will as little as possible have recourse to the practice of booking to Raichore grain intended for stations further south, and thereby blocking the joint station. But then the Madras Railway must in its turn receive, work off, and return the Great Indian Peninsula Railway waggons promptly and regularly; or else there will be risk of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Traffic Department again resorting to the practice of refusing to book-up country consignments beyond Raichore. At points III., IV., VI., VII., and VIII. below will be noticed some of the steps which must be promptly taken to enable the Madras Railway to fulfil the reasonable demands of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

III.—*Additional sidings should be put in at the Raichore station, so as to facilitate prompt disposal of trains.*

His Grace the Governor of Madras in Council has been pleased to order the immediate construction of these sidings.

IV.—*Crossing stations should be made, so as to divide the long runs and facilitate traffic between the stations of—*

Kosgee to Adoni.
Adoni to Auspree.
Auspree to Nancheerla.
Gondicul to Veerapore.

His Grace the Governor of Madras in Council has been pleased to order the immediate construction of these crossing stations.

V.—*The Great Indian Peninsula Railway should be requested to observe and fulfil the following requirements, namely:*

(*a.*) *To deliver up to and not more than the Madras Railway can remove, and to load through grain in suitable waggons.*

(*b.*) *To marshal their trains regularly and to marshal the covered cotton waggons (if any are sent) altogether.*

(*c.*) *To give the Madras Railway earlier notice of the trains ordered to Raichore and of their loaa.*

Sir Richard Temple would suggest that the Government of Bombay may be pleased to impress these requirements upon the Agent and Traffic Manager of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and to take such steps as may to his Excellency the Governor in Council seem fit with the view of securing compliance.

VI.—*The Madras Railway should be requested to observe and fulfil the following requirements, namely:*

(*a.*) *To keep the Great Indian Peninsula Railway informed how many through booked waggons they can take and promptly dispose of daily.*

Sir Richard Temple would suggest that the Madras Government may be pleased to impress this requirement upon the Agent and Traffic Manager of the Madras Railway, and to take such steps as may seem fitting to secure compliance.

VII.—*The despatch of additional engines from the coast section to the Raichore section of the Madras Railway, so as to enable the railway company to receive from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and dispose of* 150 *waggons daily at the earliest possible date.*

On this point Sir Richard Temple would remark that he is aware how large a quantity of grain is waiting at Madras for despatch to the famine districts, and that all the engines

on the coast section have full work there. But he would explain that if three extra engines can be despatched to the Raichore section, they will, if the Great Indian Peninsula Railway deliver 150 waggons daily at Raichore, be able to carry into the famine districts of Bellary and Cuddapah nearly twice as much grain as they could deliver from the Madras terminus. Furthermore, much of the grain coming from the North is of a cheaper and more sustaining kind than the rice which is being sent up from the sea-coast. And moreover, these northern grains, cholum (jowari) and cumboo (bajra) are the natural ordinary food of the poorer classes in the ceded districts, whereas those people in ordinary years hardly eat rice at all. Railway grain traffic.

Under all these circumstances Sir Richard Temple earnestly recommends to the Madras Government that additional engines should be detached from the coast section to work, for the next three or four weeks, on the Raichore section. At the end of that time the extra engines, for the construction of which at Bombay Captain Bisset has provided, will be ready. The new engines can work on the Raichore section, while the additional engines belonging to the coast section of the Madras Railway can return to that section and work on the Arconum section.

VIII.—*The improvement and strengthening of the telegraph staff on the Madras Railway so as to facilitate the expected heavy traffic and prevent avoidable accidents.*

Sir Richard Temple would invite the attention of the Madras Government to this requirement, and would suggest that the Madras Railway Agent be pressed to take immediate steps to strengthen and improve the telegraph arrangements and staff on his line.

IX.—*The early doubling of the 35 miles of railway from Ambatoor near Madras to the Arconum junction.*

Sir Richard Temple has had the honour of conferring with his Grace the Governor on this subject, and he has caused the appended sketch to be drawn up showing the weight of grain traffic, which probably should come upon this section of the line. The Arconum section, it may be remembered, has to feed the two lines which bifurcate northwards to the ceded districts and southwards towards North Arcot and Bangalore. Sir Richard Temple considers that if this line can now be doubled without impediment to the working of the grain traffic, and if the doubling could be completed within six weeks or two months, then it ought to be undertaken and to be begun at once.

No. 28.

No. 40–41, dated Madras, 27th January 1877. No. 66.

From the Secretary to Sir R. Temple, on special duty, to the Secretaries to the Governments of Bombay and Madras.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to forward copies of the papers marginally noted regarding the railway-borne grain traffic into the famine districts of the Madras Presidency. Forwarding to Madras and Bombay grain traffic correspondence.

Memorandum on the steps needed to improve the grain traffic into the famine districts by railway.
Narrative of Captain Bisset's inspections.
Sketch of the probable weight of grain traffic on the Arconum section of the Madras Railway.

2. I am to solicit the attention of the Government of $\frac{\text{Bombay}}{\text{Madras}}$ to points numbered $\frac{\text{I., II., and V.,}}{\text{III., IV., VI., VII., and VIII.,}}$ in the enclosed memorandum. Sir Richard Temple would be glad to learn whether $\frac{\text{his Excellency the Governor}}{\text{his Grace the Governor}}$ in Council is disposed to consider favourably the suggestions now submitted.

No. 29.

Extract from Letter from Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, No. 1,100, dated 27th January 1877. No. 40. 92.

With reference to the telegrams from Captain Bisset (copies sent with your office No. 365 of 26th January), Mr. Conder is of opinion "that it is impossible to restrict "through booking to any specific number of waggons. The only thing we can legally or "in practice do, is to take all that is offered, and then when a block comes to stop "altogether. If night trains are run from Raichore the block would probably be avoided." Railway grain traffic.

Railway grain traffic.

The above is Mr. Conder's note on my reference to him, and I must say that after full consideration and much previous discussion with Mr. Conder, I quite endorse his view. If we had only one or two forwarding stations to deal with, it would be a simple matter to control, but in practice it is not possible to direct, hour by hour, every station-master on the north-east and Nagpore lines, and also on much of the south-east line, how much grain he is to receive and despatch for Madras. Neither can we receive only at a certain few stations and bar the others; or receive at a certain number of stations to day and at certain other stations to-morrow. Any such system would be unequal and unfair, even if it was practicable.

The reason of the block at Raichore is not made clear. If the Madras line cannot move more than 90 waggons in 24 hours for want of engine power, then until such power can be provided, we must, I fear, receive and forward consignments in such a manner as to cause the least demurrage working up to a block or nearly so, and then stopping the booking. It will not do to unload the wagons and stack the grain outside of Raichore station limits, and leave it there for the Madras Company to re-load and remove at their convenience. Mr. Conder is strongly of opinion that by working 24 hours a day, the Madras Company could forward from Raichore all that we send.

Is the Madras Company now working night and day? If not, is it for want of engine power or staff, and what numbers of engines or men are needed?

No. 30.

Nos. 45. 66.

No. 105, dated 29th January 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Land revenue remissions.

I have had the honour to receive your letter, No. 601 of 22nd instant, and in reply am directed to inquire whether his Excellency the Governor in Council anticipates that any evils will arise from suspending instead of absolutely remitting land revenue, and if so to request that their exact nature may be explained.

No. 31.

Nos. 32. 92.

No. C. 1 A. & M.-2651, dated Madras, 29th January 1877.

From the Traffic Manager, Madras Railway, to the Agent and Manager of the Madras Railway.

Grain Traffic at Raichore.

Consulting Engineer's letter, No. 90, dated 20th instant.

It would appear from the following telegram from Captain Bisset, R.E., dated 24th instant, that the accumulated through-booked traffic on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has been worked off.

"Bombay Line now clear of *through*-booked grain, and Raichore crowded with *local*-booked grain. Have suggested Conder re-open through-booking up to 90 waggons daily at present, also to marshal trains and avoid still further loading of cotton waggons with through goods."

2. The local-booked grain herein referred to is consigned to Raichore, but may be reconsigned to stations on this line.

3. As already advised, our existing locomotive power will not move more than 100 waggons per diem in all from Raichore; but this seems to be more than sufficient at present, as, for want of loads, we do not run regularly all the trains booked to run out of Raichore.

4. The shelter for grain at the different stations is required, I presume, for *storing* purposes, if, as I suppose, we shall not be required to make an arrangement for grain different from that existing for other goods, and in practice it is found that the grain does not suffer by exposure during the present dry weather.

There will be no difficulty in erecting sheds for storing grain; but these, in my opinion, should be placed in such a position as not to interfere with the unloading of waggons. In other words, that the unloading should be, as at present, performed at the cost of the Company, and the storage at the cost of the Government, or of the merchants,

if they wish to incur the expense, for the handling of the traffic cannot be performed without considerable additional expense. Railway grain traffic.

No. 32.

No. 68, dated Madras, 30th January 1877. Nos. 38. 92.

From the Consulting Engineer for Railways, Madras, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department.

Adverting to the proceedings of Government under date 20th instant, No. 191, also to the telegram from the Government of India, dated 27th instant, calling for information regarding the block of traffic on the Madras Railway, I have the honour to lay before Government a report* by the Traffic Manager of the Madras Railway. * No. 31.

2. The accumulated through-booked traffic on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was worked off some days ago.

3. The Great Indian Peninsula officials seem to anticipate a recurrence of the block unless the Madras Railway is able to carry forward from 150 to 200 waggons per diem.

4. At present the Madras Railway can carry forward 100 waggons daily from Raichore, and the Great Indian Peninsula Company has been asked to restrict their consignments to that figure.

5. The officials of that Company state that to restrict their through consignments is impossible, and that through-booking must either be allowed in full or not at all. They press that a depôt should be established at Raichore, at which the Great Indian Peninsula waggons could be unloaded, and the grain stored until the Madras Company are in a position to forward it.

6. The adoption of this measure would be a great misfortune, and should be averted if possible.

7. The Madras Company is most anxious to carry forward every waggon which comes from the north, and deficient engine power is the only cause which will interfere with their doing so.

8. At present, as will be seen from the enclosure, the 100 waggons which they are able to take forward daily are apparently more than sufficient; as the Traffic Manager states that, for want of loads they do not run regularly all the trains booked to leave Raichore.

9. A night staff has been entertained at Raichore and elsewhere where needed. The Raichore station is understood to have been worked by day and night since the 21st instant.

10. The reduction of passenger train mileage on other parts of their line, with a view to increase the number of engines available at Raichore, has been suggested, and some temporary assistance may be expected from this source. With this object it has been arranged to stop for the present the regular festival traffic to Trivellore.

11. The 12 locomotive engines which have been promised by the Director of State Railways for use in this presidency, and which are now under erection at Bombay, will enable the Madras Railway Company to work all portions of their line freely and fully; but some weeks must elapse before they can be looked for.

12. In anticipation of this increase to the engine stock, authority has been granted to the Agent of the Madras Railway to telegraph to his board for the immediate despatch of 10 drivers. Six was the number at first suggested by the Agent; but after discussion with the Locomotive Superintendent it was determined to apply for 10.

13. The provision of temporary shelter for grain at Adoni and elsewhere will at once be proceeded with; but information regarding the quantity for which shelter is to be provided at each place is necessary.

14. I have authorised the immediate construction of an additional siding in the Raichore station yard. This was strongly recommended by the Traffic Department, and by Captain Bissett, R.E., who has had an opportunity of watching the station arrangements.

15. I have also authorised the immediate construction of a through-siding at the Toongabudra station, and similar accommodation at a convenient site between Kosgee and Adoni. The necessity of providing additional crossing stations is being carefully considered.

No. 33.

No. 92. XXV.—Memorandum by Mr. Bernard, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, on the Condition and Prospects of the Chingleput District as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple on his visit of the 28th and 29th January 1877, with notes regarding the Relief Camps in and near Madras.

Chittoor, 30th January 1877.

Chingleput district. On the 28th January, Sir Richard Temple visited Chingleput, and on the 29th he rode from Chingleput to Conjeveram through a part of the district. With him was Mr. Barlow, the Collector. He met Mr. Macarthy, the Sub-Collector of Chingleput, and also native tahsildars at Chingleput and Conjeveram.

2. The Chingleput district is close to Madras; it comprises an area of 2,753 square miles, with a population of 938,184. It is traversed by three railways and by excellent roads. Chingleput is not a rich district from an agricultural point of view; but being near to Madras, its large labouring population finds ample employment, and its many weavers get a good market for their fabrics.

3. The past season is the third bad year in Chingleput; there was a poor harvest in 1874; the yield in 1875 was bad, and this season there has been extreme failure, the rain-fall ranging from eight to 16 inches against an average of 34. The failure of harvest was worst in the taluks of Chingleput, Conjeveram, and Ponnery, where crops have been saved only on the lands irrigated by channels from the Palar river. Sir Richard Temple saw that, in the parts of these taluks through which he passed, there were no crops save on small patches under wells or irrigated from springs. The Collector estimates the average out-turn of the whole district at 2½ annas out of 12 annas, or nearly one fourth of an ordinary crop. In August last, the people knew that scarcity would come, and relief works were opened in the end of December.

4. Grain is plentiful in the local markets which draw their supplies from Madras. There is very little local grain for sale in the markets. Prices all over the district are much the same as in Madras, except in the Trivellore taluk, where prices are somewhat dearer. The stocks of local grain are said to be small, because of the two previous short harvests. Common rice, which is the food of the poor, is now quoted at 10 seers per rupee.

5. The relief works consist mainly of roads, but some tanks and irrigation channels have been opened for work. In some cases, the people were in a physically reduced state when they first came on the works. Altogether 14,000 persons are now on the relief works; and the Collector expects that eventually he may have 70,000 at the worst season during April. The wages paid are two annas a day for adult males, but a good deal of the Chingleput relief work has been done at piece-work rates; and the Collector considers he has on these works, done at 10 pie per cubic yard earth-work which, in ordinary years, costs 12 pie per cubic foot.

6. A good deal of gratuitous relief is already being given in Chingleput; 8,000 persons a day are receiving cooked food; and the people are being gathered into relief camps where they will be fed, housed, and put to such light work as they can do. Sir Richard Temple saw two of these camps, which appear to be on the same scheme as the relief camps at Madras, some of which Sir Richard Temple inspected closely.

7. There are three relief camps in Madras, besides the Red Hills camp, nine miles outside the town. At these camps are about 10,000 pauper inmates, 2,500 at each. The paupers are chiefly immigrants from Chingleput, North Arcot, Nellore, and Cuddapah, who came down to Madras to seek for work and food, either because relief works near their homes had not then been opened, or because they had heard rumours of charity to be had in Madras for the asking. Some of these immigrants were pariah families, who had been turned off with a little food by the ryots who could no longer support them. Many of them had walked far, had eaten prickly-pear fruit or other indigestible food, and had become very much reduced before they reached Madras. Perhaps for a few days they would pick up a daily meal from charitable people in the town; and eventually the police would find them sleeping in the streets at night, and would bring them into the nearest relief camp. As soon as the food and treatment there given restored the people to strength, they were draughted out upon the road works. In this way more than 25,000 persons have been relieved at these camps.

8. At each of the camps which Sir Richard Temple inspected were a considerable number of women and children in an emaciated and miserable condition. In the relief hospitals were being treated some hundreds who were suffering from diarrhœa, brought on or aggravated by want of food. The death-rate among these poor people was very high; and to some of them the relief came too late. There were some, but not many, cases of cholera; but the great majority of the fatal cases were caused by diarrhœa,

which was called by the medical officers "famine diarrhœa," and was identifiable as the same complaint that was so fatal in the Rajpootana famine hospitals during the year 1869. Chingleput district.

9. The cost of these relief camps is at present considerable. A liberal diet is allowed—1½lbs. of rice and ½lb. of vegetable curry per diem for adults; but it is possible that this ration may be required so long as the inmates come in much reduced, and provided they are draughted out to the works when they recover strength. The administrative arrangements of these relief camps are good; they are all under the general supervision of the Commissioner of Police, Colonel Dreevor; a medical officer with sufficient staff of subordinates manages the sanitation and the hospitals of each camp.

10. The Collector of Chingleput expects that he will be unable this year to collect more than one half of the land revenue of his district, though he may be able to realise much of the balance due on "dry crop" lands next year if the seasons are favourable. The salt revenue, he says, has not yet been injuriously affected by the scarcity.

11. The Collector expects that, if showers do not come during the next six weeks, there will be very hard times for the cattle, and many of them must die. As yet, however, the cattle have been kept alive, and are still able to do a certain amount of draught work.

12. In some parts of the district, the villages already have difficulty about their water-supply. As long ago as last August, the Collector found that there was no water for his camp followers at a village where he had intended to encamp. Wells are being deepened by relief labour in a number of towns and villages; and though there will be scarcity of water, still the people will be able to find water of some kind for themselves and their cattle.

No. 34.

XXVII.—Memorandum by Mr. Bernard, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding the proposed Railway from Chingleput to Conjeveram. No. 92.

Chittoor, 30th January 1877.

The Government of India requested Sir Richard Temple's opinion on the desirability of immediately undertaking, as a relief work, the earthwork of the proposed railway from Chingleput to Conjeveram. After discussing the project with his Grace the Governor of Madras, Sir Richard Temple visited Chingleput and rode over the line of the proposed railway to Conjeveram. Mr. Barlow, the Collector of Chingleput, and Captain Bisset, the officer of the Government Railway Department attached to Sir Richard Temple's staff, accompanied him. Proposed railway, Chingleput to Conjeveram.

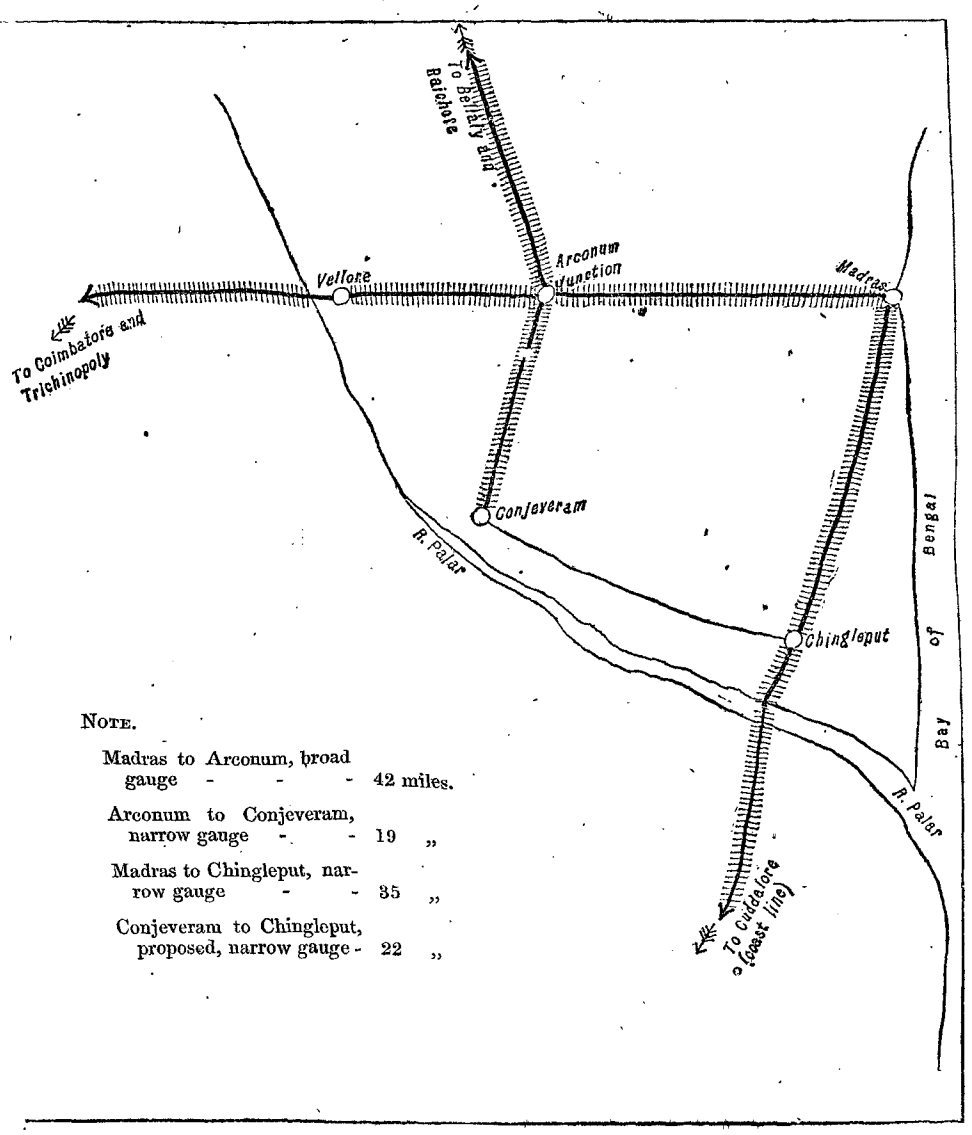
2. The proposed line is intended to connect with the South India narrow gauge system the short length of narrow gauge line between Arconum junction and Conjeveram. The sketch map in the margin gives an idea of the relation of the several railways to each other. The line from Madras to Arconum and onward, both towards Raichore and towards Coimbatore, is broad gauge; the line from Madras to Chingleput and onwards towards the south is narrow gauge; and so is the short branch, 19 miles long, from Arconum to Conjeveram. Chingleput is the head-quarters of some of the civil officers of the Chingleput district, and it contains a population of 7,000 persons. Conjeveram is a place of many temples and much pilgrimage; it contains 37,000 inhabitants. The proposed line is to connect Conjeveram and Chingleput; it will be about 22 miles long, and it will pass through parts of the talooks (administrative subdivisions) of Chingleput and Conjeveram with an average population of about 380 to the square mile.

3. If, as probably would be the case, the line were taken along or near the present road, which is metalled and bridged, then the earth-work of the whole line would, according to Captain Bisset's rough estimate, cost only Rs. 2,000 a mile, or Rs. 44,000 (4,400*l.*) in all out of a total estimated cost of perhaps 13 lakhs (130,000*l.*). The proportion of the cost that would be expended on relief wages is therefore so small that Sir Richard Temple is unable to recommend that this railway should be sanctioned as a relief work. Even if the line could be completed before the rainy season begins, it would be of no special service to relief operations, for the distress is not at present extreme in that part of the district; there are other railway lines, good metalled cross roads, and plenty of good carts by which the local markets are, and will continue to be, well supplied with grain.

4. So far as could be gathered from the marks of traffic on the road, from the number of carts and passengers, from the look of the country round, it did not seem that the prospects of local traffic on the proposed line were financially very good. For a part of the year, at any rate, traffic from the right bank of the Palar would not cross the broad river bed to the proposed line, but would naturally prefer the other railway lines to the north and south, on the same bank of the river. Conjeveram, as a place of pilgrimage,

Proposed railway from Chingleput to Conjeveram.

is already connected by railway with Arconum junction, and so with the standard gauge railways of the whole Madras Presidency.



NOTE.

Madras to Arconum, broad gauge	42	miles.
Arconum to Conjeveram, narrow gauge	19	„
Madras to Chingleput, narrow gauge	35	„
Conjeveram to Chingleput, proposed, narrow gauge	22	„

No. 35.

Nos. 69. 221. EXTRACT from a LETTER from the DISTRICT ENGINEER, Malabar, to the SECRETARY TO THE REVENUE BOARD, Madras, No. 372, dated Calicut, 30th January 1877.

Mysore distress causing difficulties in Wynad.

I presume it is known that there is a season in the year when work on coffee plantations is almost entirely suspended, extending from the close of picking crop to about the end of May; picking is generally brought to an end about the middle or close of February; this year, however, owing to short crops, it was finished throughout almost all Wynad by the end of December, the result of which has already been explained by Mr. Logan in his letter to the Board. As a rule, the planters are not men of large means, and of late years, owing to bad seasons, they have been by no means doing well so that to expect them to maintain large gangs of coolies when there is no necessary work is asking what is absolutely beyond their ability. At this moment I can vouch from personal knowledge that coolies who, in other seasons, would immediately after crop picking have gone back to Mysore and the other localities from whence they come are hanging on at the estates and asking to be kept on, without wages, but for the mere food necessary to keep body and soul together. They all know that scarcity exists in Mysore, and that the price of food in Wynad is slightly lower than there, and it is not therefore difficult to account for their clinging to the former. A fortnight ago I was in Wynad and again observed what I saw on a previous tour, that men, women, and children are still flocking in, bringing cattle and all they have with them, by no means arguing the likelihood of those already in Wynad or on estates being about to return to their villages. It is said that in some parts of the Presidency where relief works are going on, the appearance of the people is not always such as to give the idea of want but the same could not be said of the troops of men, women, and children seen by me lately, nor are deaths even already wanting.

No. 36.

REPORT by LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. F. HANCOCK, R.E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Bombay, 31st January 1877. Nos. 46. 66.

The Consulting Engineer for Railways has the honour to report as follows on points Nos. I., II., and V. in Sir R. Temple's Memorandum, dated 27th January. Railway grain traffic. Means taken to remove block.

I. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company recommenced booking grain through to stations on the Madras line on the 23rd January; orders have been given not to send more than 90 through waggons into Raichore daily for the present, and to keep back loaded waggons in excess of this number; but the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are prepared if necessary to increase the number to 150 waggons a day or more; and while they will do all in their power to regulate the despatch of waggons, they represent that they cannot control the daily consignments of grain for the Madras line, and should these consignments, which are being poured in from the East Indian Railway, as well as their own stations, be greatly in excess of 90 waggon-loads per day, or whatever the Madras Company can forward from Raichore, and should waggons consequently again accumulate on the Bombay side of Raichore to such an extent as again to necessitate a suspension of through booking, the responsibility will rest with the Madras Railway Company.

II. The booking of grain from Great Indian Peninsula Railway stations to Raichore has been discouraged, and for some days during the late block consignees of grain to Raichore were asked to delay booking, but the Company cannot avoid booking consignments to Raichore altogether, and if grain should be consigned again in large quantities to Raichore, consignees should be required to remove it as it arrives, and if necessary the wharfage charge should be raised in order to induce its speedy removal.

The suspension of through booking from the 8th to the 23rd January doubtless encouraged local booking, but was not the sole cause. Some merchants appear to have selected Raichore as a convenient station nearly in the centre of the districts affected by the famine.

V. (*a.*) The Great Indian Peninsula Railway will deliver waggons up to, and if possible not more than, what the Madras Railway Company can remove as above explained. They have also promised to book through as far as possible in waggons suitable for the Madras Railway, and the General Traffic Manager states that practically all will in future be suitable, *i.e.*, any exceptions will be accidental and very rare.

(*b.*) The marshalling of trains is being done. It was mentioned for the first time when Mr. Conder met Mr. Elwin on the 16th January, and was agreed to from the date of resumption of through booking. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company represent, however, that it is not properly speaking a duty that should devolve on them, or which is imposed according to the usual practice of railway companies.

(*c.*) The Traffic Manager, Madras Railway, telegraphed to Mr. Conder on the 29th instant (it had never been mentioned to him before) to inform him by wire daily how many waggons were loaded for Madras stations from each station on the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian. It is not clear what use could be made of this information could it be supplied. What is wanted is, it is presumed, what Sir R. Temple has asked for, viz., "earlier notice of the trains ordered to Raichore, and of their load," and Mr. Conder has given orders to have Mr. Church advised daily by telegraph how many waggons are under load for Madras stations at Shahbad, and also to telegraph to him what trains are ordered into Raichore, information hitherto supplied to the station-master there.

The Consulting Engineer will defer any general remarks on the papers until the receipt of certain reports about to be submitted by the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company.

No. 37.

EXTRACTS from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS, in the Public Works Department, No. 304, dated 31st January 1877.

READ the following papers (Nos. 13. 19. 21.):—

Order thereon by the Madras Government.

His Grace the Governor in Council considers that arrangements should be made on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for receiving daily no more grain than can be taken

Railway grain traffic.

through by the Madras Railway. Instructions should be issued to receiving stations on that line to restrict the number of waggons for the Madras Railway accordingly, and junction stations should be similarly warned not to forward to Raichore any waggons in excess of the number which the Madras Railway are in a position to work off each day. Any excess by a particular train should be counterbalanced by reduction of the succeeding load.

2. There seems no reason why the Great Indian Peninsula Railway should not limit through booking to 90 waggons a day.

3. Omission to attend to these orders should, if more than once repeated, subject the station-masters in fault to charges for demurrage arising therefrom.

4. Unloading at Raichore will be useless and costly. Additional sidings may perhaps be usefully laid down at Adoni, where it is proposed to put up temporary shelter for grain.

5. The Government of Bombay will be addressed in accordance with these observations.

No. 38.

Nos. 39. 92. EXTRACT from PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS, Public Works Department, No. 302, 31st January 1877.

READ the following letters (Nos. 31. 32.) :—

Order thereon by the Madras Government.

His Grace the Governor in Council is glad to find that the accumulation of grain traffic which recently occurred in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has now been worked off. A repetition of similar state of affairs is to be deprecated, and the Government of Bombay have accordingly been requested to restrict through-booking on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to the number of waggons which the Madras Railway may be in a position to take on daily from Raichore.

2. The unloading of grain waggons at Raichore has already been objected to, and Adoni and other convenient stations suggested instead.

3. The sanction given by the Consulting Engineer to the Agent to telegraph to his Board for 10 additional drivers for the engine stock expected from the Director of State Railways is approved; as well as the authority granted for the construction of additional sidings at Raichore, Toongabudra, and between Kosgee and Adoni.

4. Shelter for 2,500 tons of grain should be provided at Adoni, and arrangements made for storing 500 tons at other selected stations.

No. 39.

Nos. 55. 92. No. 306, dated Fort St. George, 31st January 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

I am directed, in reply to your telegram of the 24th, and your letter of the 25th instant, regarding the recent block at Raichore, to forward copy of the orders passed by the Madras Government thereon; and to request that, if the Bombay Government concur in the suggestions made by his Grace in Council for preventing a recurrence of the block, and for facilitating the free passage of grain to Madras, the authorities of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway may be moved to issue the necessary directions.

No. 40.

Nos. 55. 92. EXTRACT of LETTER from GENERAL TRAFFIC MANAGER to the AGENT, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY COMPANY.—No. 346, dated 31st January 1877.

* * * * * *

3. You are aware generally of the condition of things with regard to the through traffic on the Madras Railway. As there has been much discussion about it, and I

believe that Sir Richard Temple is writing a minute on the whole subject, it may be well for me to give you, as shortly as possible, the leading facts of the matter. Railway grain traffic.

4. About the month of August last, the Madras Company wrote, saying that they considered that additional sidings were required at Raichore. The sidings at present there will accommodate more than the ordinary busy season traffic in and out of the station, and I was therefore obliged to say to Mr. Church that I was not able to concur in recommending any additional expenditure upon siding accommodation there. He did nothing more that I know of. I consider the sidings that are there already are more than sufficient for the work that usually has to be done throughout the year.

I find that during April and May of last year we had an average of 77 waggons a day in and out of the station, which is not very much less than the December traffic, to which I will refer later on in this report. But it has been arranged within the last ten days for an additional siding to be laid in, and the work is in hand.

5. Everybody knows that for some years past the question of the different gauges adopted on the different railways has been under consideration.

Some of the erections on the Madras Railway are so constructed that some of our waggons will not pass safely; which of the two may be wrong, namely, whether our waggons are too wide, or their erections encroach on what should have been left clear for the passage of vehicles, need not now be discussed. I merely state the fact.

And this fact made it, of course, necessary to stop such of our waggons at Raichore as could not pass with safety. The question has given rise to a good deal of discussion and correspondence, and recently, namely, on the 5th of the present month, I gave instructions for what are called our new waggons to pass on to the Madras Railway. These, with the open waggons, will therefore be used in future, as far as it is possible to do so, for through traffic; but in cases where the larger waggons which cannot pass are loaded with through traffic, the loads will still have to be transhipped at Raichore. The number of these will, however, be very small.

6. In the early part of December last, it was found that we were booking traffic to Raichore and on to the Madras Railway to a greater extent than it was being cleared away from Raichore. The consequence was that gradually there came to be a block on our line of waggons under load for Raichore and the Madras Railway. Perhaps the letter of the 26th December to the Madras Railway gives us, shortly as I can, the position of the matter as it then stood. Up to that time the Madras Company's answers to all our communications on the subject were, that it was want of siding accommodation that had caused the block, and the reply to the letter of the 26th December was to the same effect. That reply came to me by telegram, and by letter from Mr. Church and also from Mr. Elwin.

The block increased, however, and, as is known, we stopped for a few days the booking of traffic beyond Raichore. At the same time we discouraged the booking of traffic for Raichore itself without actually refusing it. The result was that very little, if any, was booked to Raichore, and all that was lying on hand there was what had been booked before the stoppage. I believe that some of that has not even yet been cleared away from Raichore. None of that which was booked through was unloaded and stacked on the ground at Raichore. When the through booking was stopped, we had nearly a thousand waggons under load for Raichore and for stations on the Madras Railway, and they were receiving at Raichore for that place and through at the rate of an average of less than a hundred a day.

7. In the letter of the 26th December, and also when I met the Madras Railway representatives on the 16th, I pointed out that so long as they closed the station for 12 hours out of every 24, and did not run trains during the night, but practically closed the line also for 12 out of every 24 hours, it would be difficult to convince anybody that they were doing as much as might be done. It is evident that, if more trains had been run and if the unloading had been carried on by night as well as by day, as it had to be at some of our stations, much more work could have been done, and I think that there would never have been any block at all. I pressed upon Mr. Elwin the desirability of making more use of the line by working trains day and night, and by putting on a night staff at Raichore to do such unloading and transhipping as was necessary.

8. This latter Mr. Elwin, by telegram dated the 10th, had advised me he had given orders to have done, but when we met there on the 16th it had not been carried out, and the night staff did not actually commence work until the evening of Monday the 22nd, that being after a telegram that I had sent on the 20th to Mr. Elwin and Mr. Church.

9. Much has been made of the transhipping and unloading at Raichore. But the number of waggons that have had to be so dealt with was not much larger than it usually

Railway grain traffic.

is during the busy season, although it has not formerly caused any block. For the whole month of December the average booked through to stations of the Madras Railway was 46 a day, and of that number the daily average of those that had to be transhipped was only 16. And that is a number which should not have caused any difficulty. There were also in addition to these 46 waggons, an average of about 50 a day, under load with consignments for Raichore itself, which had, of course, to be unloaded there, making a total to tranship and to unload of 66 a day.

The work of loading and unloading at Raichore is done by a contractor, who stated to us that he was prepared to do more if more supervising staff were provided by the Madras Company, and that means, as we ascertained, that two more foremen and eight hand-lamps were required, and nothing else, to enable the work to be continued night and day. I offered, before the 10th instant, if it would be any convenience to the Madras Railway, to provide these foremen and lamps ourselves, but the offer was not accepted.

10. That which was consigned to Raichore should not have caused any block there, because the owners should have been required to remove it from the station without delay, and if they did not do that the wharfage charges should have been increased so as to compel them to remove. This is what we have had to do at some places in order to keep the stations clear, and there is no reason to doubt that it would have answered that purpose at Raichore.

11. Mr. Elwin stated, in regard to the engine power for the day and night trains, that they were so much pressed upon other parts of the line, that they could not put more engines there than the four employed to work on that district. I could, of course, make no answer to that except that they knew better what could be done than others; again pointing out, however, that it seemed likely that if night staff were employed more could be got out of the engine power that was available; and I reminded Mr. Elwin that this practical closing of the line and the station for half the time had ended in the serious detention of our waggons at a time when they could not be passed. So far as the complaint respecting the through booking having been stopped is concerned, it will therefore probably be admitted that the explanation I have given is not a bad reason for the step that was taken.

12. With regard to the future I pointed out to Mr. Elwin that we were ready to recommence the through booking directly we found there was reasonable ground for thinking that the block would not recur. We were about clear of waggons under load for the Madras Railway and for Raichore on 23rd, and therefore I gave instructions on that morning for traffic to be again booked through as freely as it presents itself.

13. When we were at Raichore on the 16th, I heard, for the first time, that it was thought that we should marshal the trains, that is, separate the through and local waggons. I do not think that this is a service which should be expected of us, and it is not usual as between companies, but I said at once when it was mentioned that we would do it as far as possible, and orders have been given accordingly.

14. I yesterday received a telegram from Mr. Church asking us to wire him each day the number of waggons loaded for Madras line stations at each station of this and the East Indian Railway every day. I telegraphed to Mr. Church in reply to the effect, first, that it would be impossible to do this (the wire is already overcrowded with messages), and, second, that if it were done, it would be of no practical use to the Madras Railway, for it cannot assist them to know that five waggons were loaded to-day, for example, at Nagpur, or six at Jabalpur, or ten at Cawnpur. What they want to know is the number that may be expected daily at Raichore. I therefore said to Mr. Church that I would advise him by wire each morning the number on hand under load for his stations at Shahabad. That is a convenient place for the purpose, because it will include any that may be booked from Hyderabad as well as from all parts of this and the East Indian and Baroda Railways.

15. I am arranging also to let the Madras Company's manager know the number of trains ordered for Raichore each day, as well as the number of waggons on each train. This information has been always supplied to the station-master at Raichore, who gets it in the same way as every one else does when the trains are ordered, but it will probably help Mr. Church if his name is also put upon the message, and I have therefore arranged accordingly.

16. I hope that the Madras Company will be requested to ensure the prompt return of our empty waggons, because our ability to keep up the regular supply, and to keep traffic moving, will depend upon that. At present no additional trains are running, and we are finding already that we have more under load for Madras stations than they can

clear away; so that unless something more is done beyond Raichore at once, the block will soon be as bad as ever.

No. 41. Nos. 54. 65.

MINUTE by the Honourable SIR ALEXANDER J. ARBUTHNOT, dated February 1st, 1877.

Minute by Sir Alexander J. Arbuthnot on the action of the Bombay Government.

Within the last few days we have received from the Government of Bombay certain papers* regarding the famine in that Presidency, which appear to me to demand the serious attention of the Government of India, as being calculated to produce very erroneous impressions with reference to the course taken by this Government. One of these papers, that of January the 26th, which the Bombay Government have given to the local newspapers, contains a direct attack upon the manner in which the business connected with the famine was dealt with by the President in Council, and contrasts it unfavourably with the policy which has been pursued by the Government of India since his Excellency the Governor-General rejoined the Council. It implies, if it does not expressly state, that all that was done by the President in Council was done without the knowledge and without the concurrence of the Viceroy. It in fact pits the Governor-General in Council against the President in Council, the obvious object being to disparage the action taken by the latter and to hold it up to public contempt. The day before the issue of the resolution to which I allude, the gist of it was embodied in a leading article which appeared in one of the Bombay newspapers, in which Sir Henry Norman and I are mentioned by name as the authors of the obstructions against which it is alleged that the Bombay Government have had to contend, and which bears obvious marks of having been inspired, if not actually written, by some one immediately connected with the Government of Bombay.

Letter No. 21 E.—86, January 18th.
Resolution No. 55 E.—183, January 26th.
Ditto No. 57 E.—187, January 27th.

*Nos. 7. 22.

2. Before proceeding to comment on the observations made in these papers, I propose to recapitulate very briefly the salient points of the correspondence which has passed between the two Governments regarding those matters on which there has been difference of opinion.

3. At a very early stage in the scarcity the Government of India saw reason to believe that the Government of Bombay were disposed to incur an expenditure which might prove to be in excess of the requirements of the case, and that it was necessary that their proposals should be carefully scrutinised. The very first letter which was received from them on the subject, dated 13th September, contained a significant allusion to the enormous outlay lately incurred in Bengal, which, although it was coupled with an intimation that the demand to be made from Bombay would be comparatively trifling, still when considered in connexion with the disregard for financial considerations which has been so often exhibited by the Government of Bombay, was sufficient to indicate the necessity of caution in dealing with their requisitions. This letter was speedily followed by an application for permission to commence at once, as a relief work, the Dhond and Munmar Railway, the estimated cost of which was 90 lakhs, and which was pretty certain to entail an expenditure of a million sterling. This application was made on the 29th of September. At that time a fall of rain, which would have saved portions of the standing crops and would have enabled the winter crops to be grown, would have materially altered the aspect of affairs. I observe that, as late as the 10th of October, the late Mr. Havelock and Colonel Finch, in a joint report addressed by them to the Government of Bombay, adverted to the possibility of a good fall of rain "to give hope of the late or "rabi crops," although they did not regard it as a probability. On the same date the Acting Collector of Satara wrote—

"There is no prospect of rain at present, although it is anxiously expected. If rain falls prices will fall, and there will be hope for a rabi crop."

The Government of India, his Excellency the Governor-General being then with the Council, were unanimously of opinion that it was not expedient to sanction the immediate commencement of the Dhond and Munmar Railway as a relief work. The Government of Bombay on the 4th October were informed that "local relief works and other relief "operations might be started, selecting such works as could be found near the homes "of the people, in preference to committing Government to commencement of large "projects."

4. In a subsequent telegram dated the 16th October, in reply to a further representation to the Government of Bombay, it was intimated to that Government that the Government of India did not think it right to authorise the commencement of so expensive a work as the railway in question, the expediency of constructing which, in preference

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to other important lines, has not yet been determined, merely to meet a temporary, though serious emergency. The telegram went on to say—"Local works of a character "to give employment for some months should be organised, the Government providing "the necessary funds, and leaving the final incidence of the charges to be settled here- "after. The district officers ought to have no great difficulty in organising such works. "Your Government are authorised to incur such expenditure in providing work and "relief in the distressed localities as you may consider necessary to meet the emergency; "but it is not deemed advisable to embark on any large project which will involve the "continuance of heavy expenditure after the emergency has ceased. The railway "question must be decided on its merits from a political and financial point of view, and "is not yet ripe for decision." This telegram was despatched the day before the Governor-General left Simla, and was approved by his Excellency.

5. The views of the Government of India were more fully stated in a letter addressed to the Government of Bombay on the 25th October. It was therein explained that "in "the construction of railways in India, it is absolutely necessary that each project should "be taken up in succession in the order of its necessity as compared with others; "that no project should be undertaken under present financial circumstances which "cannot be depended on eventually to return full interest on the outlay; and that only "so many should be on hand at one time as the borrowing powers of the State permit. "For works designed to afford relief during scarcity, it is now an established principle "that those ought to be selected, as far as practicable, which can be completed, or far "advanced towards completion, by the outlay which the scarcity demands. Testing "the Dhond and Munmar Railway project by the above conditions, the information at "present before the Government of India does not appear to justify the immediate "commencement of the line, while the relief outlay which it would provide would bear "a very small proportion to the entire expenditure which it would involve, and would "be confined to a comparatively small area of the affected tracts."

6. The Government of Bombay were requested to apply these principles, as far as they were applicable, to all projects which might be suggested to them at the present juncture; and the prominent position held by tank clearances, and the repair and improvement of existing roads in a memorandum of relief works which had been sanctioned by the Government of Bombay, as well as certain remarks made by the Collector of Poona as to the inexpediency of collecting large gangs away from their homes on large works, were referred to in terms of commendation. The attention of the Government of Bombay was at the same time drawn to the Resolution of the Government of India of the 18th February 1875, as indicating the general policy of the Government of India regarding measures of relief in times of scarcity.

7. In framing these instructions the Government of India were considerably influenced by what had recently occurred on the occasion of the apprehended scarcity in North Behar towards the end of 1875 and in the early part of 1876, when, had the recommendations of the local authorities for the commencement of large and expensive relief works been acted on, we should have been committed to an expenditure which events have shown would have been far in excess of the necessities of the case. It was not, however, at any time the intention of the Government of India to proscribe a resort to large works in the event of the famine assuming dimensions which would render the plan of local works difficult to carry out; and it will be seen, on reference to our Despatch to the Secretary of State under date the 15th December, that we fully recognised "the "possibility, in the case of a scarcity so widespread as that which now afflicts the "Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, of its being necessary before very long to fall "back upon larger projects," and that we informed the Secretary of State that this question was engaging our serious attention. Before this Despatch was written we had requested the Public Works Department to furnish us with further information than that which we possessed in the Agricultural Department regarding the Dhond and Munmar Railway project, and also regarding the project of a railway from Bellary to Gudduk, which the Madras Government had proposed to commence as a relief work.

8. On the receipt of our telegram of the 16th October, the Government of Bombay sanctioned a programme of relief works involving an estimated cost of nearly 62 lakhs of rupees. This programme contained a very large proportion of small works, but also several large works, some of which were certain to involve an expenditure considerably in excess of the sums which were likely to be spent on them during the continuance of the famine. In regard to the latter the information which it contained was very scanty. It merely specified the amount sanctioned in each case, without any mention of the aggregate expenditure which the work was likely to entail. As an instance, I may observe that the amount to be assigned to the Maswad tank was put down at four lakhs,

whereas it now appears that the estimated cost of that work is over 18 lakhs. The programme also bore evidence of having been hastily prepared. While in the case of some districts provision was made for spreading the works over the distressed localities, in others the expenditure was concentrated on a few large works, some of which were immediately afterwards abandoned by the Bombay Government on the representation of the district officers that the works sanctioned would not meet the wants of their districts. This inconsistency in the programme appears to be attributable to the fact that it was settled in a single day at a conference at which the Collectors of some only of the affected districts were present, and that the Government were not in possession of definite suggestions from the Collectors of the remaining districts. The programme was carefully examined by the Government of India. A considerable number of the works specified in it were allowed to stand. Two works were disallowed, and the Government of Bombay were requested to suspend the commencement of others pending the submission of further information with reference to them. They were also requested to furnish full information regarding all irrigation works, and not to commence any irrigation works the estimated expenditure on which exceeded Rs. 30,000, without the sanction of the Government of India. At the same time they were informed that if other relief works were needed, pending the decision of the Government of India regarding the suspended works, minor works should be commenced in each distressed taluka, as had been done in Poona.

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9. The Government of Bombay replied to this letter on the 27th November. Their reply was in effect a protest against any interference on the part of the Government of India. It questioned the correctness of the remarks of the Government of India regarding particular works. With reference to local works it was somewhat contradictory. It drew attention to previous assurances given by the Bombay Government, to the effect that as regards minor and local works its resources had already been virtually exhausted; while in the same paragraph, it stated that the Local Government had not overlooked the question of minor works, and was from day to day authorising their commencement in different localities; but it was added that such works must not be regarded as in substitution of the larger operations which had been determined on, but in addition to them. The tone of parts of the letter was petulant, and on one point there was, as there has been in other letters from Bombay, a perversion of the purport of the orders of the Government of India.

10. The President in Council replied, on the 15th December, disclaiming any intention of interfering with the Government of Bombay more than was necessary to enable the Government of India to satisfy itself that the principles which had been laid down had been duly followed. These principles were recapitulated. The Bombay Government was commended for its efforts to utilise provincial resourses and to avoid interference with the grain trade. The feasibility of organising minor local works was affirmed, as evidenced by the examples of the Poona and Sholapur Collectorates, and by recent applications from the Collectors of Satara, Belgaum, and Kaladgi, and the opinion was expressed that if more full information had been obtained from the district officers, the programme might have been framed more in accordance with the policy of the Government of India. The delay in giving effect to the orders of the Supreme Government, sanctioning an additional Revenue Commissioner for the distressed districts, was also adverted to. It should here be distinctly borne in mind :—

(*a*.) That the Bombay Government, notwithstanding the lapse of above a month, and more than one call made upon them, had not, except in a few instances, furnished the information we deemed necessary, and in the case of many important works scarcely any information at all.

(*b*.) That the Bombay Government had empowered all the Collectors to commence without further reference any work entered in the programme, and that the information as to the extent and localities of the famine, submitted to us in reply to our telegram of October 22nd, had proved to be so meagre that we had been obliged on the 30th November to call for a complete review and forecast to be sent in by January 15th.

11. Our letter of the 15th December reached Bombay shortly after the arrival of the Viceroy at that place. It appears that the Governor expressed himself much dissatisfied with its contents, and especially took exception to those passages in which undue haste and want of deliberation in the preparation of their programme of works, and undue delay in the appointment of the additional Revenue Commisssioner, were attributed to the Government of Bombay. The Viceroy on his arrival at Delhi proposed that the letter should be withdrawn, and a similar suggestion was thrown out by Sir Philip Wodehouse at the conference which was held there on the 1st January, and at which

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the Governors of Madras and Bombay attended. I was myself, in the first instance, opposed to the withdrawal of the letter, of which a copy had already been sent to the Secretary of State, and which appeared to me to be expressed in terms in no way discourteous to the Local Government, and to contain no statement which was not fully justified by the actual facts. No decision was come to that evening, but the next day it was settled that a fresh letter, bearing the same date, should be substituted for the letter of the 15th December, the two passages to which Sir Philip Wodehouse had taken exception being omitted. Sir Philip Wodehouse was informed by the Viceroy before he left Delhi that this would be done, and on the 5th January the revised letter was despatched to Bombay. On the same date the Bombay Government were informed in a separate letter that the restrictions on the commencement of large works were withdrawn, subject to certain conditions, the nature of which had been explained to the Governor at Bombay and subsequently at the conference. When these steps were taken, it was assumed that our revised letter, with the letter removing the restrictions previously imposed, would terminate the correspondence, and that the controversy was practically closed. The Government of Bombay, however, in their letter of the 18th January, have addressed a letter to the Government of India which purports to be a reply to our revised letter, but which quotes a passage in the original letter of the 15th December omitted from the revised letter.

12. I must here pause in my narrative of the differences between the two Governments, for the purpose of adverting to discussions which have recently taken place in the Government of India, followed by what may be regarded as in some measure, at all events, a change in the policy which was favoured by the collective Government of India, from the time at which we received the first intimation of the Bombay scarcity up to the time of our meeting at Delhi, or, perhaps, I should say, up to the arrival of the Viceroy and Sir John Strachey at Bombay. During the whole of that period the Government of India were unanimous in the opinion that in the earlier stages of the scarcity, and until it became absolutely necessary in consequence of the numbers of persons in need of relief to provide large works, a preference should be given to local works within easy reach of the homes of the people. The main ground upon which this opinion was based, was the difficulty of devising any number of large works which would not involve an expenditure considerably in excess of the requirements of the famine, a consideration which, as it appeared to me, was of paramount importance, especially in the present position of the finances. Another consideration, which I confess has weighed with me very strongly, is the great danger, in a time of scarcity, when the physique of the people is usually somewhat reduced, of inducing outbreaks of epidemic disease by the collection of large gangs of people at a distance from their homes, often with unavoidably insufficient shelter, and under other circumstances unfavourable to health. But it was felt from the first that the time might come when these risks would have to be encountered, and as I have said, the question of resorting to such large works as the Dhond and Munmar Railway was already under consideration when our original letter of the 15th December was despatched to Bombay.

13. Our colleague, Sir John Strachey, holds opinions very much opposed to those to which I have referred. He admits to a very limited extent, if, indeed, he admits it at all, the propriety of commencing with local works; and he is clearly of opinion that when anything like extensive relief is needed, the right thing to do is to collect the applicants for relief, or such of them as are capable of working, upon large works, where the labour test can be efficiently applied under proper supervision, and he thinks it better, when this is practicable, that the people should be worked at a distance from their homes than in their immediate neighbourhood. I am bound to say that these views derive very cogent support from what has taken place in the Madras Presidency, though even here I cannot but think, that the system of local works might have been carried out in a less extravagant fashion, had the Local Government been more impressed with the necessity for economy. However this may be, Sir John Strachey's views have been practically accepted and acted on by the Government of India in our recent instructions to Sir Richard Temple. Their adoption has evidently led the Government
3 of Bombay to form very erroneous impressions as to the real facts, and to regard the policy which was acted on up to the last few weeks as the policy of only that section of the Government, composed of four members, which remained at Simla after the departure of the Viceroy on his tour, and which subsequently carried on the administration at Calcutta. To these erroneous impressions is, I think, to be ascribed, although of course they do not in the slightest degree justify, a great deal that has been written in the recent letter and Resolutions of the Government of Bombay, including, perhaps, the extraordinary course which that Government has taken in pursuing a correspondence,

in regard to which there was an implied, if not an express, understanding that it should cease, and their still more extraordinary action in writing and publishing in the newspapers a Resolution in which they have contrasted the supposed views of the Viceroy with those of the President in Council, with the manifest object of disparaging the latter, and in which they have disclosed to the public the essentially private arrangement made between the Viceroy and the Governor of Bombay, that a certain letter should be withdrawn and another substituted for it.

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14. The Bombay letter of the 18th January professes to contain a summary of the principles advocated and proposals made by the Government of Bombay, and of the mode in which they were dealt with by the President in Council. Like other communications from Bombay, it raises an entirely false issue and misrepresents what was actually done and written by the Government of India. Its object is to show that the Bombay Government were forced by the President in Council to waste money on useless works, in consequence of the refusal to sanction, without further explanation, many of the large works provided for in the Bombay programme. It refers to the *rejection* of many of the Bombay proposals, the fact being that only two were absolutely rejected. It gives no explanation of the omission of the Government of Bombay to furnish without delay the more full information which was called for with reference to the large works in their programme, which were not rejected but only suspended; and it entirely ignores the remark made both in the original and in the revised letter of the 15th December, though in different terms, to the effect that the Government of India recognised the necessity of resorting to large works in the case of a famine of prolonged duration. There can be no doubt that if the information called for had been promptly supplied, many of the works in the programme, which by our order of the 9th November were suspended, would have been sanctioned long before this. As I have already observed, the information afforded in the Bombay programme was of the most meagre, and, indeed, of a positively misleading description. To specify four lakhs as the projected expenditure on a work, the estimated cost of which exceeds 18 lakhs, without making any mention of the estimated cost, is, to use the mildest term, calculated to mislead, and is certainly not consistent with the system usually followed by a prudent Government in sanctioning the expenditure of public money. At the time at which this programme reached us, the finances of India were, as they still are, and it is to be feared are likely to remain for some time to come, in a position of very serious embarrassment. Even then it could not be affirmed with certainty that either in Bombay or in Madras the famine would be as bad as it has proved to be; but had it been otherwise, I cannot think that in calling for more satisfactory information, we in any way exceeded the duty and the responsibility which devolved upon us. Why this information was not at once supplied, the Bombay Government do not explain. Either they were in possession of it when they framed their programme, or they were not. If they were, their omission can only be attributed to impatience of interference and control. If they were not, then they are clearly chargeable with having performed an important duty in a hasty and perfunctory manner, such as, in my opinion, fully justified the remarks made in our original letter of the 15th December; and they are in no way warranted in asserting, as they do in paragraph 7 of their present letter, that the large works they wished to commence were such as "have been well examined and approved."

15. Since this minute was commenced the Government, at the meeting of Council yesterday, have resolved on the course which it is expedient to take with reference to the Resolution of the Bombay Government under date the 26th January, in which a direct and public attack is made upon the President in Council, and it has also been settled what notice shall be taken of the resolution of the 25th idem, laying down what are called "the general principles by which district officers should be guided in refusing "the aid needed to preserve life." These documents do not, therefore, call for any further remarks from me except with reference to one observation in the Resolution of the 26th January, I allude to the remark made in the 6th paragraph of that Resolution, that the position was still further complicated by our letter of the 28th October inviting the attention of the Government of Bombay to the Resolution of the Government of India of the 18th February 1875, which, in paragraph 12, favours the policy of commencing with large works. I think it is to be regretted that the reference made in our letter to the Resolution in question was not accompanied by some qualifying remarks, but I cannot perceive that it has caused any practical complication or difficulty in the position of the Bombay Government. It certainly did not lead them to abstain from sanctioning minor works, for both before and since the withdrawal of our restrictions on large works, the Government of Bombay have sanctioned numerous small works. If the Bombay Government entertained any doubt as to the meaning of the Government

inute by r Alex. J. rbuthnot the action the Bom- ıy Govern- ent.

of India, that doubt could at once been set at rest by a telegram. The only other paper to which I need advert, is the note framed by General Kennedy, the Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the Public Works Department, "on the general policy " of the Government in connexion with the Bombay famine," which is open to criticisms very similar to those which I have applied to the letter of the 18th January, and the publication of which appears to me to have been extremely improper. Here, again, the action of the President in Council is grossly misrepresented. It is alleged that " one class of works that has been entirely objected to by the President in Council is " that of tanks, other than those of small dimensions"; the fact being that no such objection has been taken, the only restriction imposed being that in the case of tanks or other irrigation works estimated to cost more than Rs. 30,000, the previous sanction of the Government of India should be obtained. The necessity for some restriction is, I think, sufficiently established by the case of the Maswad tank to which I have already alluded.

No. 42.

Io. 43. From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Dated Calcutta, the 2nd February 1877.

Views of Government of ndia in egard to reservation f life.

The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the Resolution of the Government of Bombay, No. 50 E.—158, dated 25th January. This resolution begins by referring to previous orders of the Bombay Government, under which "the village " officers were directed to take care that no person is allowed through obstinacy to die " of starvation"; it says that "this injunction was quite in conformity with the principle " on which the Government was then acting, viz., that no person was to be allowed to " die of starvation if it was in the power of the Government to prevent it"; and the Government of Bombay then proceeds to modify its former instructions. The new orders are accompanied by observations which imply that there are circumstances in which relief is to be withheld, even though it may be necessary to save life, and the instructions lately issued to Sir Richard Temple by the Government of India are quoted as the reason for this change of policy.

2. The views of the Government of India appear to have been seriously misunderstood. The Government of Bombay seems to think that the Government of India has laid down the doctrine that there are certain circumstances in which the Government ought to allow people to die of starvation, although it may be in its power to prevent it. The Resolution to which reference has been made states that the instructions to Sir Richard Temple "do not lay down any general principles by which the district officers " should be guided in refusing the aid needed to preserve life, and that his Excellency " in Council would view with satisfaction the issue of supplementary instructions on that " point." It cannot be stated too strongly that the Government of India has never had any such views as those which the Government of Bombay supposes it to have expressed, and it is now necessary further to explain the opinions which his Excellency in Council actually holds, and which he believes have been fully understood by Sir R. Temple, in whose instructions it was endeavoured to state them with clearness and precision.

3. The second paragraph of those instructions contains a general statement of the principles by which our policy ought to be guided. Those principles may be summarised and repeated as follows:—It is no more the duty of the Government to prevent all distress in time of famine than in other times, but it is the duty of the Government to spare no effort which may be possible to save the people from starvation and from an extremity of suffering dangerous to life. Paramount as this duty is, and fully as it is accepted by the Government of India, it is obvious that it could not be adequately performed if it involved the necessity of an expenditure beyond the power of the country to bear, and which might go far to render the future good government of India an impracticable task. This may seem to be a truism, but it was necessary to state it, because it has often been assumed that the Government was placed in this dilemma, viz., that in times of severe famine it must either allow people to die of starvation or incur expenditure which might ultimately bring ruin upon the country. The Government of India has denied that any such dilemma exists, and has confidently asserted that the history of past famines shows that the duty of preventing loss of life and extreme suffering can be efficiently discharged without incurring charges disastrously heavy. This opinion, however, will only be justified if every effort be made to prevent relief being given to

those who do not actually require it, and to exact the application of the strictest practicable tests and rules, so that no more relief shall be afforded than is absolutely necessary to ensure the fulfilment of the object in view.

Views of Government of India in regard to preservation of life.

4. In laying down instructions of a purely official character relative to the management of relief operations by the officers of Government, the Governor-General in Council thought it out of place and unnecessary to give assurances of his sympathy with suffering, or to dwell on his determination, which he thought had already been made sufficiently clear, that no one shall die of starvation if it be in the power of the Government to prevent it. In regard to the duties which humanity imposes upon the Government, there has not been, and will not be, any change of policy. We say that human life shall be saved at any cost and at any effort; no man, woman, or child shall die of starvation. Distress they must often suffer; we cannot save them from this. We wish we could do more, but we must be content with saving life and preventing extreme suffering, and it taxes all our efforts and all our resources to accomplish even this. In regard, therefore, to the inquiry which has been made by the Government of Bombay as to the "general "principles by which the district officers should be guided in refusing the aid needed to "preserve life," the reply must be that there are no such principles, and that there are no circumstances in which such aid can be refused.

5. The Resolution of the Government of Bombay, No. 26 E.—93 of 1877, dated the 18th January, "approved of certain orders issued by the Revenue Commissioner, "Southern Division, prescribing the mode of dealing with labourers employed on relief "works, who might think fit to leave them from dissatisfaction with the rules laid down "by the Government for regulating the rate of wages." The Governor-General in Council agrees with the Government of Bombay in generally approving the Revenue Commissioner's orders; but this approval is subject to one exception. By those orders the village officers were required to watch all persons who had left the works, and to "take care that no person is allowed through obstinacy to die of starvation." The Governor-General in Council does not believe that any one ever died of starvation through obstinacy, and certainly no rules for dealing with such cases can be necessary. Under almost all circumstances which, if the Government of India is rightly informed, are likely to hold good in the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency, where the population is almost wholly agricultural, and accustomed to field and other manual labour, the rule laid down by the Government of Bombay appears quite proper. That rule is, that "in the case of an individual refusing to perform work which he is capable "of doing on the terms fixed by Government, no relief shall be afforded him at the "public expense during the continuance of such refusal." The result of such refusal will certainly, in the case of agricultural labourers, not be death from starvation. The Bombay Government, however, will doubtless bear in mind the fact that, unless circumstances are very different in Bombay from those in the Bengal Presidency, there may be exceptional cases which will require exceptional treatment. There is, for example, the class of respectable women who cannot appear in public, and for whom the ordinary labour-tests are altogether inappropriate. There may also be men who, on account of caste or other prejudices or feelings, would rather die than take employment on relief works. Ordinary rules will evidently not be applicable to such cases, which must be dealt with as they arise. These views are, in regard to the main principle involved, identical with those stated in paragraph 7 of the instructions to Sir R. Temple, which distinctly contemplate the possible existence of circumstances under which it may be necessary to give relief without the application of the ordinary tests.

6. I am to state in conclusion that, while the Governor-General in Council regrets that his views in regard to the duty of sparing no efforts to save life should have been misunderstood, he feels sure that there is really no difference of opinion between the two Governments on this subject. He is satisfied that the Bombay Government and its officers are as anxious and as determined as he is himself that no loss of life shall occur which can be prevented by the Government. The Governor-General in Council notices at the same time with much satisfaction the efforts which are being made to prevent the relief works from becoming too attractive, and to prevent relief being given to those who do not really require it.

No. 43.

No. 200. No. 7. of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, 2nd February 1877.

No. 20. No. 42. We beg leave to forward for your Lordship's information copies of a Resolution passed by the Government of Bombay on the subject of the prevention of death by starvation in time of famine, and of the letter which we have caused to be addressed to that Government on the subject.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 44.

No. 200. No. 8. of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

2nd February 1877.

The action of the Bombay Government. *No. 22. We beg to invite your Lordship's attention to the accompanying Resolution* of the Government of Bombay, dated the 26th ultimo, which was published in the local newspapers on the date of issue, and which purports to supplement, with the information necessary to the full understanding of the bearings of the case, the reports of Sir Richard Temple on the famine in Bombay (Nos. I. to IV.), which we published in the "Gazette of India" of the 20th ultimo.

2. The Government of Bombay has, in this resolution, endeavoured to show that two distinct policies have been followed by the Government of India in dealing with the principles on which relief operations were to be conducted. It states that the first of these policies is wrong; that it was the cause of grave embarrassment to the Government of Bombay; that it has been the origin of the defects pointed out by Sir Richard Temple in the system of relief adopted in that Presidency; and that this policy was the policy of the President in Council, into whose hands, "in consequence of the departure "of his Excellency the Viceroy on tour, the administration of the Government of India "fell." The second policy, it is stated, was right; it was in accordance with the views which the Government of Bombay had always maintained; it has now been adopted by the Government of India in its instructions to Sir Richard Temple; and this policy was that of the Viceroy himself. Every effort is made to bring out strongly the supposed contradiction between the views of the Viceroy, which to the satisfaction of the Government of Bombay now prevail, and those of the Government of India, as expressed by the President in Council, during the absence of his Excellency.

3. If the Government of Bombay believed these facts to be true, and if it were acting for the public good under an impression that there had existed some conflict of opinion between the Viceroy and the President in Council, we find it difficult to understand, considering the terrible gravity of the circumstances, how the admitted reconcilement of this assumed difference, in a sense favourable to its own views and wishes, could have appeared to that Government a proper and legitimate occasion for the public attack thus made by it on the Government of India. The propriety of such a proceeding, under any circumstances, we leave with confidence to the appreciation of your Lordship. But in the presence of one of the greatest calamities recorded in the history of the Empire, it might, we think, have been presumed that a sense of common responsibility would have induced the Government of Bombay to abstain from aggravating any cause of conflict or irritation which could weaken the authority, or add to the difficulties of the Government of India. At such a moment it might have been expected that even if the Government of Bombay thought our views erroneous or our conduct mistaken, it would, at least, have given the Government of India credit for an honest desire to do what it believed to be right, and would not have chosen an opportunity so inappropriate to publish to the world

a Resolution in which it practically invites the public to share the contempt it feels for our assumed errors and divided counsels.

The action of the Bombay Government.

4. As an illustration of the spirit by which the Government of Bombay seems to have been animated, we desire in particular to call your Lordship's attention to the 9th and 10th paragraphs of its resolution. The fact is there prominently noticed that a letter dated the 15th December, expressing the dissent of the President in Council from certain measures adopted by the Government of Bombay, was subsequently withdrawn, and that another letter, in a very modified form, was substituted for it. The conclusion which the public will certainly draw from these paragraphs is, that there has been a transaction of somewhat suspicious character, or questionable propriety, and that this is another and significant illustration of the divided counsels of the Supreme Government. The truth is, however, that the Viceroy, after personal communication with the Governor of Bombay, believed that if portions of a letter dated the 15th December, which during his Excellency's visit to that city was received by the Bombay Government from the Government of India, were modified, some of the differences of opinion which had arisen between the two Governments might be removed. The letter was modified accordingly with our unanimous concurrence, and with a hope and expectation which his Excellency the Governor of Bombay was understood by us to share and encourage, that this step could only tend to render more amicable and satisfactory the existing relations between the two Governments. But even this measure, prompted by conciliatory motives alone, has now been turned against the Government of India in a manner which not only involves a grave infraction of official propriety, but also constitutes a breach of that decorum and courtesy without which neither public nor private affairs can be satisfactorily conducted.

5. If, therefore, the facts in question had been correctly stated by the Government of Bombay, this would, we submit, have constituted no excuse for its present proceeding, but would have been, on the contrary, an aggravation of the breach of official propriety committed by that Government. The Viceroy, however, desires to place on record his emphatic repudiation of the position attributed to him by the Government of Bombay in reference to the views which it has misunderstood and the facts which it has mis-stated. Between the policy approved by the Viceroy and that which was carried out, during his Excellency's absence on the frontier, under the orders of the President in Council, there has been no contradiction. That policy, so far as it concerns the relations between the supreme and local Governments in reference to famine management, laid down two paramount conditions; 1st, that the local Governments should strictly abstain from all interference with private trade not previously sanctioned by the Government of India; 2nd, that no public works, involving heavy and permanent burdens on the Imperial treasury, should be undertaken for purely relief purposes, unless approved by the Government of India, on the ground that their completion would so permanently benefit the Empire as to entitle them to precedence over others of a similar character, or that the immediate commencement of them (should it hereafter be found necessary to suspend their construction) would not involve an absolute waste of money.

6. It must be remembered that, when these conditions were laid down for the guidance of our correspondence with the Governments of the affected Provinces, those Governments were no more able than ourselves to say whether the then incipient scarcity would prove temporary and local, or widespread and serious. Bearing this fact in mind, and in accordance with the above-mentioned principles, we deemed it expedient to urge upon the local Governments the propriety of confining their efforts to local relief works of a minor character, and, if possible, close to the homes of the suffering populations, in preference to the commencement of larger, more expensive, and more remote operations, so long as the character of the difficulty to be dealt with remained reasonably questionable. In so doing we were influenced by our experience of similar situations on a recent occasion, when, had we prematurely adopted certain urgent recommendations for the commencement of relief works on a large scale, the Government of India would have been burdened with a heavy expenditure, justified only by exaggerated anticipations of the progress of a scarcity, which afterwards proved to be brief and inconsiderable.

7. In the expediency of this advice the Government of Bombay fully concurred. The main reason why the sanction of the President in Council was provisionally withheld from some of the relief works subsequently advocated by the Government of Bombay was neither the size of those works nor the cost of them, but the fact that the proposal to commence them immediately was unaccompanied by any information enabling the Government of India to know, even approximately, the extent and duration of the expenditure it was asked to undertake on their account.

The action of the Bombay Government.

8. A single instance will suffice to illustrate this fact. In proposing the immediate commencement of the Mhaswad Tank, the Government of Bombay requested sanction for an expenditure of four lakhs, without stating whether this expenditure represented the amount of a preliminary allotment or that of the total estimated cost of the work. The information received at a later period showed the total cost of this work as then estimated to be 14 lakhs; and the information furnished at a still later period raised the estimate to over 18 lakhs.

9. Whether, under such circumstances, the President in Council was, or was not, justified in calling for further information is a question which we must respectfully leave to your Lordship's decision. But we wish to explain that, in doing so, he was under the impression that the information asked for might have been promptly furnished; and he had no desire to hamper, irritate, or embarrass the Government of Bombay by unduly prolonging a vexatious inquiry. In so far as this may have been the practical, though certainly unintended and unanticipated, effect of the later correspondence between the two Governments, that result can be regretted by none more sincerely than by the Government of India. It is not, however, a result in anywise attributable to a conflict of opinion between the President in Council and the Viceroy, who were in close communication and accord with each other throughout every stage of the correspondence in question.

10. The visit of the Viceroy to Bombay, where he was met by Sir John Strachey, afforded opportunities for personal explanations, which fully satisfied both his Excellency and our Financial Colleague that some of the works in regard to which the President in Council had, up to that period, deemed it his duty to suspend the sanction of the Government of India, were proposed on sound principles and urgently needed. Both the Viceroy and Sir John Strachey, moreover, were led, by what they saw and heard upon the spot, to the conclusion that relief works on a scale, and in accordance with principles which we had always contemplated as necessary in the event of a scarcity ascertained to be really serious and widespread, had been too long delayed in Bombay, and ought to be immediately commenced.

Whether this delay was partially or even wholly attributable to the Government of India, under the circumstances we have endeavoured to explain, is a point on which we do not presume to be the judges of our own conduct. But, on receipt of the information furnished, first to the Viceroy and immediately afterwards by him to his colleagues in Council, the Government of India unanimously concurred in the view taken of it by his Excellency; as also in the approval publicly expressed by the Viceroy of the general soundness of the principles, and efficiency of the measures adopted by his Excellency the Governor.

11. Although, therefore, a practical change of policy was coincident with the Viceroy's return to the head-quarters of the Government, that change was in accordance with the opinion of a unanimous Council, and the reasons of it, which are obvious, have already been indicated in the instructions to Sir Richard Temple. The Government of Bombay was necessarily in a better position than ourselves for determining whether the time had arrived for undertaking the larger class of works, the expediency of which, under certain circumstances, we had never doubted or denied; and looking back on the past, we fully acknowledge that in our anxiety to prevent needless expenditure of money, involving us in heavy future responsibilities, it is possible that we may have delayed too long in recognising and acting upon the fact that the time for undertaking public works on a scale of greater magnitude had arrived, both in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. It is fortunate that no more serious questions are involved. The Government of Bombay thinks that the result of our action has been that too much, not too little, relief has been given.

12. In conducting difficult operations under circumstances so anxious as those with which we have unhappily now to deal, we do not claim for ourselves any immunity from error. We have done, and shall continue to do, our best to mitigate the terrible calamity which is afflicting the Empire; and we know, and cordially acknowledge, that the Governments of Madras and Bombay, and all their officers, are devoting themselves to the same task with an anxiety and zeal which cannot be exceeded. Mistakes will, doubtless, be committed by all concerned; but all have equally at heart one common object, the attainment of which can only be assured by mutual forbearance and cordiality, and a loyal subordination of every other consideration to that of the public weal.

13. We propose to submit to your Lordship by the next mail some further papers recently received from the Government of Bombay, accompanied by a memorandum in which we shall recapitulate, and more fully explain, the salient points of the correspondence

between the two Governments, in so far as it has reference to the questions raised in the Resolution forming the subject of our present Despatch, and in the other papers above alluded to.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 45.

Telegram, dated 2nd February 1877. No. 49. 66.

From Revenue Secretary, Madras, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta.

Yours, 26th, about remissions of land revenue. Principle of assessment is a share of crop; wet land, when crop is lost for want of water, receives remission by prescriptive custom; dry land, when crop is lost, receives remission under special order of Board of Revenue. To introduce now suspension where remission customary would tend to check attempts at cultivation, which it is desirable to stimulate. Letter follows. Land revenue remissions.

No. 46.

No. 151, dated Bombay Castle, 2nd February 1877. No. 66.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department, to the Secretary to Sir R. Temple.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 41, dated 27th January, and accompaniments, and, in forwarding copy of a report, dated 31st idem, from the Consulting Engineer for Railways, to observe that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company appears to be doing all that can be demanded of it, and even more. The failure to deal with the traffic at Raichore on the part of the Madras Railway Company is what at present prevents more grain being carried to the Madras famine districts, and the Great Indian Peninsula, as is quite manifest, could not afford more help by doing less, *i.e.*, by limiting the traffic. So long, however, as the Madras Railway fails to carry away from Raichore what the Great Indian Peninsula Railway brings, the grain must accumulate there; and if a block of waggons results, as was the case early in January, the work of the entire Great Indian Peninsula line, and of lines working into it, as well as the special grain traffic for Madras, is more or less impeded. The only plan to adopt under such circumstances is to stop further accumulation, clear the block, and release the stock as soon as possible by emptying the waggons. There is this to be said, that grain intended for the Madras Presidency accumulated at Raichore is so much nearer its destination than it would have been if the Great Indian Peninsula Railway had not brought it down at all, but the inconvenience is very serious, and every possible means should be taken to induce the Madras Railway Company to strengthen this weak link in the chain. Railway grain traffic. Means of preventing block.

No. 47.

No. 152, dated Bombay Castle, 2nd February 1877. No. 66.

From the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

I am directed to forward, for information, copy of a letter addressed to the Hon. Sir Richard Temple, Bart., K.C.S.I., on the subject of the grain traffic by railway into the famine districts of the Madras Presidency.

No. 48.

No. 92. XXVI.—Further Memorandum by Mr. Bernard, Secretary to Sir R. Temple, regarding the North Arcot District.

Muddanapally, 2nd February 1877.

North Arcot district. *Part II., pp. 54–5.

Since the memorandum of the 20th January was prepared, regarding the North Arcot district,* Sir Richard Temple saw at the relief camps at Madras a large number of persons from the North Arcot district who had been reduced by want to a very deplorable condition before they came to the relief camps. He also had the opportunity of hearing the views of the Inspector-General of Police concerning the condition of the people in the great zemindaris to the north of the district, where Colonel Hearne had recently been on tour. Colonel Hearne's impression was that a great number of people in the worst parts of the North Arcot district were in very severe distress indeed, and that many of them must soon die of hunger. The Collector and the native officials whom Sir Richard Temple had met had not considered the situation to be quite so critical. Still he deemed it best again to see the North Arcot officers and to visit, if possible, some of the worst parts of the district.

2. First, Sir Richard Temple went to Raneepet, the residence of the Sub-Collector, Mr. Austin, close to the town of Arcot. Mr. Austin seemed to be sufficiently prepared to relieve people who might be in absolute need near Arcot. A large relief camp was nearly ready, and casual people in severe distress were being relieved at the hospital of the American Mission until the relief camp should be ready.

3. Of the taluks in that part of the district, Chandragiri appeared to be the worst off, but as yet relief works had not been opened there. Sir Richard Temple was of opinion that the condition of the people in Chandragiri required that relief works should at once be opened there. The Range Officer, Lieutenant Hamilton, R.E., appeared able and ready to do all that was necessary. But there seemed to be some departmental difficulty* connected with estimates or district rates, or the contract system, which prevented Lieutenant Hamilton from setting at once to work with relief labourers on sundry irrigation improvements which were much wanted in Chandragiri. Such difficulties could at once be removed by a superior officer, who might go to the spot with full power to direct all relief operations in all departments; for the local officers have manifestly every desire to do their best and to work together. But meanwhile time is going on, and the people in some of these parts may be drifting into severe distress.

* Note. — It seemed to Sir Richard Temple that a somewhat similar difficulty prevented Mr. Gribble and Mr. Traill, the Civil Officer and the Range Officer, working together for relief. Each was anxious to help the other; and Mr. Traill's subordinates are all of them helping on Mr. Gribble's relief works. But for some reason the mutual help was not given in the way which by both officers was deemed the most convenient.

4. One of the Reverend American Missionaries, Mr. Wickoff, who had just returned from a tour in part of South Arcot, informed Sir Richard Temple that he saw much distress, and in some cases physical emaciation from want of food, in the Dinderanum taluk and in the north part of the Vellapooram taluk. He named villages where his mission had to help certain Christians who were wholly without food or means of earning it; and he expressed his belief that in the tracts he named were many villages who could not hold out much longer unless relief of some sort were made available. Relief works had, he said, been opened in the parts of Chingleput bordering on these tracts. But relief works were, he considered, required in that part of North and South Arcot.

5. From Arcot Sir Richard Temple went to Vellore, where he learned that there was some hitch about the establishment of a relief camp outside Vellore, for which the Sub-Collector, Mr. Irvine, had made full preparation. Meanwhile, 7,000 people were receiving daily a gratuitous dole of uncooked rice. There is risk that this open-handed outdoor relief will be abused; and it was understood that cases of such abuse had come to light. It is to be hoped that the relief camp at Vellore may soon be settled.

6. After discussion with the Collector, Mr. Whiteside, it seemed to Sir Richard Temple that two other relief camps were required on the routes leading from the North Arcot district to Arconum; so that the poor creatures who may have left their homes for Madras may be stopped and relieved at local relief camps.

7. From Vellore to Chittoor (the district head-quarters) the road lay through valleys that were, for such a season as this, very well watered, and had fairly good crops growing. At Chittoor itself there is at present little distress; and but few relief gangs were in the immediate neighbourhood. A relief camp is in progress there. The road

to Muddanpally from Chittoor led through rocky gorges and over hills, where there was scarcely any population. At the taluk head-quarters of Palmonier the town people seemed to be well off; ragi was selling there at 9 seers per rupee. But in the extreme northern corner of the district lies the zemindari (poligarship) of Punganoor with a population of 110,000. The Zemindar, though charitable, is yet unable to do much for his people, unless the Government should be pleased to suspend a part of his tribute (peshkash) for a year. About 5,000 relief labourers are employed under Mr. Clarke, of the Settlement Department, on road works near Punganoor. Sir Richard Temple inspected about 3,000 of these people; and, so far as he could judge, the great majority of them were poorly off and were in actual need of relief wages. It appeared that the relief now given suffices for the present. The opinion of the poligar (Raja), of Mr. Clarke, the relief officer, and of the native officials was, that if the relief works in this quarter had not been opened, there must already have been many deaths from starvation. North Arcot district.

8. Sir Richard Temple's impressions are in brief—

(1.) That the Collector and his most trusted European subordinates ought at once to visit the tracts of Chandragiri, Tripetty, and parts of the two north-western zemindaris, and immediately open relief works where they may be needed.

(2.) That the completion and economical organisation of the Vellore and Raneepet relief camps, and of two additional camps towards Arconum, should be pressed on.

(3.) That enough, though barely enough, is being done in the way of relief towards Punganoor, Vellore, and in part of Mr. Austin's subdivision, but that the Poligar of Punganoor should be moved to cause an examination to be made of every village in his zemindari.

(4.) That although the Collector had justly held back as long as he could with safety, yet that in the eastern part of the district further holding back would be no longer compatible with safety, and that measures ought now to be undertaken for relief.

No. 49.

Telegram, dated 3rd February 1877. Nos. 58. 66.

From Revenue Secretary, Bombay, to Additional Secretary, Calcutta.

Please telegraph orders of Government of India on my No. 401 of 22nd ultimo.* This Government is of opinion there should be entire remission of land revenue to such extent as may be necessary. Land revenue remissions. *No. 8.

No. 50.

Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Bangalore, 4th February 1877. No. 66.

In reference to minutes and memoranda regarding districts of Kurnool, Bellary, Cuddapah, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Madura, and Tinnevelly, I desire to explain, in case these papers be published, that the Madras Government have ordered various measures of economy in relief and such restrictions of expense as are compatible with the safety of the people, which orders are actually being carried out in the interior of the districts. Though there may yet be important discussions on details, yet I trust that there is general accord in principle. I have to acknowledge, in the strongest terms, the kind way in which I have been met by the Madras Government and by all its officials, and the generous support I have received from them. I must also bear witness to the zeal, devotion, and humanity with which the relief operations have been undertaken in this Presidency. Support received by Sir R. Temple from Madras Government and officials.

No. 51.

Nos. 52. 92. MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir R. Temple, concerning the ESTIMATED RELIEF EXPENDITURE in the MADRAS PRESIDENCY during the year 1876–77.

Estimated relief expenditure in Madras Presidency.

On the 23rd December the Madras Government submitted to Her Majesty's Secretary of State an approximate estimate, framed by the Revenue Board, of the probable cost of relieving distress in this Presidency. The Government observed that they could not pledge themselves to the Board's estimate, seeing that it was framed on very rough data only. The total estimated expenditure, exclusive of suspensions or remissions of revenue, was Rs. 3,41,00,000, or about $3\frac{1}{3}$ millions sterling. Sir Richard Temple now directs that an attempt be made to furnish a detailed estimate on the more recent information furnished by the Government of Madras and its officers.

2. As with the estimate of Bombay relief expenditure, so in the present case, the numbers expected to come upon the relief works form the main factor of any estimate of probable relief expenditure in the Madras Presidency. In the appended statement is offered an estimate of the number of relief labourers that will probably be in receipt of relief wages in each distressed district, month by month, up to the end of July next. On the reverse of the statement will be found notes, showing on what grounds, or on whose authority, the maximum number of relief labourers in each district is estimated. It is during the month of April that the number is expected to be highest; and the total of relief labourers in all districts during that month is estimated at 1,840,000 persons. This total is larger than the April total (1,405,000 labourers) taken in the Revenue Board's estimate. But since that estimate was framed the distress has declared itself further, and it has taken a much severer form in districts which even in December were sorely stricken.

3. It will be seen from the notes on the reverse of the appended statement that in some cases the native (and other) officers have estimated that the maximum number of labourers would reach even larger totals than have now been taken. But the Collector has in such cases expressed an opinion, or at least a hope, that by dint of care and vigilance, the numbers of relief labourers may be kept down to the maximum given. It is only in the event of continued vigilance being exercised to restrict relief wages to those in actual need, and on the condition that the measures for economy recently taken are maintained, it is only in such case that the number of relief labourers can be prevented from exceeding the total now taken.

4. Further, it will be seen that the present estimate reckons on the numbers decreasing in May, and on the relief labourers all disappearing to their homes by the end of July. The best authorities appear to expect that this will be the course of events, provided that the usual April showers come and that the south-west monsoon (the early rains) comes seasonably. In ordinary years rain falls in April and May in quantities varying from five inches to one inch in the different districts; and the monsoon breaks (that is, the rainy season begins) about the 2nd June. If, unhappily, the April showers should be withheld, or if the rainy season should begin unfavourably, then the present forecast would be exceeded.

5. Subject to the provisoes mentioned above, the estimated numbers on relief works for the six months from February to July inclusive will be—

Total number of labourers in	February	1,228,000
,, ,,	March	1,480,000
,, ,,	April	1,840,000
,, ,,	May	1,530,000
,, ,,	June	795,000
,, ,,	July	310,000
	Total	7,183,000

At an average rate of Rs. $2\frac{1}{3}$ per month, the wage of these labourers would amount to Rs. 1,79,00,000.

6. The cost of relief wages for the month of January must be taken at an average of Rs. 3 per labourer; for the reduction of wages recently ordered cannot take effect until after the end of January. The relief wages for January, with an average of 1,039,000 persons on the works, will amount to Rs. 31,17,000.

7. The actual expenditure on relief works and extra establishments up to the end of December according to a return received from the Accountant-General of Madras has been Rs. 37,25,000, and the cost of purchasing grain for Government has been Rs. 30,24,000. Relief expenditure in Madras Presidency.

8. It will, perhaps, suffice if ten per cent. on the six months' relief wages be estimated for extra establishments, temporary buildings, and miscellaneous charges; for the Madras Government has been economical in the matter of establishments.

9. It is difficult to foresee how many persons may become recipients of gratuitous relief. At present the numbers are comparatively small, only about 60,000 in all.. But in many districts gratuitous relief has not yet begun, and it is certain that the numbers on charitable relief will increase very greatly in the hot months, and at the beginning of the rainy season. An estimate of 10 per cent. on the relief wages for six months (Rs. 18,00,000) would suffice to give gratuitous relief at the cost of one anna per head per diem to—

50,000	persons	during the month of	January.
100,000	,,	,,	February.
250,000	,,	,,	March.
500,000	,,	,,	April.
600,000	,,	,,	May.
700,000	,,	,,	June.
500,000	,,	,,	July.
160,000	,,	,,	August.

The cost of gratuitous relief at the Red Hills camp near Madras comes to $2\frac{1}{4}$ annas per head per diem. But the inmates there are, many of them, in a much reduced condition, and so they have been allowed somewhat better food than usual. At the Salem district relief camps the Collector expects to keep the cost of gratuitous relief down to one anna per head per diem. Perhaps it will suffice to estimate the cost of gratuitous relief at Rs. 18,00,000.

10. The grain purchased by Government will be used in payment of relief wages, or in issuing gratuitous relief, or in both. There will be some charges for transporting this grain to the interior and for storage, and there will be some loss by wastage. If allowance be made for these charges, perhaps 75 per cent. of the cost of the Government grain may be taken as a set-off against other famine charges.

11. The total of the estimate will then be—

	Rs.
Relief works and other expenditure according to the Accountant-General's statement up to end of December - - -	37,25,000
Estimated expenditure on relief works wages during January -	31,17,000
Estimated expenditure on relief works wages during the six months February to July - - - - -	1,79,00,000
Estimated cost of additional establishments and miscellaneous charges - - - - - - -	18,00,000
Estimated cost of gratuitous relief - - - -	18,00,000
Cost of grain purchased by Government - - -	30,24,000
Total - -	3,13,66,000
Deduct as a set-off three-quarters of cost of Government grain, as that grain will be used to pay labourers or relief paupers -	21,66,000
Total - -	2,92,00,000
Or say - -	£2,920,000

12. The totals of this forecast are liable to be exceeded if the next season should prove unfavourable, if the recent instructions for reducing relief wages and restricting relief expenditure cannot be maintained, or if distress in an aggravated shape should break out in the extreme south of the peninsula, on the Malabar coast, or in Ganjam and the Godavari districts.

Relief expenditure in Madras Presidency.

STATEMENT appended to MEMORANDUM estimating the TOTAL RELIEF EXPENDITURE in MADRAS FAMINE DISTRICTS during the Years 1876 and 1877.

Name of District.	Total Population.	Total Numbers on the Works on the				Estimated Number of People on the Works during the Month of							
		26th December.	9th January.	16th January.	23rd January.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Total of the Six Months, February to July.
Nellore - -	1,375,000	4,000	55,000	64,000	59,000	60,000	80,000	100,000	120,000	80,000	50,000	20,000	450,000
Cuddapah -	1,350,000	132,000	201,000	195,000	195,000	200,000	220,000	250,000	300,000	250,000	150,000	50,000	1,220,000
Kurnool - -	1,000,000	203,000	310,000	308,000	298,000	300,000	320,000	340,000	360,000	300,000	150,000	70,000	1,540,000
Bellary - -	1,650,000	332,000	401,000	400,000	356,000	390,000	390,000	420,000	450,000	400,000	200,000	100,000	1,960,000
North Arcot -	2,007,000	28,000	22,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	80,000	100,000	130,000	150,000	80,000	30,000	570,000
Chingleput -	940,000	7,000	10,000	12,000	14,000	12,000	20,000	40,000	60,000	60,000	40,000	20,000	240,000
Salem - -	1,200,000	15,000	37,000	15,000	22,000	25,000	30,000	50,000	70,000	60,000	40,000	20,000	270,000
Trichinopoly -	1,200,000	—	—	—	1,000	1,000	10,000	15,000	25,000	10,000	10,000	—	70,000
Coimbatore -	1,750,000	9,000	6,000	18,000	20,000	15,000	30,000	50,000	100,000	50,000	20,000	—	250,000
Madura - -	2,250,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	5,000	5,000	8,000	15,000	25,000	20,000	5,000	—	73,000
Tinnevelly -	1,700,000	6,000	10,000	9,000	3,000	5,000	20,000	50,000	100,000	80,000	20,000	—	270,000
Kistna, Godavari, and South Arcot.	4,740,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	6,000	5,000	20,000	50,000	100,000	70,000	30,000	—	270,000
Total -	—	—	—	—	—	1,039,000	1,228,000	1,480,000	1,840,000	1,530,000	795,000	310,000	7,183,000

REMARKS.

Nellore.—Sir Richard Temple has not yet visited Nellore. But it is known that in a part of the district there was a failure of crops; that relief works are attracting many thousands, both from the inland taluks of Nellore and from the east of Kurnool. Possibly the maximum of 120,000 may be exceeded, as a large and excellent work is in progress there. But distress is not expected to spread over the whole district.

Cuddapah.—On the occasion of Sir Richard Temple's visit, the Collector was not able to say decidedly what he expected to be the highest number on his relief works. But he hoped to carry out carefully such orders as might be issued for preventing people who could support themselves from coming upon the State for relief. In the south of his district there seemed to be room for some economies in relief administration, and already the Collector has succeeded in arresting the previously rapid rate of increase in the numbers on his works; 300,000, or 100,000 above the present totals, have therefore been taken as the probable maximum.

Kurnool.—The native officials estimated that eventually 500,000 people would come upon the relief works. Mr. Davidson, the new Collector, hoped to keep the number from very greatly exceeding the present total. The numbers have not increased during the last few weeks; they now stand at 298,000; and perhaps the maximum may never exceed 360,000, the number taken for April.

Bellary.—The native officials expected 900,000, or much more than half the population, to come upon the works. Mr. Master, the Collector, hoped that the maximum would never greatly exceed the then total, 405,000. It has since fallen to 356,000. And perhaps the maximum now taken, 450,000, will not be exceeded.

North Arcot.—The Collector's estimate of the expected numbers has been adopted; see paragraph 9 of the North Arcot memorandum. This allows for a very large increase in the number of recipients of relief wages.

Chingleput.—The estimated numbers here taken were seen and were accepted by the Collector as sufficiently liberal.

Salem.—The Collector's own estimate of the probable numbers has been here taken.

Trichinopoly.—The estimated numbers taken for this district are based on the Assistant Collector's oral statements, and they may be open to revision in case distress declares itself in parts of Trichinopoly.

Coimbatore.—The Collector considered that he might possibly have to provide works for 150,000 at the very worst period; but in the present estimate 100,000 has been taken as the probable maximum in April. As yet the numbers in Coimbatore are not high, and the rate of increase is not very rapid.

Madura.—The Collector's figures are taken, but it must be noted that his estimate will, as he pointed out, be exceeded if his proposals for the Court of Wards expenditure in permanently settled zemindaris are not accepted.

Tinnevelly.—For this district the Collector's maximum has been taken; but in view of the good condition of a large part of the district and of the facilities for trade and temporary emigration, it may be hoped that the maximum will not be reached.

Kistna, South Arcot, and Godavari.—These districts are not distressed as a whole, and probably will not be. Still there has been failure of harvest in parts; and the officers who know those tracts anticipate that relief works may have to be provided on a considerable scale in parts of these districts before the next harvests come in. Relief expenditure in Madras Presidency.

No. 52.

XXVIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE respecting the estimated Relief Expenditure of the Madras Presidency during the Years 1876 and 1877. No. 92.

Bangalore, 4th February 1877.

In reference to my minutes of the 19th ultimo and of the 22nd idem, recommending that in the Madras Presidency a stricter check than heretofore should be applied to the admission of persons to the relief works, that admission should be granted to those who appeared, or were known, to be in real need, and that the relief wage should be reduced to an amount necessary to sustain life, I have duly observed the orders recently issued by the Government of Madras, which are calculated, if effectively carried out, to meet the above objects sufficiently well, and with all reasonable regard to the safety of the people. These principles will now, I trust, be introduced practically into the districts above the Ghâts (Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah), where relief operations had been already begun on a very extensive scale. They will, doubtless, be followed from the outset in the districts below the Ghâts (Arcot, Chingleput, Salem, Coimbatore, Madura, Tinnevelly), where relief operations have not as yet been extensively undertaken.

2. I therefore think that the time has come when a preliminary estimate may be framed of the probable expenditure by Government for the relief of this famine and scarcity. Such an estimate is accordingly submitted herewith, accompanied by such explanation as seems called for regarding each item in the statement. It will be seen that the total expenditure is estimated at 2,920,000*l.*, of which 674,900*l.* had been already spent up to 1st January. The total number of persons on the relief works was expected to be 1,228,000 on the 1st February, and is set down; but I am not able to say for certain that this is the actual number. Within the last few days reductions have been going on in reference to the principles already alluded to in this minute, and I should hope therefore that the number may be really less, and more nearly approaching to the figure at which it actually stood on the 1st January, namely, 1,039,000. The number of those on charitable relief was 60,000 on the 1st February. The highest number is expected to occur in April, namely, 1,840,000 on relief works and 700,000 on charitable relief; in all 2,540,000.

3. If the usual spring showers of April or even May shall be vouchsafed, and if the checks already recommended and now ordered shall be carefully carried out, it is quite possible that the actual expenditure may be kept well within this estimate, and might even be sensibly less. If, on the other hand, the spring showers do not come, or if the checks be not strictly adopted, then this estimate may be exceeded;—indeed there might be a very serious outlay of money during April and May.

4. I can testify to the extreme anxiety of all the authorities throughout the Presidency to save human life from death by starvation. The checks now ordered are quite compatible with the attainment of this paramount object, while on the other hand they are calculated to prevent excessive expenditure. Meanwhile, it is most important to maintain an effectively vigilant supervision in all the distressed districts, over every village, every highway, every place where people either congregate or move about; so that no person who may fall into danger for want of sustenance can possibly escape observation and succour, and so that every individual case of this nature may be surely and speedily relieved.

5. This estimate of expenditure is, of course, irrespective of loss (temporary from suspension, or permanent from remission) of revenue, to which I will advert in a separate minute.

No. 53.

No. 66. From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Calcutta, the 5th February 1877.

No. 11. I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 42 E.—126, of 23rd ultimo.

Commencement of relief works left to discretion of Bombay Government. 2. With reference to its 3rd, 4th, and 5th paragraphs, I am to state that it was the intention of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council to leave entirely to the judgment of the Government of Bombay the question to be decided in each particular case on its own merits, whether the commencement of relief works is or is not necessary. On this point, therefore, it need only now be added that his Excellency in Council leaves the matter to the Government of Bombay, with complete confidence not only that it will be decided rightly, but that a wise economy, consistent with the duty of giving complete protection to the lives of the people, will be practised.

3. The views stated in paragraphs 6 to 9 of your letter are generally approved by the Government of India.

Dhond and Munmar Railway agreed to. 4. With regard to the Dhond and Munmar Railway, referred to in paragraphs 10 to 18 of your letter No. 42 E. of 23rd ultimo, the Governor-General in Council authorises the commencement of the work, if, in the opinion of the Government of Bombay, this course becomes urgently necessary in consequence of more extensive relief works being required than those actually in progress. Work should, however, as far as may be practicable, be commenced only on those portions of the undertaking which, as noted in paragraph 14 of your letter, can be carried out without necessarily committing the Government to the immediate completion of the line when the present difficulties have ceased. The Government of India is not at the present time able to decide finally whether this line can be taken in hand with a view to completing the work.

5. With reference to paragraphs 19 to 23 of your letter regarding the Karwar and Bellary Railway, the questions connected with which are considered by you to be somewhat less urgently pressing, the Government of India will immediately place itself in communication with the Government of Madras and Sir Richard Temple on the subject, and the Bombay Government will be informed of the result with the least practicable delay.

6. With regard to the 25th paragraph of your letter, I am to state that the Bombay Government is right in assuming that the stipulations to which you refer would not apply to works of an Imperial character, such as the Dhond and Munmar line; and the Governor-General in Council fully admits the justice of the remark that, in applying hereafter any rules that may be laid down in regard to the enforcement of provincial responsibility for meeting the charges for extraordinary public works, due regard must be had to the special circumstances under which some of these works may be undertaken in the Bombay Presidency.

No. 54.

Nos. 61, 65. MINUTE by Major-General the Honourable SIR HENRY W. NORMAN, K.C.B., dated 6th February 1877.

Minute by Sir H. W. Norman on the action of the Bombay Government. The minute prepared by Sir Alexander Arbuthnot on the correspondence relating to the famine in Bombay places me under further obligation to him, and I desire, before I say another word, to record, in emphatic terms, my thanks to him and to the Secretary—who acted under his immediate directions, Mr. Hope—for their most anxious and unwearied exertions in connexion with the famine during the period that I was President in Council.

2. Various circumstances combined to throw on the President in Council, during the Viceroy's absence in October last, November, and December, an amount of work unusual during such cases of absence, and nothing but the most anxious attention on the part of Sir A. Arbuthnot and Mr. Hope could have enabled the work connected with the famine in Madras, Bombay, and Mysore to have been at all effectively dealt with. Although I most fully and completely accept all responsibility that may be considered to rightly devolve on me, I must give my honourable colleague and the Secretary credit for all the hard work that was involved.

3. As Sir A. Arbuthnot's minute will go home, I have little to add to it, or to the Despatch No. 8, sent on the 2nd instant. They seem to me to give a complete history

of our proceedings, and I do not see how those proceedings, during the Viceroy's absence, could have been very different from what they were. A policy was decided upon by the Government when his Excellency was with the Government, and it would have been quite improper for us to have changed that policy save on a most clear proof of the necessity for so doing, and after obtaining, if communication was possible, his Excellency's concurrence. It was our duty to keep the Viceroy informed of all that went on, and, as stated in the Despatch No. 8, there was perfect accord between his Lordship and his absent Council. Even the idea that large works should be resorted to, first expressed by Lord Lytton, after arrival at Bombay, had been almost anticipated at Calcutta on the 15th December, when his Excellency had not reached Bombay. Minute by Sir H. W. Norman.

4. Therefore, not only was the Bombay Government wrong from every point of view in trying to force on the public the idea that the Viceroy, on the one hand, and the President in Council, on the other, held and acted on opposite opinions, but it is difficult to understand that they were not aware of this; for the instructions objected to were merely an enlargement of those communicated to them on the 4th and 16th October, when the Viceroy was with the Council, and all allusion to which is ignored in their resolution. They must have been perfectly aware that the Viceroy did not make over the charge at Simla till the 16th October, and therefore that important instructions sent on that day, and still more those sent 12 days previously, were not likely to be of a nature opposed to the Viceroy's views.

5. Further, it is impossible to understand how the Governor of Bombay, in his personal communication with the Viceroy at Bombay, alluded to in paragraph 4 of the Despatch No. 8, can have avoided becoming acquainted with the fact that the Viceroy was being urged to change his views and not to maintain those he had all along held.

6. It is out of place for me to add a word as to the impropriety of the conduct of the Bombay Government, which has been fully dealt with in the Despatch, and I think it has been conclusively shown that they had no grounds whatever for their uncalled for assumptions. All I can now say is that we acted according to the best of our ideas as to what was best. Looking back at the correspondence, perhaps some verbal or trifling changes might have been desirable, but beyond this, I am not aware that we could or should have acted otherwise than we did.

No. 55.

No. 178, dated Bombay Castle, 6th February 1877. No. 92.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, Public Works Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 625, dated 31st January last, and accompaniments, and to forward, for the information of his Grace the Governor of Madras in Council, extracts from the reports of the Agent and General Traffic Manager, Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, and copy of a letter No. 151, dated 2nd instant, addressed by the Bombay Government to Sir Richard Temple, together with the report of the Consulting Engineer for Railways which accompanied it. Railway grain traffic arrangements. Nos. 29. 40.

It will be seen from these papers that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company represented that it would be impracticable to limit through booking at their receiving stations and those of the East Indian Railway in the manner suggested by his Grace the Governor of Madras, and that they stated that they would be obliged to adopt the plan which they actually have adopted of receiving and forwarding consignments in such a manner as to cause the least demurrage, working up to a block or nearly so, and then temporarily suspending the booking for Madras stations.

In the opinion of the Bombay Government the course adopted by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company is on the whole the best. The main object is to pour grain into the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency as rapidly as possible, and this object can best be promoted not by checking imports by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, but by doing all that can be done to induce greater exertion on the part of the Madras Company to forward it from Raichore. The result has been that the Madras Railway Company have been able to increase the number of waggons forwarded from Raichore considerably over 90, the limit proposed, and count on being in a position to forward 150 by the 14th instant. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, while urging the Madras Railway Company to remove waggons from Raichore more rapidly, have restricted the numbers sent into that station to what the Madras Company using their utmost exertion could take away daily; and the confidence of consignees of grain

to Madras is not likely to be more seriously affected by temporary complete stoppages of through booking than by daily restrictions, which, even if not absolutely impracticable, would be open to the objections mentioned by Mr. Le Mesurier. The inconvenience of a block of waggons on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is undoubtedly very great, but it is not of much practical consequence whether waggons are delayed at receiving stations or at intermediate points between those stations and Raichore; under any system of booking and forwarding there must be delays and complaints so long as the Madras Railway cannot carry the traffic tendered for despatch from Raichore.

No. 56.

No. 179, dated Bombay Castle, 6th February 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Nos. 29. 40. 55. 37. 38. 39.

In continuation of my letter No. 152, dated 2nd February, I am directed to forward, for information, copy of correspondence with the Government of Madras on the same subject.

No. 57.

No. 115.

XXXIII.—MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir R. Temple, regarding the MUDANAPALLY SUBDIVISION of the CUDDAPAH DISTRICT.

Bangalore, 6th February 1877.

Mudanapally subdivision (Cuddapah).

In Sir Richard Temple's Minute, dated 20th January, regarding relief operations in the ceded districts, was expressed (paragraph 19) an opinion that relief expenditure in the taluks belonging to the Mudanapally subdivision of the Cuddapah district was probably excessive. In order to verify the facts, and to ascertain what suggestions could be made for restricting expenditure in that quarter, Sir Richard Temple visited Mudanapally on the 1st and 2nd February. He met there Mr. Gribble, the Sub-Collector, who has been for several years in charge of the subdivision; also Captain Whitlock, who for two years has been police officer at Mudanapally; and Mr. Traill, the Range Officer of the Public Works Department.

2. On his way to Mudanapally Sir Richard Temple passed through the North Arcot district, where relief operations had been restricted quite as far as was compatible with safety to the people.

3. The Mudanapally subdivision consists of four taluks, thus—

	Area in square miles.	Population.
Mudanapally - - - -	856	135,000
Kadire - - - - -	918	141,000
Roychotee - - - -	1,031	128,000
Voilpád - - - -	769	146,000
Total - - -	3,574	550,000

The chief characteristics of this tract were described in the memorandum on Cuddapah dated the 20th January. So far as the failure of harvest is concerned nothing need now be added to that memorandum, but it appears that the earliest autumn crop in these plateau taluks will not come into market until September [see paragraph 4 of previous memorandum]. Since that memorandum was written the total number of persons on relief wages has fallen from the highest total 108,000 down to 90,000. Mr. Gribble, the Sub-Collector, attributes this decrease partly to the prevalence of cholera which dispersed certain relief gangs, and partly to the measures which he (Mr. Gribble) had been able, now that his *staff had been increased, to take towards eliminating from the relief gangs persons who were not in absolute need.

* NOTE.—Regarding the apparent friction of systems (not of local officers) in the Revenue and Public Works Departments, see paragraph 3 of the further memorandum on North Arcot, dated 2nd February 1877.

4. Sir Richard Temple visited certain completed relief works, namely roads, which appeared to have been fairly well executed. The cost, however, which had been only Rs. 1,000 per mile when the number of labourers was comparatively manageable, had risen to Rs. 1,800 per mile now that the number of relief labourers had increased so enor-

mously as to be unmanageable. Some expenditure had been incurred in consolidating the stone metal on these roads. This outlay no doubt improves and completes the work; but it costs a good deal, inasmuch as water is scarce and has on occasions to be carried on carts from a distance. It would be more economical to postpone such work till the rainy season, when water will be everywhere at hand, and then the completion of these works would be defrayed by the ordinary district funds, instead of being charged against "relief." Mudanapally sub-division.

5. Sir Richard Temple inspected several gangs of relief labourers in and about Mudanapally—in all some 3,000 or 4,000 persons. He found that the labourers looked to be in good condition; and it appeared that some proportion of them must have been quite able to support themselves, for a time at least, without Government aid. Hardly any of them appeared to be in a physically reduced condition. Some of them bore on their persons evidence in the shape of good clothes or ornaments that they had not yet been reduced to extremity. The Sub-Collector was of opinion that some of these people could with safety be dismissed from the works, and he anticipated that when the Madras Government orders should be received, he would be able to reduce and in future to keep down the number of relief labourers. The labourers received daily wages and no task-work was practically exacted; yet the number of head-coolies (gangmen) seemed too great.

6. It appeared to Sir Richard Temple that too many of the relief gangs were employed on roads and too few on tanks and petty irrigation works. The Mudanapally country, like Mysore, is studded with tanks; Mr. Gribble says there are 4,000 in his four taluks. Many of these have been breached in former years; many require repair and improvement. Some are gradually silting up, and the work is of a kind that in the adjoining districts of Mysore is done sometimes by the ryots themselves, and sometimes by the subordinate revenue officers. Yet in Mudanapally there seemed to be an opinion that no tank could be safely touched without a professional opinion; that it might do more harm than good to deepen a tank, and that any improvement of a tank would involve strengthening the dam (bund), enlarging the escape weir (calingula), and might jeopardise the safety of all the tanks in the chain to which the particular tank under repair might belong. Sir Richard Temple did not accept these views as altogether correct.* At any rate he considered that full use should be made of all available engineering skill to employ the relief gangs on tanks, which are the very life of the country, and which directly repay judicious expenditure by immediate increase in land revenue; whereas new roads (of which 174 miles have already been made in the Mudanapally subdivision) will involve a heavy future expenditure for up-keep.

* NOTE.—Subsequent inquiry in the Mysore province showed that in the distressed tracts there tanks were the relief works selected by the local civil officers.

7. Wages on relief work throughout the subdivision are paid in Government grain. Some Government grain had been expended, and about 20,000 bags (about 1,500 tons) are in store at or *en route* to depôts in the subdivision. Under recent orders it seems probable that Mudanapally will not receive further large allotments of Government grain; and Sir Richard Temple suggests that cash payments be at once resumed, and that the Government grain be kept in reserve and be not expended until either absolute necessity arises, or until favourable rain shall have induced the ryots to open their stocks.

8. The question of the grain stocks and grain supply was so important, that Sir Richard Temple had a long discussion with the local traders on the subject in the Sub-Collector's presence. The general account given by all was that foreign grain imported by railway, and foreign grain only, was sold in the bazaars. No complete statistics were available of the quantity of grain coming daily into the subdivision from the two railways on the north and south. But so far as the figures went, they seemed to show that a very large proportion of the population must still be living upon the whole grain stocks of the country. The Mudanapally and Voilpád taluks appear to get all they want from railway stations in the North Arcot district; the Roychotee taluk is comparatively near to the north-western line, but the Kadire taluk is somewhat inaccessible; its supplies have to come round by Roychotee. The traders declared that sufficient supplies for the weekly markets at outlying villages were carried from the chief towns by village dealers.

9. The price of grain has fallen considerably during the last five weeks. The traders attribute this comparative cheapness to the large private importations into Madras and the famine country generally. They stated their belief that private importations into Mudanapally had declined somewhat since Government grain began to come into the subdivision.

Mudanapally subdivision.

10. The traders, all save one dissentient only, stated that if Government ceased to bring in grain, they would try (and they thought they would be successful) to bring in enough foreign grain to supply the relief labourers as well as the ordinary demand. They asked assistance in two respects only: *first*, that the roads (or their consignments) should be so guarded as to prevent their carts being plundered; and *secondly*, that supply bills on Madras should be granted them at par for cash paid into the Mudanapally treasury. The Sub-Collector stated that the guards could be arranged, and that it would be a direct convenience to Government that the traders should pay cash into his treasury in exchange for bills on Madras. If relief wages are paid in cash, a good deal of silver will be wanted at Mudanapally.

11. At the charitable relief houses in Mudanapally and at the taluk head-quarters cooked food is being distributed to people who are supposed to be in great need and unable to work. Some of the recipients seen by Sir Richard Temple at the Mudanapally relief house were not yet in extreme destitution. It appears that orders have been given to village officers that they are to relieve at the Government expense casual cases of severe distress, either among their own villagers or among temporary sojourners within their borders. But no special steps have been taken to enforce these orders and to see that they are obeyed. Sir Richard Temple considered that some special steps were required to secure that village officials, revenue inspectors, and tahsildars felt their responsibility in this matter. When the gangs of labourers come to be reduced and admission to the gangs is less a matter of course, the risk that disaster may overtake poor creatures in the villages becomes somewhat enhanced. It is cheaper and in every way better to glean up and relieve such cases by village inspection than to pay relief wages to tens of thousands who could support themselves without State aid. Even in districts where multitudes are admitted to relief works without check, occasional deaths from the consequences of hunger or exhaustion are said to occur; and house-to-house inspection in very distressed tracts will obviate the risk of such disasters.

12. Mr. Gribble pointed out certain doubts he had as to the safety of a recurrence to cash payments. And Sir Richard Temple explained (1) that if risk were apprehended, the change should be made gradually first—at Mudanapally itself and other places near the railway where trade was active, and where competent officers would be on the spot to act in case of emergency; the change could then be extended speedily to other relief gangs; (2) Sir Richard Temple replied that prices might, especially in remote places, become somewhat dearer at first when grain payments ceased. But the very rise would work its own remedy, for supplies would be attracted to such places. Meanwhile the reserve of Government grain provides against disaster, and the sliding scale of wages (proportioned to the price of food) guards the labourer from the possibility of his ration being dangerously reduced.

13. Sir Richard Temple's general impressions were—

(1.) That the numbers on relief works—about 19 per cent. of the whole population—were still too large, and that insufficient work was got out of the labourers:

(2.) That persistent efforts should be made, with the help of all the engineering staff available in the subdivision, to employ more of the gangs on tanks and irrigation works and fewer on roads:

(3.) That much care and activity should be immediately exercised to enforce on petty relief officers and village officials the necessity for systematic village inspection and relief:

(4.) That when the numbers on charitable relief become larger, relief camps should be formed and indoor relief given:

(5.) That relief wages should be paid in cash, the Government grain being kept for the present as a reserve.

No. 58.

Nos. 59. 66.

Telegram, dated 7th February 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta, to Revenue Secretary, Madras.

Land revenue remissions.

Your telegram of 2nd instant.* Government India merely recommended Sir Richard Temple's suggestion to your consideration, but will not interfere with discretion of Local Government in a question of this kind. Government of India thinks that Board of Revenue might be warned against too free remissions and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appears likely that the landholder will, without undue pressure, be able to pay up next season.

*No. 45.

No. 59.

Telegram, dated 7th February 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta, to Secretary, Bombay

No. 66.

Your telegram of 3rd.* Government of India do not desire to limit the discretion of Local Government in matter of this kind, and will be satisfied if Collectors are again warned against too free remissions and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appears likely that the ryot will, without undue pressure, be able to pay up next season.

Land revenue remissions.

*No. 49.

No. 60.

Telegram, dated 7th February 1877.

No. 66.

From Sir R. Temple, Bangalore, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta.

Just starting from Bangalore to outlying distressed parts Bellary. Shall pass across worst tracts of Mysore. As we leave telegraph line for next five days, I send following in case of need for next mail. Over-whole Madras Presidency famine is successfully combated, and starvation prevented. Physical condition of peasantry good. Relief works, great or small, everywhere open, charitable relief arrangements being well organised at all centres where people congregate. Organisation for village to village relief already existing and being now utilised. Some deaths partly or indirectly due to want unhappily occurred at outset in districts near Madras, and some few may still occur despite medical treatment. Government of Madras recent orders on my suggestions for economy will prevent excessive outlay. Numbers on relief works not increasing, but rather less than last month; probable increase hereafter, but will be restricted as much as possible. Numbers on charitable relief not yet large, but will increase. There is still some want in unity and concentration of control in relief operations. Private grain trade remarkably active and successful everywhere. Shipping and railways doing great work. Great Indian Peninsula working well and Madras Railway improving. If line to Arconum doubled I think railways can supply all needs. Plenty of country carts and excellent road communication; draught cattle not yet showing any signs of exhausting. Water often scarce, but absolute dearth nowhere. Humanity and zeal of all officials striving against famine praiseworthy. Send future messages, care Station-master, Tadputree, near Gooty.

Condition of the Madras Presidency.

No. 61.

Minute by His Excellency the Viceroy, dated 8th February 1877.

No. 65.

I have little to add to the foregoing Minutes* in the way of statement or opinion, but it is due to Sir Henry Norman and Sir Alexander Arbuthnot that I should take this occasion of recording my grateful appreciation of the conscientious, vigilant, and able manner in which during my short absence from the seat of Government they discharged the anxious and difficult task confided to them in reference to the present famine.

Minute by the Viceroy on the action of the Bombay Government.

*Nos. 41. 54.

At the time I left Simla the scarcity, which has since assumed such serious dimensions, was of a very limited character, nor were the Local Governments with whom we had been in correspondence about it any better able than ourselves to predict its probable duration or extent, these being dependent on the timeliness and abundance of the rainfall due at a later period. My presence was then urgently required on various parts of the frontier, both for the personal conclusion of some important negotiations and also for the investigation of various administrative questions which demanded an early decision founded on personal consultation with the local authorities. Such a decision I was adequately qualified to form. But I need hardly say that I neither had formed nor was competent to form any deeply seated opinion on the relative merits of the various principles which have been from time to time propounded or adopted for the management of a great Indian famine in all its phases, such a task never having come within the scope of my previous experience.

In these circumstances I did not feel called upon to postpone my inspection of the frontier, for which elaborate arrangements had been completed, and I consider that the only course properly open to me was the one I adopted, viz., to leave untrammelled to my colleagues in Council, whose experience on such subjects was greater than my own,

Minute by the Viceroy on the action of the Bombay Government.

the conduct of all correspondence about relief operations and other matters connected with the scarcity, affording them, in the discharge of their anxious task, that unreserved support on which they were entitled to reckon.

In default of special experience, my own views were naturally and necessarily guided by reference, on the one hand, to the plain axioms of political economy, and on the other, to those obligations which are permanently incumbent on the responsible guardians of the public purse.

It was my opinion that we should not be justified in sanctioning either any premature interference with private trade, or the commencement, for purely relief purposes, of public works which the Imperial Government might find, after adequate consideration, that it could neither complete without an expenditure of money greatly in excess of its resources, nor suspend, if once commenced, without a considerable waste of money. My colleagues concurred in these conclusions, and were furthermore of opinion that at the stage of the scarcity with which we were then dealing, it was expedient to start small relief works near the homes of the people rather than large ones remote from the suffering localities.

The facts and arguments on which this opinion was based appeared to me sound and cogent, and I unreservedly acquiesced in the recommendation which, with my full authority, was addressed in this sense to the Governments of the two Southern Presidencies before I left Simla on the 16th of October.

The question subsequently raised in reference to the relative efficiency of relief works on a large scale, or a small one, at the earliest possible period of a famine already existing, or confidently expected, was not then under consideration. This is, no doubt, a question of great importance; and so far as I am personally concerned, had anything occurred to suggest it to my mind before I left Simla, I think that, whilst certainly sanctioning and fully approving the recommendation then addressed to the Local Governments in favour of minor works, I should probably have endeavoured so to qualify or guard the language of it as to leave the Local Governments no possible ground for at any time supposing themselves to be precluded, in deference to an established principle, from commencing relief operations on a large scale whenever such a course might appear to them called for by the circumstances with which they were dealing.

There was, however, no cause for the anticipatory discussion of such a question, more especially as the recommendation above referred to was unreservedly accepted by the Government of Bombay as well as that of Madras without the slightest reference to any condition by which it should in their opinion be qualified.

Copies of all the subsequent correspondence on famine matters were promptly and regularly forwarded to me by the President in Council, carefully perused and duly acknowledged not only with approval, but also with cordial recognition of the conscientious care with which it had been conducted.

Now, as regards that portion of this correspondence which was addressed to the Bombay Government, I must here observe that, ever since I assumed charge of the Supreme Government, it has been my earnest and constant endeavour to maintain, both personally and officially, the most frank and cordial relations with his Excellency the Governor of Bombay. Finding that the official intercourse between the two Governments was not altogether free from mutual irritation and mistrust, I have been at some pains to read with care, and occasionally to correct with my own hand, letters drafted on current business of a kind too trivial to engage the personal attention of the Viceroy, had it not been for the Viceroy's anxiety to prevent the inadvertent use of any expression which might appear to him likely to offend the susceptibilities of correspondents predisposed to take offence. But it is my sincere belief that the President in Council could not, consistently with that high sense of public duty which has characterised his long and eminent career, have sanctioned off-hand and in absolute ignorance of the extent and duration of the financial liabilities the Government of India would thereby incur, all the applications for the commencement of large relief works first addressed to him by the Government of Bombay in the latter end of October.

The figures accompanying these applications were, in my opinion, inadequate and even misleading, and I think, not only that the President in Council was fully justified in calling for further information respecting them, but also that it was his clear duty to do so. The question is not whether large works were preferable to small ones at the time when the above-mentioned applications from the Government of Bombay were received by the Government of India, but whether the Government of India ought or ought not to have sanctioned the immediate commencement of the works specified by the Government of Bombay without knowing whether the expenditure for which sanc-

tion was asked on behalf of those works represented the total estimated cost of them or only the amount of a provisional allotment for relief purposes. Again, when it had been ascertained that the proposed expenditure represented only the amount of an allotment for commencing the works in question, was it or was it not the duty of the Government of India to sanction this expenditure before it had ascertained whether it would be absolutely wasted in case the Government of India should find itself unable to prosecute without interruption the completion of the works thus commenced?

Minute by the Viceroy on the action of the Bombay Government.

As illustrating the importance of the question thus stated, I may here mention that when application was first received for permission to commence the Dhond and Munmar Railroad, the preliminary survey of that line (a great Imperial work) was barely completed, and had not been subjected to any examination by the Public Works Department of the Imperial Government. I have now sanctioned the commencement of relief work on this projected line, not at all because I am satisfied that the Bombay Government is right in asserting that the earthworks on which it proposes to employ such labour will not be deteriorated if the completion of the work is suspended (as it probably will be suspended) for some years, but because I believe that the difficulties with which the Local Government is at present dealing are so great as to justify us in incurring such a risk rather than reject its urgent and renewed request.

The correspondence which ensued between the two Governments in consequence of the demand made and maintained by the President in Council, for further information respecting the large relief works he was urged to sanction last November, has doubtless occasioned some delay in the commencement of those works. I cannot judge whether the Bombay Government was unable or only unwilling to furnish the information asked for, nor whether, had that information been promptly furnished, the President in Council would still on principle have objected to the commencement of the works recommended. Nothing in the correspondence of which copies were forwarded to me led me to suppose that sanction of these works had been provisionally withheld on any other ground than the need of fuller information on certain financial points.

But, immediately after my arrival at Bombay, I became aware that this correspondence was regarded by the Government of that Presidency as irreconcilable with the discretion left to it by our telegram of the 16th of October, and acknowledged with satisfaction in its own telegram of the 24th of the same month, with regard to expenditure on relief works. I had also the advantage of meeting at Bombay Sir John Strachey, whose personal experience of previous famines in India had led him to form a very strong opinion adverse to the continuation of small local relief works, and in favour of commencing large ones at the earliest possible stage of any serious scarcity. The arguments in support of this opinion, which I need not recapitulate, appeared to me forcibly illustrated by all I learned of what was actually taking place in the affected districts at the time I visited Bombay. I therefore came to the conclusion that relief works upon a large scale were urgently needed; and that, whatever the cause to which it might be attributable, the delay in commencing them could not be safely prolonged.

I am of opinion that, when it became evident that the correspondence between the two Governments on this subject was not conducive to a prompt and satisfactory settlement of the points in dispute, it would have been well to close that correspondence, so far as it concerned matters of detail, by deputing some competent and conciliatory officer to proceed to Bombay for the purpose of settling all such matters in personal communication with the local Government. But I must at once acknowledge that this is an opinion formed after the fact; for, to say the truth, it was not until I had reached Bombay, on my way to Delhi, that I became fully conscious, either of the irritation which the correspondence of the preceding month had occasioned to the Government of that Presidency, or of the gravity of all the circumstances which determined my prompt decision that relief works, on a large scale, ought to be immediately opened.

Being also satisfied that the principles on which the Bombay Government was dealing with the difficulties of its situation were sound and judicious, I omitted no opportunity of encouraging its efforts by giving public and cordial expression to my approval of its proceedings and my confidence in its discretion.

Almost simultaneously with, or immediately after, the public utterances made by myself in this sense on behalf of the Government of India, the Government of Bombay received a letter from the President in Council referring to various matters of detail. The terms of this letter were in accordance with the principles previously laid down by the Government of India, and those principles were not (in my opinion at least) incompatible with the famine policy which the Bombay Government was then pursuing. But some portions of this letter were regarded by that Government as impediments to action urgently needed in the then existing condition of local affairs.

Minute by the Vic eroy on the action of the Bombay Government.

Believing that the letter was not intended to have this effect, and being also satisfied by the information furnished me on the spot, that delayed action might have injurious results, I at once addressed a private letter to the President in Council, urgently requesting the immediate revocation of this letter; but my letter did not reach Delhi previous to my own arrival there. I then ascertained that a copy of the letter had been already forwarded to the Secretary of State; but, within a few days afterwards, my colleagues in Council agreed to recall that letter, and substitute for it one from which the paragraphs complained of by the local Government should be omitted. It was not possible to draft the substituted letter thus agreed upon, previous to the return of Sir Philip Wodehouse to Bombay; but on the eve of his Excellency's departure from Delhi, I informed him that the original letter was withdrawn, and that he would speedily receive another letter on the same subject, which was to be substituted for it, and from which the passages to which he had called my attention in the first document would be omitted. I took this occasion of expressing to his Excellency my hope that the arrangement thus explained would terminate a correspondence which could not be continued without detriment to the interests of the Empire, under circumstances of serious difficulty, imperatively demanding the loyal and energetic co-operation of all its administrators.

His Excellency gave me to understand that the arrangement in question was satisfactory to himself and his Government, and that the controversy it was intended to close would be considered by him as set at rest.

My surprise has, therefore, been great on reading, for the first time, in the local newspapers, the Resolution of the Bombay Government to which this and the foregoing minutes have reference.

No. 62.

Nos. 71. 92.

Telegram, dated 8th February 1877.

From PUBLIC WORKS SECRETARY, Bombay, to REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Calcutta.

Sholapur distress. Contradictory reports.

You will see reports of deaths from starvation at Sholapur. Collector reports only one such death in Sholapur itself; none have been reported from districts. Full particulars called for.

No. 63.

Nos. 64. 115.

No. 55, dated Nundydroog, 8th February 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, P. W. Department.

Village relief.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to forward copy of a minute* recorded by him concerning the need for fully employing and efficiently supervising the existing organisation for village relief in the interior of districts in the Madras Presidency. Sir Richard Temple believes that, with some trifling changes of detail, his suggestions will be found applicable to the more distressed parts of the Bombay districts affected by the recent failure of harvests.

2. Sir Richard Temple would take this opportunity of suggesting that the instructions conveyed in paragraph 4 of the Bombay Government orders* might perhaps be construed by subordinate local officers to mean that persons capable of performing some labour who fail to come upon the relief works should be left without any State relief at all, however deplorable their condition. Practically the question, "Will you come on the works or not?" cannot be put to each individual sufferer. And absence from the relief works would be generally considered tantamount to a refusal to work. The orders in which the passage under notice occurs were forwarded to Sir Richard Temple by the courtesy of the Bombay Government, and therefore he trusts to be excused for offering a suggestion upon the matter.

*No. 20.

3. Circumstanced as Indian villagers are, fenced about with caste customs and family habits, there will occasionally be cases of women and even of men who might be physically able to do some quantity of work, but who, from one cause or another, sometimes perhaps from what Europeans would term prejudice, will hold back from the kind of relief work Government offers until they are too weak to go to the works at all. When there is a competent existing village organisation, it will not be very costly to search out and relieve such cases. Often it will be found that men and women who from

the habits of a lifetime are really unable to do hard work on roads or tanks, are yet quite ready to weave, or to spin, to make baskets, or to do other labour, within their powers, if only it can be provided for them. Village relief organisation.

4. If it should be held to be unjust to the public taxpayer to give State relief to persons who, though physically able, are unwilling to work upon the roads or to submit to any labour test at all, then it might be practicable to debit the cost of relieving such persons to the private subscriptions which have been and are being freely given.

5. With reference to the suggestions regarding village relief in the enclosed minute, it may perhaps be well to mention that the existence of an efficient village relief system enables relief officers to shut off from the works all persons who probably or presumably can support themselves. For even when mistake is made and the disappointed applicants for relief wages are really poor, there need be no risk of their dying of want at home. For the village officials will search out such cases, relieve them temporarily, and then send them before the relief officer. If there be no such system, then an officer in charge of relief works will very often from humane motives decide all doubtful cases in favour of applicants for relief, and the public treasury will thereby suffer.

No. 64.

XXIX.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Nundydroog, 8th February 1877. Nos. 72. 115.

As the season advances in which distress gradually deepens in certain classes of the native community, there is one point which I would specially commend to the consideration of the Government of Madras, which is this. However searching, comprehensive, and far-reaching the relief measures may be, it may happen, probably it will happen, that individuals or particular families may yet be suffering in silence, may escape observation, and may compose themselves quietly for death without applying for relief or complaining to any one. When once a complete system of relief has been established, as happily it has been or is being established, throughout the Madras Presidency, it will be in some such way as that above described that deaths from starvation occur, if they occur at all. Such is clearly the result of our experience in 1874 in Behar, where certainly some few cases of this sad nature did occur. And in the districts of the Madras Presidency every now and then incidents come to light which make us fear that, despite all the praiseworthy precautions of the district authorities, some such cases may be occasionally occurring, as is well known some cases did occur at the outset of the distress.

2. For this there is but one remedy, which is as perfectly practicable as it is completely efficacious; and that is constant supervision of every highway and every village throughout the distressed districts, with a view to observing, picking up, and relieving every person who may be found to be threatened with starvation. It is to be assumed that such cases cannot possibly exist in any large numbers anywhere, by reason of the large and liberal measures of relief which have been adopted, and that they will be only scattered instances of misery, where persons, from social prejudices, or from infirmity, or from peculiar circumstances, or from fatalism, or other inexplicable reason, do not apply for relief. In Behar the necessary organisation for such supervision had to be summarily constructed for the occasion. But fortunately in the Madras Presidency it already exists. There is in every village at least one headman, generally there are two headmen and a village accountant,—the local names differ in various parts of the country, but the offices are the same. Every circle of villages or every section of the country is formed into a "taluka" or "taluk" under an official styled tahsildar, who has a deputy immediately under him; and in every "taluk" there are two or more "revenue inspectors," whose ordinary duties cause them to be specially acquainted with the people in the villages within their respective circles. In most districts over every two or three "taluks" there is a superior officer, such as an Assistant Collector or a Deputy Collector. It is impossible to have an organisation more naturally fitted for the purpose than this. And the staff would be easily strengthened in any locality where additional strength might seem necessary by temporarily allowing a second deputy to the tahsildar or by augmenting the number of revenue inspectors. Nothing could be easier than to specially divide each taluk into two or more circles of relief, and probably this will have to be done in most districts; indeed in some districts it is being done already. Very shortly after entering the Madras Presidency I presented the Collector of Kurnool at his request with a sketch of this system as apparently applicable to his district, which memorandum was immediately laid before the Government of Madras. The same principle was also embodied in my proposals for the systematisation of relief submitted to the Government

Village relief organisation.

of Madras on the 19th January. In every district which I have visited the result of our Behar experience in this respect has been explained by me to the district authorities, so that no person be permitted to die from preventible hunger; and I believe that they fully understand the need of that degree of vigilance in this matter, which does indeed form an essential part of the humane policy adopted by the Government of Madras.

3. According to this it has become or will become the duty of every village headman to watch for every instance of distress threatening danger to life, and to arrange for relief or to give food for a day or two until the order of the nearest relief official can be obtained, on the understanding that any slight expense thus incurred would be reimbursed. In some cases the district officer might place some small funds at the disposal of trustworthy village headmen for this purpose. The headmen will not find any difficulty in bringing these cases before a relief official, inasmuch as such official will always be close at hand under the organisation above described, and as relief camps are being established in all suitable localities, thus no financial abuse can arise. Nor is it possible that any cases can escape the care and watchfulness of the village headmen and the taluk officials, if they do their duty, as they doubtless will, under the supervision of the district authorities. If the plan be perfectly carried out, as it doubtless will be throughout the Madras Presidency, then the Government may be sure that, *Deo volente*, no person shall die of hunger.

4. Also on the highway the regular police can discharge the same functions; probably they do so already. In those lines of communication where such occurrences are most to be apprehended, the police patrols might be specially strengthened with this view.

5. Though I believe that the matter is now quite understood by the district officers, there can be no harm in recording this minute in case the Madras Government should see fit to issue any formal instructions to the local authorities on a matter which is so intimately bound up with the humane and charitable policy which they have pursued, and which so much concerns what is, in the words of the Government of India, "the "paramount duty of saving human life."

No. 65.

No. 200.

No. 9 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, the 9th February 1877.

Nos. 41. 54. 61.

With reference to the concluding paragraph of our Despatch No. 8 of the 2nd instant, we beg leave to forward copies of minutes by Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, Sir Henry Norman, and his Excellency the Viceroy, and of the four documents referred to therein.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 66.

No. 200.

No. 10 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the Most Honourable the MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, Secretary of State for India.

Calcutta, the 9th February 1877.

Forwarding and reviewing Sir R. Temple's minutes.

With our Despatch of the 2nd instant, No. 6, we forwarded to your Lordship various minutes and memoranda received from Sir Richard Temple principally relating to the condition of the districts of Cuddapah, North Arcot, Coimbatore, and Trichinopoly in the Presidency of Madras. We now enclose Sir Richard Temple's reports on the districts of Salem,* Madura,† and Tinnevelly,‡ which continue the narrative of his pre-

*Nos. 12. 16.
†Nos. 15. 16.

liminary survey of the distressed districts in the two presidencies. The account of the district of Chingleput, which adjoins and bounds the town of Madras on the north, west, and south, has not yet reached us. The Nellore and Kistna districts have still to be visited. Forwarding and reviewing Sir R. Temple's minutes.

2. It will be seen from these papers that the state of the districts now reported on, and the same remark applies to the district of Coimbatore, and still more to the district of Trichinopoly, is very much more favourable than that of the ceded districts and Kurnool. Although in all these districts there has been serious drought and very extensive failure of crops, and prices are consequently very high indeed, but little lower than those which obtain in Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, the number of persons admitted to the relief works was, at the time of Sir Richard Temple's visit, comparatively small. It is probable that in Madura and Tinnevelly the numbers in need of relief would have been very much larger, had it not been for the facilities of emigration to the coffee districts of Ceylon, which annually attract a considerable number of the labouring classes of both districts. It is stated that every year tens of thousands of Tinnevelly labourers go to Ceylon to work on the coffee estates and other farms. The day Sir Richard Temple was at Tuticorin, he saw some hundreds of Ceylon coolies returning after their six months' working season. This year, doubtless in consequence of the dearth, the emigration from both districts has been greater than ever. In the Salem district there is no such outlet, and consequently the labourers on the relief works, although the supervision of the relief operations in this district is stated to be exceptionally good, and the population is more than a quarter of a million less than the population of Madura, were more than four times more numerous than those employed on the Madura works, not counting 8,000 people receiving gratuitous relief.

Salem - - -	23,000
Madura - - -	5,531
Tinnevelly - -	2,500

Salem - - -	1,966,925
Madura - -	2,266,615

3. A very satisfactory feature in all these districts is the great activity of private trade. They all are traversed from end to end by railways, and in all the districts roads are numerous and good, especially in Salem and Madura, and there are plenty of carts for the transport of grain. The Madura dealers are men of capital and enterprise, and they are already importing grain to the small ports on the coast, and bringing it up to Madura. Activity of private trade.

4. In regard to the prospects of these districts during the coming months everything depends on the spring rains. If the usual rains fall in April things will go well. If they fail, there will be serious distress and heavy relief expenditure for several months. There will also, in such an event, it is to be feared, be a considerable loss of cattle. As regards the water supply there is no serious cause for apprehension.

5. We stated in our Despatch of last week that the Madras Government had acceded substantially to all Sir Richard Temple's proposals for economy, and that orders would be issued at once.* Sir Richard Temple has since informed us* that the Madras Government have ordered various measures of economy in relief and such restrictions of expense as are compatible with the safety of the people, and that these orders are actually being carried out in the interior of the districts. Though there may yet be important discussions on details, Sir Richard Temple trusts that there is general accord in principle. He cordially acknowledges the support which he has received from the Madras Government and from all its officials, and bears his testimony to the zeal, devotion, and humanity with which the relief operations have been undertaken in that presidency. In his minutes and memoranda on Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, which have already been laid before your Lordship, and more particularly in his minute of the 19th January, he has discussed very fully the necessity of placing some restrictions on the enormous numbers resorting to the relief works in those districts and the mode in which this should be done. Similar suggestions were made to the Government of Bombay, which, however, had anticipated the most important of them, viz., the reduction in the rate of wages. *No. 50.

6. With this Despatch we submit a minute, dated the 24th † ultimo, in which Sir Richard Temple has drawn the attention of the Bombay Government to the applicability of certain passages in our letter of instructions to the relief administration in the Bombay districts, including the question of closing many of the smaller relief works. At present †No. 17.

* Since this was written we have received copies of the orders of the Madras Government dated the 31st January Nos. 329 and 330, enclosed in their Despatch to your Lordship, under date the 2nd instant. These orders are entirely in accordance with the policy laid down in our instructions to Sir Richard Temple, on the subjects to which they relate, viz., the restrictions on expenditure and non-interference with trade, and have our cordial concurrence.

Forwarding and reviewing Sir R. Temple's minutes.

we are not aware whether anything has been done in either presidency in the direction of closing small works; but in connexion with this subject we submit a* correspondence which has passed with the Government of Bombay regarding the commencement of the earthworks of the Dhond and Manmar Railway and of the railway some time ago projected between Bellary and Karwar by way of Gudduck and Hooblee. We have authorised* the Bombay Government to commence the first of these works at once, if, in their opinion, it is urgently necessary in consequence of more extensive relief works being required than those actually in progress; observing, however, that work should, as far as practicable, be confined to those portions of the undertaking which can be carried out without committing the Government to immediate completion of the line when the present difficulties have ceased. Regarding the Karwar and Bellary Railway we have addressed the Madras Government and Sir Richard Temple, who will shortly again visit the Bellary district. We have reason to believe, although the point is not specially adverted to in any of the official papers before us, except in the memorandum regarding the Tinnevelly district, that difficulties have been experienced, though of what nature we are not informed, in devising large works suitable for relief purposes in the Madras Presidency. The only relief works of any magnitude at present in operation appear to be the East Coast Canal and the Junction Canal. Sir Richard Temple has inspected the line of the proposed extension of the railway from Conjeveram to Chingleput, but is not in favour of its being taken up as a relief work.† We shall probably receive more detailed information on the general question in Sir Richard Temple's final report after the completion of his tour.

*Nos. 11. 53.

†No. 34.

Grain traffic arrangements.

7. The question of improving the grain traffic on the Great Indian Peninsula and Madras Railways has been carefully investigated by Captain Bisset, R.E., under Sir R. Temple's orders. We enclose some correspondence on this subject.‡ The officials of both railways appear to be using every effort to meet the emergency. A suggestion made by Sir Richard Temple, that the line from Madras to Arconum should be doubled, is under consideration in our Public Works Department, and will, we hope, be disposed of in the course of a few days. Arrangements have been made for obtaining weekly returns of the grain traffic to the affected districts by rail as well as by sea.

‡Nos. 18. 26. 27. 28.

8. Sir Richard Temple has visited Bangalore, and was about to inspect some of the distressed localities in Mysore. We have reason to apprehend that the distress in that province is severe. Regarding Hyderabad we submit a memorandum of the facts ascertained by Sir R. Temple on the occasion of his visit to Hyderabad, from which it appears that the distress in the Nizam's country is likely to be more limited and less serious than was at first apprehended. Sir Richard Temple considers the arrangements made to meet the distress creditable to the prudence and foresight of the Nizam's Government.

Land revenue remissions.

9. Among the enclosures of this Despatch will be found a correspondence on the subject of remissions of land revenue,§ to which reference was made in our Despatch of the 26th ultimo (paragraph 5). Sir Richard Temple had suggested that suspensions only should be allowed pending further consideration, and that remissions should be prohibited. Both the Local Governments having objected to the course suggested, we have intimated to them that the matter will be left to their discretion, but that the subordinate authorities should be warned against too free remissions, and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appears likely that the landholders will, without undue pressure, be able to pay the revenue in arrear during the next season.

§Nos. 8. 23. 30. 45. 49. 58. 59.

Numbers receiving relief.

10. From the returns of persons employed on the relief works and fed gratuitously which reached us yesterday, it appears that in the former case there has been a diminution of 38,994, and in the latter 12,447. The aggregate number of persons employed on the works was 908,410 and of persons receiving gratuitous relief 60,402 against 947,404 and 72,849, the corresponding numbers for the previous week. The Nellore return, however, does not include the coolies employed on the East Coast, regarding whom it is stated that no return had been received.

11. Since our last Despatch was written we have received your Lordship's Despatch of the 12th January, No. 6. Our Despatches and telegrams during the last few weeks, and the weekly Despatches and returns which you now receive from the two Local Governments, will have placed you in possession of tolerably full information on most of the points adverted to in your Despatch. The detailed reports alluded to in the 24th paragraph are gradually coming in and are undergoing a careful scrutiny, but we are not yet in a position to lay before you a full *resumé* of their contents. In the meantime the clear and full memoranda which have been furnished by Sir Richard Temple regarding the districts visited by him will have enabled your Lordship to form a clear view of the leading facts of the situation, of its dangers and difficulties, and of the

measures which are being taken to meet them. The situation is, indeed, very grave. The extent of the distressed area in length is very great, beginning, as it does, from near the south bank of the Taptee river in Khandesh, and stretching down south, uninterruptedly almost to Cape Comorin; and in one part its breadth is considerable, extending from the eastern watershed of the Western Ghaut mountains to the East Coast. Including Bombay, the Nizam's dominions, Mysore and Madras, the population affected can hardly be less than thirty millions, possibly a good deal more. The calamity is aggravated by the prevalence of cholera in many of the distressed districts. If it were not for the railways, which now extend from the base of the Himalayas to the extreme south of the peninsula, and the great improvement which has taken place in the communications generally, the difficulty of transporting food in sufficient quantities over this vast area would have practically rendered it beyond the power of Government, however great their efforts and unrestricted their expenditure, to prevent a very heavy mortality in some, at all events, of the drought-stricken districts. As it is, the railways are carrying the surplus produce of the Punjab, of the North-western and Central Provinces, and of Bengal, where the harvests have been excellent, to the drought-stricken plains of Sholapore, Bellary, and Kurnool; and throughout the distressed districts, owing to the activity of private trade, the markets, as a general rule, are well supplied. There will, we fear, be a heavy loss of cattle in some districts. The apprehensions which were at one time felt as to a water famine are not now generally entertained.

Area of distress.

Value of railways.

12. We cannot conclude this Despatch without expressing our sense of the invaluable assistance which Sir Richard Temple is rendering both to the Government of India and to the Local Governments in the performance of our anxious task.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY,
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 67.

No. 826, dated 9th February 1877. Nos. 83. 181.

From the COLLECTOR OF BEERBHOOM to the DEPUTY CONSULTING ENGINEER, Government of India.

Referring to your demi-official of 29th ultimo, I have the honour to state that there are, exclusive of about 80,000 maunds of rice awaiting despatch at the different railway stations of this district, about 80,000 maunds in depôt ready for export. I do not anticipate any heavy export after the amount on hand has been cleared; the principal block is at the Bulpore railway station, where there are about 50,000 maunds accumulated, and despatch has been suspended for some days owing to want of carriage.

Grain export from Bengal.

2. Prices have been sensibly affected by the export having risen since 1st November last from 27 seers 5 chittacks, to 21 seers 12 chittacks the rupee.

No. 68.

XXXI.—MINUTE by SIR R. TEMPLE, dated 10th February 1877. No. 115.

Since the instructions of the Government of India, conveyed in the Despatch No. 45, dated 16th January, were made public, the Madras Government has drawn the attention of its officers to the necessity of restricting expenditure on relief, so far as economy may be compatible with the paramount object of saving human life. And the Madras Government orders prescribe certain specific measures by which economy can be in some degree enforced. But there is another point in the Government of India's instructions to which the attention of all relief authorities might, if the Government of Madras saw fit, be usefully drawn.

Review of relief works for the distress in Madras Presidency.

2. Paragraphs 4, 5, and 7 of the Despatch above cited lay down certain general principles, by the light of which the scheme of relief works in this presidency might, perhaps, be re-considered. The following passage may first be quoted from paragraph 5 of the instructions, thus,—"as it is clear that the Government will have to undertake

Relief works in the Madras Presidency.

"serious measures for the relief of scarcity, no time should be lost in giving the people "means of employment on large public works."

3. Then from paragraph 7 the following passage may be quoted,—"when distress "becomes extreme, and a state of absolute famine has been reached, large public works "may become insufficient to afford relief to the numbers of people in need of it. At "such a time the Government may be driven to set up relief works near the homes of the "people on a scale inconsistent with careful supervision or certain test." After passing through the more distressed districts, it appears to me that petty relief works of this nature were, at the outset, undertaken in many parts of the three districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, though many of them will ere this have been stopped, and the labourers concentrated upon better devised works. The period has not, according to my experience, arrived, when such measures ought to be largely adopted. Their introduction may become necessary during the month of April, perhaps in some places from the middle of March. Meanwhile, they ought, in my judgment, to be discontinued wherever this may be possible.

4. Now, in Bellary two works on the largest scale have been proposed, namely, the railway towards Dharwar and the western coast, and the high-level canal project from the Tungabhadra river towards Bellary town. The railway project was negatived some time ago; but the Government of India have now been pleased to ask my opinion on the proposal to begin the earth-work of this line as a relief work. I hope to be at Bellary next week, and to submit my opinion after conference with the officers who may be in possession of the views of the Madras Government. The high-level Tungabhadra Canal cannot, I fear, be recommended, because there are doubts whether the river can supply water enough for this work, as well as for the Kurnool Canal and for the Krishna district irrigation lower down. A proposal has, indeed, been made for constructing a large lake in the Mysore hills, at a cost of 300,000*l*., and thereby maintaining the discharge of the Tungabhadra; but I have not yet been able to satisfy myself that this reservoir scheme is such as could be recommended to the Government of India. And, if undertaken, it would involve much expenditure besides that required for relief. Besides these two, I cannot discover any works of magnitude in the Bellary district. The only works which can be suggested are certain lines of main roads now in hand; certain large tanks for irrigation, about 150 in number, on each of which about 500 persons can properly be employed, and certain small anicuts (dams) on and channels from the Tungabhadra, which irrigate the villages within half a mile of the river, but which were breached some years ago and are now in disrepair.

5. In the level portions of the Kurnool district there are very few such irrigation tanks to be excavated. But in the hilly taluks of the Cumbum Sub-Collectorate, possibly sites for such tanks may be found. There are some main lines of road to be proceeded with. The only large work is the Irrigation Company's Canal, upon the further excavation of which large numbers might, perhaps, have been employed. But I understood in Madras, after my visit to Kurnool, that the relations between the Kurnool Irrigation Company and the Government are not such as to enable us to employ relief labour on this canal.

6. In the northern portion of the Cuddapah district there are some irrigation tanks and some main lines of road on which relief labourers are employed. There are but two works of magnitude, one the embankment to protect the railway from the Pennair river; and the other a continuation of the Irrigation Company's canal. The former may, perhaps, employ 10,000 to 12,000 persons for three months; while the latter must, for the reason mentioned in the next foregoing paragraph, be held to be undesirable. In the southern or hilly portion of the Cuddapah district, relief labourers (to the number of about 100,000 a day) have been employed mainly on road works. And already 170 miles of new road have been constructed, which is, perhaps, the utmost length which the local funds can hope to maintain. There are, however, very many irrigation tanks (some of which were breached in the rainy seasons of 1872 and 1874), the construction and repair of which might be prosecuted with much advantage to the people and to the Government revenue. Some of these tanks are great works, on which three to five thousand people could be employed for five or six weeks. In the memorandum written after my recent visit to Madanapally, the tank question is discussed. Inquiries in the Mysore tank country have confirmed my opinion that tank works can be usefully undertaken in Madanapally. And I suggest that the civil and engineering officers be instructed to take up this important subject in concert, and to arrange a plan for employing large gangs on one series of tank works after another. A gang of 4,000 persons under a Public Works Department subordinate could carry out a considerable tank project by piece work in a few weeks, and could then be moved on to another similar work.

7. In the North Arcot district no great works have been proposed as yet. But a great deal of very useful work has to be done towards repairing tanks recently breached, and towards improving other tanks and their channels. The officers of the Public Works Department have several of these works ready in the Chundragiri and other taluks, if only the civil officers could arrange for transferring relief gangs to the engineering officers for employment on such works. Relief works in the Madras Presidency.

8. In no other district of this presidency save Nellore are the numbers of relief labourers as yet excessive. In that district, which I have yet to visit, a large and important canal is being excavated; and the Madras Government is, I understand, directing to this great work all the labourers that can be brought thither.

9. For the Chingleput district one considerable work, namely, the earth-work of a railway from Chingleput to Conjeveram, was proposed. After inquiring into the facts and inspecting the site of the proposed line, I was unable to recommend its prosecution as a relief work. The Government of Madras has, however, approved a short canal near Madras itself, the excavation of which will furnish employment to large numbers for a considerable time.

10. If hereafter the number of relief labourers should become large in any of the southern or coast districts, I would suggest for general adoption the plan recommended for Madanapally, whereby large gangs of able-bodied relief labourers should be employed at piece-work rates under Public Works Department officers on one considerable irrigation work (tank, or channel, or anicut as it may be) after another, the gang being shifted from work to work.

11. As a complement to the scheme of employment which I have indicated, it will be necessary for civil officers to establish light labour gangs, on minimum daily wages, whereon elderly or infirm persons, or people draughted from relief camps, may be subjected to some kind of labour test. It will only impede the work of Public Works Department officers, disorganise efficient gangs, and make real piece-work rates impossible, if infirm or weak persons, unable to do a good day's work, are draughted into labour gangs which are to do real good work under skilled direction and efficient supervision.

12. It may, perhaps, be well to add that even though a gang may be doing really good work, and at a reasonable price, still vigilance should not be relaxed so as to admit to relief works persons who are not really in need of State charity. Relief wages at a time like this can, under pressing financial exigencies, be given to the absolutely needy only. And it is quite clear that in this part of India very many men and many women, who are not in absolute need, are quite ready, at a period of dear prices, to do hard work at piece-work rates merely to maintain their standard of comfort, or to earn a little money over and above what is required for their mere subsistence.

No. 69.

No. 508, dated Fort St. George, 10th February 1877. Nos. 91. 221

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

I am directed by his Grace the Governor in Council to bring to your notice the fact that large numbers of people are flocking from the Mysore territory to the famine relief works and feeding houses in the Bellary and Cuddapah districts, and to the Wynad in Malabar, in the hope of securing the means of subsistence in this season of distress. No. 88. Difficulties arising from influx of distressed people from Mysore.

2. So far as Bellary and Cuddapah are concerned efforts have, the Government believe, been made to eliminate these people from the relief works and feeding houses, but without success, and this Government are opposed to effort in this direction.

3. In Wynad the Government have reason to fear that, so far from the hoped-for refuge from distress being reached, the demand for labour will be less than usual while the slack time is at hand on the estates, and the ordinary unhealthiness of this tract of country is likely to be aggravated by the circumstances of the year.

4. His Grace the Governor in Council cannot but recognise the serious risk involved in sending away to Mysore territory large numbers of distressed folk who have wandered thence in search of relief, and has accordingly telegraphed instructions to the Collectors that all these people shall be admitted on precisely the same terms as the inhabitants of the districts to which they may repair, and that the necessary extension of work and relief must be unhesitatingly provided, but at the same time he considers that the resulting charge should properly be borne by Mysore, and the Collectors have been accordingly instructed to maintain as correct a register of the number of Mysore people relieved as may be possible.

Difficulties arising from influx of distressed people from Mysore.

5. I am directed to request that you will depute a special officer to arrange with the Collectors of Bellary, Cuddapah, and Malabar for the return of these people to their own country as soon as may be, and at the same time to request that you will take steps to reimburse this Government for the expenditure incurred on their account so long as they remain in this presidency.

6. As the rates of wages on relief works in Mysore are understood to be the same as in this presidency, the charge to Mysore will be much the same in either case.

No. 70.

No. 115. XXXIV.—Memorandum by Mr. Bernard, Secretary to Sir R. Temple, respecting the Pennekonda Division of the Bellary District, with Notes respecting Relief Operations in Anantipur.

Anantipore, 11th February 1877.

Pennakonda division (Bellary).

Having passed from Bangalore through some of the most distressed portions of the Mysore country, Sir Richard Temple reached Pennekonda on the 9th February, passing across the Hindupore taluk. He met there Mr. Ross, the Sub-Collector, and Dr. Williams, recently sent from Bellary to combat the cholera which appeared in this division.

2. The Pennekonda division consists of three taluks, all of which are on the Mysore plateau, and partake more of the physical characteristics of Mysore than of Bellary. The area and population of the three taluks are as follows :—

	Area.	Population.
Pennekonda	- 654 square miles	- 80,000
Madaksira -	- 439 „ „	- 80,000
Hindupore -	- 481 „ „	- 88,000

The failure of rain last season and the loss of crops has been extreme over the whole of Madaksira, over the greater part of Pennekonda, and over a part of Hindupore. The "dry" crop was lost entirely, and the "wet" crop yielded about three annas all round; so that the total yield of the division is less than a two-anna crop. There is some ragi and a small area of cholum (jowari) now in the ground; the latter is grown in the beds of dry tanks. The yield of this standing crop is estimated by the divisional officer, Mr. Ross, to be equal to one month's food-supply for three taluks. The Pennekonda traders estimated that the yield would be equal to two months' supply.

3. The grain markets are now well supplied with foreign grain, ragi, cholum, and rice, which comes by cart from the Bangalore railway station to the chief marts of Hindupore, Pennekonda, and Madaksira. Pennekonda is further from Bangalore than from Gooty on the north-west line—88 miles as against 79. But carts are cheaper and more abundant at Bangalore than at Gooty. Part of Madaksira, however, draws its supplies from Bellary. The village dealers carry from the towns ample supplies for the village weekly markets. The traders, whom Sir Richard Temple met in presence of the divisional officer, were quite confident that trade would fully supply all local needs, both in towns and villages, so long as the Bangalore market was well supplied. The cessation of grain payments to and the requirements of relief labourers, would in no wise exhaust the markets.

4. The price of ragi and cholum ranges at present from $8\frac{1}{4}$ seers in Pennekonda to $9\frac{1}{2}$ in Hindupore. At the beginning of January prices were much dearer, $6\frac{3}{4}$ seers in Pennekonda and $7\frac{1}{2}$ in Hindupore. In the month of November, before the great importation from Madras coast had set in, the supplies in the smaller markets partially failed for two or three weeks together.

5. Mr. Ross has had a good deal of Government grain in his taluks; at present he has in store about 1,400 tons balance of local purchases, of which 500 tons were received from Major Hicks, the Government Grain Agent. He had expected a further monthly consignment of 1,000 tons a month from Major Hicks. Wages had until lately been paid in grain; now cash wages are paid, and the Government grain in store is all kept as a reserve.

6. The Madras Government orders for reducing relief works expenditure, dated 31st January, have not yet (10th February) reached Mr. Ross. He had, however, begun to weed out his labourers, and to turn off persons who could manage for themselves from the time of the publication of the Government of India orders (16th January). Cholera has dispersed some few gangs round Pennekonda; and further, some 30,000 relief labourers in the Hindupore taluk struck work, and have kept off the works for the

last two or three weeks, because they did not like task-work which had then been introduced. From all these causes the number on relief works has fallen from 90,000 to 30,000 persons. Several hundreds of these labourers, who voluntarily kept off the works, presented themselves to Sir Richard Temple, clamouring for a return to daily wages. He was glad to see that the people, men and women, were in good case, notwithstanding their absence from the works during the last two or three weeks. Pennakonda division. (Bellary).

7. Sir Richard Temple inspected four small gangs of relief labourers in Pennekonda town, and the appearance of the people was fairly good. The large gangs which had been at work near Pennekonda had recently been dispersed by a violent epidemic of cholera, which is now happily abating. On a road near Gootoor, 8 miles from Pennekonda, there had been at work some 1,500 labourers. On this gang the work of weeding out those who could support themselves had been carried out by the relief Inspector, who had reported that the gang dwindled to almost nothing. Mr. Ross was going to inspect the people out of this gang who still offered themselves for employment at task-work rates. And Sir Richard Temple was able to see about 400 of these people. Among these were certainly some cases of men and women who needed either relief wages or gratuitous relief, and these cases are being cared for.

8. Gratuitous relief used to be distributed at some 20 places in the division. But Mr. Ross found so much peculation at outlying relief houses, that he has arranged for closing all relief houses but five for the present. Each of these five will be under the supervision of a responsible relief officer, and will for the present be managed as a relief camp on the indoor system. Poor creatures at the outlying relief houses who still require State assistance are being taken into the central relief camps. Hereafter, when matters become worse, it may be necessary to establish one relief house in every Inspector's circle throughout the most distressed part of the division.

9. With reference to the fact (see paragraph 20 of the Bellary memorandum, dated 19th January) that some 30,000 people were receiving gratuitous relief in the three Pennekonda taluks at the beginning of January, Mr. Ross explains that some thousands of the names on the charitable relief returns were fictitious, and that peculation of this kind has since been checked and punished. A good many of the children belonging to relief labourers were at one time in receipt of charitable relief, and they have now been sent back to their parents. There are now 8,100 persons receiving charitable relief in the three taluks, and they will be gathered into relief camps. Sir Richard Temple saw about 150 persons in the chutrum (serai), which is used as a relief camp at Pennekonda, and he found all the inmates to be suitable recipients of State charity.

10. The great decrease which has recently taken place in relief expenditure in the three taluks of Pennekonda may be thus seen:—

	On first week of January.	During first half of February.
Total number of relief labourers - - -	88,000	30,000
Total number of persons on gratuitous relief lists -	33,000	8,100

The physical condition of the Hindupore people who left the works three weeks ago warrants a belief that the relief now given is for the most part sufficient to arrest famine. Mr. Ross is of opinion that now, as was the case before the reduction in the number of labourers, occasional cases occur of wayfarers or other people being reduced to severe straits, and of people dying indirectly from hunger. He cited the case of a widow with two children, who came into Pennekonda a few days ago; they were all very much reduced by hunger; the mother and one child were seized with cholera and died; the other child is now in the poor-house.

11. Sir Richard Temple impressed on Mr. Ross the view that systematic village relief ought to be organised through the village officials; and Mr. Ross read the minute on this subject which Sir Richard Temple has recently laid before the Madras Government. Without such systematic relief, deaths must occasionally occur in remote villages among the old and infirm, or among children. And occasional disasters of this kind cannot be adverted by admitting to State charity (whether on works or in relief houses) tens of thousands of men and women who, in reality, could subsist without State aid. Systematic village relief can make starvation deaths almost impossible; and it is much more economical to the public treasury than insufficiently controlled relief works open to all comers.

12. Sir Richard Temple's general impression was—

(1.) That the distress in the Pennekonda taluks is not yet quite so severe or so general as had been feared.

(2.) That the food requirements of the tract can and will be met by private trade so long as the railway can deliver full supplies at Bangalore.

Pennakonda division. (Bellary).

(3.) That Mr. Ross has during the last few weeks done much to secure economy.
(4.) That Mr. Ross should at once organise his village relief system and supervise its working.
(5.) That he should press forward the completion of his relief camps (in chutrums or other existing buildings where possible).
(6.) That he should himself, or through responsible officers, test the work of relief inspectors who may be empowered to weed out from the labour gangs people who ought to support themselves.

No. 71.

Nos. 78. 92.

Telegram, dated 12th February 1877.

From PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, Bombay, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Revenue Department, Calcutta.

Mode of dealing with refusal to accept terms of relief.

Bodies of people, especially in Sholapore, are persistently refusing to accept terms of relief as defined in Resolution 103 of 19th ultimo. Government believe it would be very mischievous to yield to what is evidently the result of combination, although refusal to yield may very probably lead to the deaths of some of the most weakly of those who have joined the movement and are acting under the influence of those who are stronger. Immediate communication of the wishes of the Government of India by telegram is solicited. Answer goes to day to your letter of the 2nd instant which approves of our rule not to relieve persons holding out through obstinacy under belief that they will not die, a belief which is not shared by this Government.

No. 72.

No. 115.

No. 52, dated Nundydroog, 8th February 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Forwarding Nos. 63. 64. regarding village relief.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to forward copy of a minute recorded by him regarding the need for efficiently organising and supervising village relief in Madras. With this minute is also forwarded copy of a letter under cover of which this minute was communicated to the Government of Bombay, together with certain observations upon the terms of an order recently issued by the Government of Bombay.

Postscript, dated Bellary, 12th February.

The minute and covering letter were written, as the dates show, at Nundydroog in the heart of the Mysore country. Since then Sir Richard Temple has again come upon the railway line, and has received his Despatches, from which he is glad to find that the Government of India share his views on the subject of the present communication to the Government of Bombay.

No. 73.

Nos. 98. 115.

Telegram, dated Bellary, 12th February 1877.

From SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, Madras, to Mr. T. C. HOPE.

The proposed Karwar-Bellary line.

In reference to telegram of the 6th, regarding the commencement of the proposed railway from Bellary to Karwar, I have discussed the question at Bellary with his Grace the governor of Madras, when there were present the Collector of Bellary, Mr. Master, Colonels Mullins and Shaw, Sheward from Madras, and Colonel Hancock from Bombay. I am adverse to undertaking at present the Karwar and Bellary line generally, in consideration of pressing financial exigencies and claims of other lines. But famine relief labour of Bellary, Dharwar, Kaládgi districts may be most usefully employed in forming earthwork between Bellary, Hubli, and Dharwar, which may eventually be useful when circumstances shall permit such railway to be constructed. No large works being available for relief in the neighbourhood, I suggest that Madras and Bombay Governments be authorised to employ the labour in making the earthwork, taking up the necessary land for the purpose, such land being charged to local Governments; and it

being understood that this permission in no way pledges Imperial Government to ultimate construction of railway. I am authorised to say that the Government of Madras will concur in this view, and I think that the Bombay Government will concur also.

No. 74.

MEMORANDUM by MESSRS. HARVEY and SABAPUTHY on the SUBJECT of the EXTENSION of RAILWAY COMMUNICATION from BELLARY, dated Bellary, 12th February 1877. Nos. 75. 115.

They consider that a railway from Bellary to some central point in the Dharwar best agricultural district would prove remunerative to Government and a benefit to the country, but that a through railway to Karwar is unnecessary for the following reasons :— The extension of railway communication from Bellary.

1st. The Dharwar crop is ginned in the south-west monsoon when shipments can be readily and promptly made from Madras, but are next to impracticable on the Malabar coast; the rains during that season are trifling in Madras and excessive in Karwar.

2nd. Financial and shipping facilities are present in Madras, the growth of a couple of centuries, but entirely absent in Karwar; the extent to which such facilities assist trade was explained personally by Mr. Harvey to Mr. Bernard.

3rd. Steamers from Calcutta to Europe touch at Madras for part cargo and carry it to Europe cheaper than special steamers sent to Karwar ever can do, or at least till Karwar is made a place as important as Madras.

4th. The best proof of the direction of trade is its present course, and Dharwar cotton comes *viâ* Bellary now in the rainy season, from Hoongoonda, Noolgoond, &c. &c.

5th. The capital expenditure on the Madras Railway would be rendered more productive than at present by reason of the increased traffic from Dharwar, and that railway is capable of carrying to Madras double its present normal traffic.

6th. The towns *en route* Bellary to Gudduck are of more importance than those from Gudduck to Karwar, and the cart trade at present carried on is enormous "throughout the year." From Karwar it is only practicable in the dry monsoon.

7th. The whole deduction Harvey and Sabapathy make from above stated facts is that a railway from Bellary to Gudduck would not only develop the resources of the country, but help to reduce the Government guarantee on the Madras Railway, which is at present the worst paying, they believe, in India.

8th. Shipping charges in Madras are less than in Bombay or Karwar, as per original actual memorandum of those charges incurred by Harvey and Sabapathy, which memorandum was sent to Mr. Bernard.

No. 75.

NOTE by MR. BERNARD and CAPT. BISSET, on the BELLARY COTTON TRADE as affecting the KARWAR RAILWAY PROJECT. Nos. 76. 115.

Messrs. Harvey and Sabaputhy, of Bellary, have been good enough to favour us with approximate statistics of the cotton traffic from Bellary and Adoni, and with a memorandum of their views on the direction of the cotton trade from Bellary and from Dharwar, both at present and in the event of the construction of the Karwar Railway. It appears from these statistics that the annual export of cotton from Bellary by rail amounts to from 7,000 to 8,000 tons, and that nearly a similar amount is exported from Adoni. Of the exports from Bellary 2,000 to 3,000 tons are believed to come from the Dharwar cotton fields. Of the total, say 15,000 tons, exported from the two stations of Bellary and Adoni a portion is occasionally sent to Bombay, but seven-eighths of the whole takes shipment at Madras, where it appears that the shipping charges are no higher than at Bombay, and whence freights to Europe are now much lower than before the opening of the Suez Canal. Karwar Railway project affected by cotton trade.

2. The observations on the present course of the cotton trade in paragraph 4 of Messrs. Harvey's and Sabaputhy's memorandum are understood to refer to the rainy season only. The Dharwar cotton crop is believed to be moderately estimated at 30,000 tons per annum, and if the figures above quoted are approximately correct, the bulk of it must evidently still follow one of the western routes to the sea-board.

3. It is impossible to say with any degree of certainty in which direction the cotton produced along the line of railway will be carried, but there can be no doubt of the present extent of the cultivation, and very little doubt that the cotton for export by sea will take the rail in one direction or the other.

4. The rates for cotton on the Madras Railway are low, but even at these low rates a saving of $\frac{1}{14}$th of a penny per lb. or $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the value of the cotton in the Liverpool market. Looking at the geographical portion as shown in the marginal table of distances, it appears probable that so much of the Dharwar, Bellary, and Adoni cotton crop as can be prepared for market before the burst of the south-west monsoon (20th May) will be attracted to Carwar; and that after the burst of the monsoon on the western coast, the large portion of Dharwar crop which now remains in the country till the close of the monsoon will take rail to Madras.

Table of distances.

		Miles.
Dharwar or Hooblee	To Bombay (*viâ* Bellary)	677
	„ Madras (*viâ* Bellary)	431
	„ Carwar	110
Bellary	„ Bombay	550
	„ Madras	305
	„ Carwar	236
Adoni	„ Bombay	485
	„ Madras	307
	„ Carwar	302

5. From an Imperial point of view, any unproved receipts to the Madras Railway would, so long as the guaranteed interest is not earned, be clear gain to the treasury.

6. It may be well to note that arguments such as are advanced by Messrs. Harvey and Sabapathy were anticipated by the Government of Bombay, whose Secretary (on the 5th February 1873) wrote, "extending the line to Bellary will meet the objections "urged against the Karwar Railway on the ground of the uncertainty of communication "by that route during the monsoon, will to a certain extent satisfy all parties concerned "in the trade of the Southern Mahratta Country, or will ensure a regular traffic to the "line throughout the year."

No. 76.

No. 115. MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD and CAPT. W. S. S. BISSET, R.E,, regarding the BELLARY KARWAR and RAILWAY SCHEME as a RELIEF WORK.

Bellary and Karwar Railway scheme.

The line is 236 miles long and is in the following main sections :—

		Miles.	
Madras, Bellary District	Bellary to Tungabhadra River	42	Not yet actually located; could be done in a month.
Nizam's country		27	Located.
Bombay Dharwar	From border to Gudduk	22	Located.
	Gudduk to Hubli	35	Located.
	Hubli to Kinvatee	29	Located.
Karwar	Kinvatee to Karwar	81	Located; ghât section requires some preparatory work in jungle.
	Total	236	

2. The line will pass through the cotton-growing tracts of the following districts :—

Bellary, with a population of 151 to a square mile.
Dharwar „ „ 216 „
North Canara „ „ „

It will also serve a great part of the Belgaum district and some of the southern talooks of Kaladgi. Its cost will vary on the different sections, the ghât section being more expensive. The average cost will be about 7,000*l.* a mile, or Rs. 16,10,000 for the whole line. This includes 10,000*l.* on account of a pier and other loading and landing appliances in Karwar harbour.

3. The portion of the total cost which could be spent on relief labour will depend upon whether it is found possible to move large gangs from the famine districts of Dharwar and Bellary to the heavy works on the ghâts and in other parts of the Canara district. The work which might be done by unskilled labour is then—

			Rs.
From the Canara border to Karwar, 81 miles	earthwork, costing at ordinary rates		8,20,000
	ballast collection	„	81,000
From the Karwar border to Bellary, 155 miles	earthwork	„	5,50,000
	ballast collection	„	1,55,000
	Total		16,06,000

But a proportion of the relief labourers in Bellary and in Dharwar are of the Wuddah tribe, whose ordinary profession is working in stone; and considerable gangs of stone-workers could be formed in the ceded districts and in Dharwar. There is a large

quantity of stone-work to be done at the Tungabhudra Bridge (42nd mile), which Colonel Hancock would build from the excellent stone found on the spot; also there are heavy cuttings in rock, laterite, and gravel (moorum), thus :— Bellary and Karwar Railway scheme.

		Costing at Ordinary Rates.
		Rs.
Tungabhudra Bridge, 42nd mile from Bellary	preparation of material	42,000
Ghât section from the 168th to 193rd mile	rock and laterite cutting	2,37,000
Other cuttings on length from the 193rd to 236th mile	rock cutting	83,000
	Total	3,62,000

4. Now it will not be possible to do in a single season of (say) three months all the earthwork and stonework shown in the foregoing paragraph. On lengths where the work is heaviest, a certain number of men only can work at the same time, and so we could hardly reckon on more than five lakhs of the earthwork on the Canara length being done by relief labour this season, even if it were possible to organise and transport relief gangs from the famine country to the ghâts. On the other lengths where there is only a moderate amount of earthwork, the whole of that work could certainly be done by relief labour in three months. Similarly with the heavy stone cuttings on the ghât length; probably not more than one-fifth of the rock-cutting in this section could be done this season. Thus the cost of the work which might, under the most favourable arrangements, be done by relief labour this season at ordinary rates, may be stated at—

—	Section from Bellary to the Canara frontier.	Section from Canara frontier to Karwar.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Earthwork	5,50,000	5,00,000	10,50,000
Ballast collection	1,55,000	81,000	2,36,000
Stone-working and rock-cutting	50,000	1,30,000	1,80,000
Total	7,55,000	7,11,000	14,66,000

This sum (146,000*l.*) is the cost of the work at the estimated rates in ordinary years. But the rate taken in the railway estimates, 4 and 5 annas per cubic yard, is considerably higher than the ordinary rates of the ceded districts. And so, although relief labour is generally expensive labour, still, in view of the high rates taken in the estimates, it may be sufficient to reckon that the 146,000*l.* of ordinary work, if done by relief labourers, will cost 190,000*l.* And this is the maximum sum which the sanctioning of this railway could be expected to divest from comparatively unremunerative undertaking to an important Imperial work.

5. It is, however, very doubtful whether, at this season of the year, it would be possible to organise in the famine country of Bellary and Eastern Dharwar sufficiently large relief gangs and to transport them to Canara in time to make any very serious impression on the heavy cuttings of the ghât section.

6. It remains to consider shortly the question whether the proposed railway is one that should, on financial considerations, be sanctioned at all. The Committee who inquired very carefully into the financial prospects of the line in the year 1873 reported that the existing traffic of the country would enable the proposed line from Gadak to Karwar (*i.e.*, from the 91st to the 236th mile of the line now under consideration) to pay nearly 4 per cent. on the cost of the line. And this estimate was accepted by the Governments of India and Bombay.

7. Regarding the traffic on the Bellary length no detailed estimate has yet been offered. But Colonel Hancock, in paragraph 5 of his note dated 23rd January 1877, estimates the gross traffic earnings of the whole section above the ghât at Rs. 6,000 per mile per annum. Perhaps it will be safer to take Rs. 5,500 as an average return which, with an assured traffic * in cotton either westwards or eastwards, seems to be a moderate estimate. If these estimated earnings on the Bellary to Gudduk section be added to the estimated earnings on the Gudduk to Carwar length, as already accepted

* NOTE.—See annexure regarding the estimated existing cotton traffic.

Bellary and Karwar Railway scheme.

by the Government of India, then the total earnings of the whole line (236 miles) will amount to 15 lakhs of rupees (150,000*l.*).

* NOTE.—See paragraph 3 of the Secretary of State's Despatch of the 6th November 1873.

It will not be safe to put the working expenses at less than 55 * per cent.; and this would leave 675,000*l.* as the net earnings, equal to 4 per cent. on a capital of 1,687,000*l.*, which is somewhat above the estimated cost of the whole line.

8. Her Majesty's Secretary of State in his Despatch of the 6th November 1873, declined to sanction the line, on the ground that he doubted the financial success of the undertaking. The Despatch remarks that two-fifths of the whole expected traffic is cotton; that there is much doubt whether Indian cotton can hold its own in European markets, now that the American yield is steadily increasing; and that, therefore, there is considerable risk that the railway may not secure the heavy cotton traffic expected; and that it would consequently fail to pay the interest on the capital invested in it. On this point the Committee of 1873 expressed an opinion that the out-turn of cotton from the districts served by the Dharwar and Canara sections of the railway might be safely taken at 30,000 tons, of which two-thirds would take rail to the Carwar port. It may be unnecessary now to discuss the figures of acreage and out-turn on which the Committee based their estimate, though it might be shown that these figures are moderate. But from a review of the general figures of cotton export from Bombay since the American war, we find that the total export to Europe has, on the whole, risen, thus:—

Cotton Exports from Bombay Port in Season.

	Cwts.
1872 - - -	3,356,000
1873 - - -	3,454,000
1874 - - -	4,462,000
1875 - - -	4,536,000
1876, a year of short yield -	3,675,000

For these figures we are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Hamilton Maxwell, of the firm of Nicol and Company, Bombay, who was kind enough to communicate them by telegraph.

And Sir William Muir in his financial statement of March 1876 said, "Bombay shows "an advance in raw cotton of 1,951,000*l.*, and Madras a similar increase of 331,000*l.*, "while Bengal fell off by 253,000." In the absence of further data, which are not available here (Bellary) at the time of writing, it would seem that the cotton export of India is being maintained.

9. There is one other feature in the traffic prospects of this line which may be noted. As yet the oil seed export of Karwar is not large, yet the black soil of Dharwar and Bellary is very well suited for oil seeds. And if there were a railway through these tracts there is every probability that the area under oil seeds in, and the traffic in seeds from, these districts would increase as rapidly as the acreage of and trade in this important staple have risen during the last two years throughout Berar, Khandesh, Nagpore, and the Nerbudda country.

10. There is one consideration on the other side that is against the financial success of the scheme to be noted, and that is that the railway and its traffic may hereafter involve the Government in heavy charges for improving Karwar port. The Committee write (paragraph 44): "We wish it, however, to be clearly understood that should "Karwar ever become the port or base of a system of railways, and its trade receive "great development, it will undoubtedly be essential that harbour works of some mag- "nitude be undertaken, which would add to the limited sheltered accommodation at "present available for shipping." What the final cost of these suggested works might be it might not be safe to estimate, but it was alluded to in Major-General Kennedy's letter of February 1873 as 10 lakhs of rupees.

11. It will be seen from the annexed papers on the cotton traffic of the Bellary country that some of the best informed traders consider that the Madras port will attract more cotton from the ceded districts than Karwar is likely to do. And they even say that the proposed line, if made, will probably bring Dharwar cotton *viâ* Bellary to Madras instead of carrying Bellary cotton *viâ* Dharwar to Karwar. About the magnitude of the cotton trade there seems no doubt whatever, and if the anticipations of the Bellary cotton dealers prove correct, then the section from Hooblee to Bellary will be the best paying part of the line, and it will bring a heavy traffic on to the 305 miles of guaranteed railway between Madras and Bellary. And this length from Bellary to Hooblee is the cheapest portion of the line, costing 6,000*l.* a mile as against 9,000*l.* per mile on the length from Hooblee to Karwar.

12. Since the foregoing paragraphs were written, information has been received that the Government of India have admitted the Karwar State Railway into the list of projects which are to be taken up within the next six years. The local authorities estimate

that about Rs. 50,00,000 will have to be spent on relief wages in the Bellary district during the next five months, and they consider that the suitable works in the district will be exhausted before that total has been spent. It therefore seems decidedly advisable to spend as much as practicable of the relief wage fund on the work of the Karwar Railway, which is (it is believed) to be undertaken during the next six years. And the part of the line on which relief labour can be most promptly and conveniently employed in the section from Bellary to Hooblee. Bellary and Karwar Railway scheme.

No. 77.

Local. No. 91 E.—325 of 1877. Nos. 77. 133.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

V.—Establishments.

Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce,
February 12, 1877.

I have the honour to acknowledge your letter No. 116, dated 2nd instant,* which was received in Bombay on the 7th idem; a copy of this letter, published in the Gazette of India of the 3rd instant, had reached this Government in that form on the day previous to the receipt of the original. Interpretation of the instructions of the Government of India in regard to preservation of life. *No. 42.

2. From this communication his Excellency in Council learns that, when he issued the orders contained in Government Resolution No. 30 E.—158, dated 25th January 1877, he had "seriously misunderstood" the views of the Government of India, as expressed in their instructions to Sir Richard Temple, and his Excellency in Council is so fully sensible of the responsibility cast upon this Government for correctly interpreting all orders of the Government of India in the present crisis, that he feels compelled first to call attention to certain prominent passages in the instructions to Sir Richard Temple.

3. In the 2nd paragraph of those instructions you observe,—

> "Even for an object of such paramount importance as the preservation of life, it is obvious that there are limits which are imposed upon us by the facts with which we have to deal. If the estimate of the Local Governments are to be accepted, the relief of the existing scarcity in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, including loss of revenue, will not cost less than six and a half millions sterling. Considering that the revenues are barely sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure of the Empire, and that heavy additional taxation is both financially and politically impracticable, we must plainly admit that the task of saving life, irrespective of the cost, is one which it is beyond our power to undertake. The simple fact is this, that the recurrence of a few famines, such as that from which the country is now suffering, or such as that which occurred three years ago in Behar, would, if measures of relief were carried on upon that principle, go far to render the future Government of India impossible. The embarrassment of debt, and the weight of taxation, consequent on the expenditure thereby involved, would soon become more fatal to the country than famine itself."

And in the 3rd paragraph you add,—

> "If relief works are carried on upon wrong principles; if labour is not strictly exacted from all who are physically able to work; if proper supervision is wanting, and people find that they can obtain, almost for the asking, and in return for next to no work at all, wages in money or in grain, there is hardly any limit to the numbers who even in prosperous times may be attracted to them."

4. This Government, therefore, came to the conclusion that, in the opinion of the Government of India, there was a limit in respect of cost beyond which, even for the preservation of life, the measures of Government could not go; and, further, that with the object of keeping the expenditure within that limit, and thus enabling the Government to give the largest amount of relief to the population, it was the duty of this Government to exact labour strictly from all who were physically able to work; and they, therefore, ordered that a person refusing to perform work, which he was capable of doing, should not, while persisting in that refusal, be relieved at the public expense.

5. In the 4th paragraph of your letter of the 2nd instant, the idea of limiting the efforts which the Government should make for the preservation of life by any consideration of cost, is, however, entirely discarded, and you announce the determination of the Governor-General in Council, "which he thought had already been made sufficiently

Interpretation of instructions in regard to preservation of life.

" clear," to be, that " no one shall die of starvation if it be in the power of the Govern- " ment to prevent it." The Government of India then rules as follows :—

" We say that human life shall be saved at any cost and at any effort; no man, woman, or child shall die of starvation."

From these words it is to be understood that there are no limits to the responsibility of the State, either as regards the efforts it may make, or the outlay it may incur, with the object of preventing people from dying of starvation.

6. The test case taken by this Government was that of a man " who wilfully and " deliberately refuses to render the reasonable equivalent demanded by the Government " for the means of subsistence which it is ready to afford him;" and in modification of the previous orders, which were, that no person was to be permitted " through obstinacy " to die of starvation," it was, in accordance with what was at the time believed to be the intention of the Government of India ordered, that no relief should be given to " an individual refusing to perform work which he is capable of doing." Your 5th paragraph, however, contains the following instructions :—

> " Under almost all circumstances, which, if the Government of India is rightly informed, are likely to hold good in the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency, where the population is almost wholly agricultural, and accustomed to field and other manual labour, the rule laid down by the Government of Bombay appears quite proper. That rule is, that ' in the case of an individual refusing to ' perform work which he is capable of doing on the terms fixed by Government ' no relief shall be afforded him at the public expense during the continuance of ' such refusal.' "

7. This sentence, I am to submit, seems practically to confirm, and to accord approval to, the orders issued by this Governvent, which, earlier in the letter, the Government of India hold to have indicated a " serious misunderstanding " of the intentions of the Government of India; and his Excellency in Council, I am to state, feels himself, therefore, in some difficulty. It is true that your letter goes on to state that " the result of " such refusal will, certainly, in the case of agricultural labourers, not be death from " starvation;" but the question is, should there be such obstinacy is the individual to be allowed to die ?

8. The Governor-General in Council expresses his disbelief " that any one ever died " of starvation through obstinacy," and the Governor in Council would be glad to think that his Excellency is right in this opinion; but there is some reason to apprehend that instances of the nature referred to are not so unlikely to happen as is assumed. Recent reductions in relief wages have been made in this presidency, with a view of giving full effect to the policy first announced by the Government of India, orders regarding the exaction of moderate tasks on relief works have been reiterated, and measures have been taken for transferring able-bodied people from the Civil to the Public Works Department works. The immediate effect has been, that large numbers of people have left the works, declining to submit to the reduction of wages, or to perform the required tasks, or to accept the work tendered. There are other influences at work to sustain them in this movement, and the people are, many of them, voluntarily, suffering great privations.

9. Some of those who are on strike are comparatively strong and robust, and able, for a time, to endure privation, but others are weakly; they appear to be acting in bodies, and in concert, and the fear is, that before the majority, who are comparatively strong, are brought to reason, some of the weakly will be reduced to a condition of great prostration. They wander about, and may die out of reach of assistance. The Government, therefore, is placed in this dilemma: if they give way to the people, they cannot successfully carry out the policy of the Government of India—in which they concur—of strictly limiting expenditure; and if they do not give way, some deaths may occur. Feeling, therefore, that their rule has been approved by the Government of India, under what they cannot but hold to be too sanguine a view of the case, they will, until otherwise instructed, act upon the positive injunction contained in your 4th paragraph, that " no one shall die of starvation if it be in the power of the Government to prevent it."

10. As regards the cases put in your 5th paragraph of the respectable class of women who cannot appear in public, and of those who have caste prejudices, I am to observe that this Government endeavoured to guard themselves as regards both. It was stated in their Resolution which the Government of India review, that the orders would apply to those only who refused a reasonable equivalent, or who refused to perform work which he is capable of doing, and in the Summary No. XI., for the week ending the 26th January 1877, it was stated as follows :—" It is scarcely necessary to add that Government never " require people to do work forbidden by their caste rules." This Government had no intention to compel women to appear in public whose habit it is not to do so; or to

demand from any individual work or service which his caste prejudices would render it impossible for him to perform.

11. His Excellency in Council, I am to say in conclusion, is fully sensible of the privations to which large masses of the people are now subjected, and from which the utmost efforts of the Government can only partially relieve them. He will persevere in his endeavours to enforce economy without a sacrifice of life, and he is confident that the district officers will continue to afford their assistance with the praiseworthy energy and ability they have up to this time exhibited.

No. 78.

Telegram, No. 181, dated 13th February 1877. No. 92.

From ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Revenue Department, Calcutta, to SECRETARY, Public Works Department, Bombay.

Your telegram of yesterday. Government of India entirely shares opinion of Government of Bombay as to mischief of yielding to strike on relief works attributable to combination, and thinks that relief wages should not be raised if Government of Bombay are quite satisfied that the rates are sufficient to keep people alive—a point which must necessarily be left to its judgment. Government of India presumes that if small works are closed for the transference of labour to large ones, you will make arrangements for providing for the sustenance of the labourers during their transit. The Viceroy has received telegrams from Sholapore complaining of reductions of wages, but has taken no notice of them, being fully persuaded that the Bombay Government will act with sound discretion in carrying out a difficult but necessary operation.

Wages of those employed on relief works.

No. 79.

XXX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, regarding the Loss of Revenue that may be caused by the Failure of Harvests during the years 1876–1877 in the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras. Nos. 80. 115.

Bellary, 13th February 1877.

I have already submitted, in my minutes of the 22nd January* and the 5th February,† the best estimate I can frame of the probable relief expenditure in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. I now present an estimate of the loss of revenue that will probably be caused in the two presidencies by the present failure of harvests, together with an abstract of the probable cost of the famine in respect both of relief expenditure and of loss of revenue.

Loss of revenue in 1876–77 in Bombay and Madras.
*Part II., p. 59.
†No. 52.

2. The total relief expenditure was in those minutes taken at—

		Rs.	
For the Bombay Presidency	- -	1,26,00,000	
For the Madras Presidency	- -	2,92,00,000	
Total	-	4,18,00,000	£4,180,000

The present estimate shows that the loss of revenue due to the scarcity will probably be—

		Rs.	
In the Bombay Presidency	- -	54,00,000	
In the Madras Presidency	- -	1,57,50,000	
Total	-	2,11,50,000	£2,115,000

Grand total of relief expenditure and loss of revenue - - £6,295,000

But if the Government, instead of remitting the whole of the land revenue due from lands whereon there has been severe failure of harvest, should see fit to suspend the Government demand, and if it should be decided to collect in future years such propor-

Loss of revenue in Bombay and Madras.

tions of the arrears as the people might reasonably be expected to pay, then the total cost of the famine might be very materially reduced: 183 lakhs (1,830,000*l.*) is estimated as the amount of land revenue which ought not to be collected this season; and it is possible that out of this total arrear about 130 lakhs (1,300,000) could be collected in future years, provided that the rainy seasons of 1877 and 1878 be favourable. If the arrears of land revenue of the present season be suspended and not remitted, and if these arrears be hereafter collected wherever possible, then the total net cost of the famine may perhaps be reduced from $6\frac{1}{4}$ to about 5 millions sterling.

3. With this heavy relief expenditure in prospect, with the certainty of temporary diminution of land revenue, and of partial loss of other heads of revenue, it is very important to minimise the ultimate loss of land revenue as far as possible. So far as I am at present informed, it will not be possible to collect this season a larger proportion of the land revenue than the revenue authorities of the two presidencies themselves propose to collect. But if the arrears, which cannot be now collected, be suspended only instead of being remitted, some chance at least will be afforded of recovering the arrears of this year, in part at least, if bumper harvests should be vouchsafed next season.

4. In my opinion it is quite just for Government, acting in behalf of the public treasury and of the general taxpayer, to recover in future years what fairly and reasonably can be recovered, on account of the arrears of a bad season. In all the districts of Bombay and in many of the Madras districts long term settlements of land revenue have been made at moderate and equitable rates. Even in the districts of the Madras Presidency, which have not yet received a long term settlement, the rates of land revenue assessment have been made lighter and more equitable than they were before. So that our system allows to the people the profits accruing during good years, thereby conceding to them a part of the full share of the produce which would have been demanded under preceding Governments. Some remissions of land revenue will in the end have to be made. But I desire to submit this expression of my opinion that, for the present at least, the land revenue demand, which cannot be collected this season, from the drought-stricken districts should be suspended and not remitted.

No. 80.

No. 115. MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding the estimated Loss of Revenue on account of the Failure of Crops in 1876–77.

Bellary, 13th February 1877.

Loss of revenue through failure of crops in 1876–77.

Estimates have been prepared showing, according to available information, the probable relief expenditure in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies during the season from September 1876 to August 1877. The totals were—

	Rs.	£
Estimated Bombay expenditure - -	1,26,00,000	or 1,260,000
„ Madras expenditure - -	2,92,00,000	or 2,920,000
Total -	4,18,00,000	4,180,000

If everything turns out well, if the usual spring and summer rain falls seasonably and sufficiently, then the expenditure may come short of this total. But if the expected April showers should not come, if distress should break out in fresh districts, or if it should be impossible to maintain the economical restrictions now being imposed, then the total may be exceeded. Out of the total of about $4\frac{1}{4}$ millions sterling, probably more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions have at the present time of writing (10th February) been already spent. Four months have yet to elapse before the pressure can even, at the best, greatly abate; and we can hardly hope that expenditure on a large scale will cease until the next six months are over.

2. There remains the question of the loss of revenue. This will be of two kinds: first, revenue which cannot be collected at the time it is due, and secondly, revenue which probably can never be collected at all. In Sir Richard Temple's Minute of the 12th January, on the Deccan district, it was stated (paragraph 12) that, according to the estimate furnished by the Collectors and accepted by the Commissioner of the southern division, the loss of land revenue would probably be 50 lakhs of rupees.

3. So far as Sir Richard Temple has been able to learn, there will not be directly due to the famine any appreciable loss of revenue in the Bombay Presidency under the head

of stamps, salt, or Customs. Some loss of revenue there will be under the head of abkari, or excise on spirits; but this loss will probably not exceed 3½ or at most 4 lakhs. Regarding these miscellaneous items of revenue there is no certain ground for an estimate, which must therefore be subject to correction. Loss of revenue in 1876–77.

4. The Revenue Board of the Madras Presidency, on the 30th November, estimated (see Madras Government Proceedings of the 3rd January) that the loss of revenue caused by the failure of crops would be—

		£
Land revenue - -	133 lakhs of rupees or	1,330,000
Abkari or liquor excise -	12 „ „	120,000
Customs - -	½ „ „	5,000
Salt - - -	9 „ „	90,000
Stamps - -	3 „ „	30,000
Total	157½ „ „	1,575,000

5. As the Board of Revenue, at paragraph 17 of their report, state the total estimated loss of revenue at 142 lakhs, it should perhaps be explained how each of the about figures was obtained from the report of the Board; thus—

Land Revenue.—Paragraph 11 of the Board's report shows that the "extraordinary "remissions necessary during the current year" are 120 lakhs, while 13 lakhs will be sufficient to cover the additional loss during the following year. It is also stated in the same paragraph that the total loss in the two years, compared with the average collections of the past five years, is estimated at 133 lakhs of rupees.

Abkari (liquor excise).—Paragraph 11 of the Board's letter estimates that Rs. 53,32,500 only will be collected during the current year as against the previously sanctioned estimate of Rs. 63,80,000. This gives a loss of 10½ lakhs. The same paragraph estimates that the following year (1877–78) will yield an abkari revenue of Rs. 61,70,000 as against Rs. 63,39,000 the actual of 1875–76. This gives a loss of 1½ lakhs in round numbers for the coming year, and a loss of 12 lakhs for the two years.

Customs.—Paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Board's letter, and the appended statements, show that the sea Customs receipts, though about four lakhs less than the actuals of 1875–76, will yet be equal to the sanctioned estimate. The loss of four lakhs is probably due to other causes than famine, but the land Customs receipts are now taken by the Board at Rs. 62,000 below the sanctioned estimate; and this loss (of say ½ a lakh) may be due to famine.

Salt.—The statements appended to the Board's report give the following figures:—

	Rs.
Average of five years' actual receipts ending 1875–76 -	1,31,47,000
Sanctioned estimate for 1876–77 - - - -	1,36,50,000
Estimate now fixed by the Board for 1876–77 -	1,30,58,000
Ditto ditto 1877–78 -	1,33,69,300

This gives a loss of 6 lakhs on the current and 3 lakhs on the coming year, as compared with the estimate sanctioned before the scarcity began. Thus 9 lakhs may perhaps be taken as the loss due to famine.

Stamps.—The statement appended to the Board's report gives the following figures:—

	Rs.
Average of five years' actual receipts - - - -	45,84,000
Sanctioned estimate of 1876–77 - - - -	50,00,000
Estimate now fixed by the Board for 1876–77 -	48,00,000
Ditto ditto ditto 1877–78 -	49,00,000

showing a loss of three lakhs probably due to the famine.

6. When the Board of Revenue submitted their estimate they wrote that the Collectors "appear to have in general approached the question in a more desponding frame of "mind than is perhaps justifiable, and the Board think that the actual loss will "certainly not exceed the sums now reported. The estimate of loss is therefore a "maximum one." Sir Richard Temple, however, ascertained on the 6th February from the Board's secretary that the Board's estimate of loss of revenue was under revision, and that the estimated loss will probably exceed the figures offered by the Board on the 30th November.

Loss of revenue in 1876–77.

7. According to present information, therefore, the expected loss of revenue due to the famine will be—

	Land Revenue.	Other sources of Revenue.	Total.
Bombay Presidency -	50 lakhs	4 lakhs	54 lakhs.
Madras Presidency -	133 „	24½ „	157½ „
Total -	183 „	28½ „	211½ „
	or £1,830,000	£285,000	£2,115,000

8. Sir Richard Temple has no special information whereby he could check the figures offered by the Board, save only in respect of the "salt" revenue estimate. He ascertained from some of the collectors that the salt revenue was, so far, coming in steadily. And the statement published at page 86 of the "Gazette of India" shows that up to the end of December 1876 the salt revenue of Madras for the nine months ending on the 31st December was only Rs. 2,40,000 behind the receipts for the same period during the previous year 1875–76, and was somewhat above the average receipts of the three previous years. Possibly the loss on the salt revenue may be less than the figure taken in the Board's estimate.

9. But there is one very important general consideration which vitally affects any estimate of loss of revenue on account of famine, and that is the question whether the land revenue due from ryots whose crops have wholly or partially failed, should be remitted for ever, or whether the unpaid arrear should not for the present be held in suspense, so that a part, at any rate, of the arrears should be collected from ryots who may have good harvests during the next two years. Sir Richard Temple has already laid an expression of his views on this question before the Government of India. He considers that the general taxpayer cannot afford, and the circumstances of the case do not require, that the funds of the public treasury should be consumed at both ends to the full extent that has been proposed. About four and a quarter millions sterling are to be spent on relieving the people of certain districts, and there seems no reason why 1,830,000*l.* of land revenue due from those districts should also be permanently remitted, unless strict justice or unavoidable necessity absolutely dictate such wholesale remission of the public revenue.

10. From a strict justice point of view there is, as Sir Richard Temple understands the matter, no case for wholesale remission. All the affected districts in Bombay, and several of the districts in Madras, enjoy a 30 years' settlement, under which the land revenue is avowedly assessed at a rate which leaves a liberal margin to cover loss in bad years. Even in those Madras districts where a long term settlement has not yet been made, the land revenue rates are now very much lighter and more equitable than they were in former times. And there is no contract, either express or implied, between Government and the ryot that the land revenue shall be remitted when the crops fail or are short.

11. The only possible exception would be in the case of lands in the Madras Presidency irrigated from tanks or river channels, and assessed at what is locally known as "wet" rates. It appears to be the custom of revenue administration in Madras to remit the "wet" assessment of land for a year, in which by reason of failure of water supply no crop whatever is saved. If the custom as above described has been heretofore always observed, there might perhaps be difficulty in making an alteration this year. But as a matter of principle it would be reasonable to keep as an arrear against these lands so much of the "wet" assessment as would be equal to the land revenue thereon at the ordinary "dry" rate. But in any case care will have to be taken against any extension of the custom to irrigated lands on which the crop may have been short, without having utterly failed. For during a time of very high prices like the present, the money value of even a poor crop will have been very considerable.

12. If the case for remission fails from the point of view of strict justice, then Sir Richard Temple apprehends that there is nothing in the circumstances of the case to make general remission of land revenue necessary. All the Collectors with whom Sir Richard Temple has discussed the matter, considered the present rates of "dry"* assessment are light, and that the ryots could easily pay the arrears of this year, if the country is blessed with favourable seasons in 1877 and 1878. Of course, there may be exceptional cases, and partial remission may have to be granted in parts of Sholápúr and in some tracts of Kurnool, where the recent settlement caused considerable increase of revenue, or where the ryots are exceptionally poor. But much discrimination should be exercised, and no remissions should be granted as a

* Note.—In Madras, land irrigated from wells pays the "dry" rate of assessment only.

matter of course. Experience in Northern Behar shows that a body of ryots, whose rents were very much higher than the Bombay and Madras rates, were able to pay up, within two years after the famine was over, almost the whole of the price of the grain lent to them by the Government in the year 1874.

13. Sir Richard Temple fully admits that it would be regarded by the ryots as a gracious concession on the part of Government, if the land revenue, which cannot be collected this year, were to be remitted. If the country had a large surplus income, then much might be said for sparing the sufferers by drought and scarcity from the necessity of paying their arrears of land revenue. But the facts are unhappily otherwise, and if $1\frac{3}{4}$ millions of land revenue are finally remitted, the money will have to be made good in some other way. There will possibly be pressure on some of the ryots until the arrears are paid up, but it seems fairer to the rest of the Empire that such pressure should occur, rather than that the whole of this sum ($1\frac{3}{4}$ millions sterling) of land revenue should be remitted.

14. It may, indeed, happen that a part of the famine country may be afflicted for another year; should this unhappily be the case, the position would have to be reconsidered. For the present, the Government will doubtless make its arrangements in view of existing facts only.

15. If Sir Richard Temple's view on this very important point of land revenue remissions be accepted, then it may probably be the case that from 120 to 140 lakhs of land revenue will hereafter be collected out of the 183 lakhs which are estimated as probable arrears at the end of the famine, and the gross total cost of the famine of 1876-77 in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies will be—

	£	£
Relief expenditure—		
in Bombay	1,260,000	
in Madras	2,920,000	
		4,180,000
Loss of revenue—		
in Bombay	540,000	
in Madras	1,575,000	
		2,115,000
Total		6,295,000
Deduct probable recoveries of land revenue in future years		1,295,000
Net		£5,000,000

If, however, wholesale remissions be given, then the cost of the famine will be $6\frac{1}{4}$ millions sterling.

16. As a set-off against the famine expenditure may perhaps be reckoned the additional earnings on *all** the guaranteed Indian railways, due wholly to the famine grain traffic. The total extra net earnings on all the lines, due to the famine traffic, will probably be not less than 450,000*l.*,† the greater part of which will be a direct gain to the public treasury.

* East Indian Railway.
Great Indian Peninsula.
Scind, Punjab, and Delhi.
Bombay, Baroda.
Madras.
South India.
State Railways.

† 2,500 tons a day, for five months, over an average lead of 400 miles, gives, at 9 pie per ton per mile, about 700,000*l.* gross earnings.

No. 81.

XXXII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the Purchase and Transport of Government grain in the Madras Presidency. Nos. 82. 115.

13th February 1877.

Purchase and transport of grain in Madras Presidency.

I desire to take this opportunity of recording, subject to correction upon matters of fact, what I understand to be the state of the case in respect to the purchase and transport of Government grain in the Presidency of Madras.

2. When I proceeded to the Madras Presidency my information was that the Government of Madras had already purchased 30,000 tons of grain from places beyond the presidency, and intended to purchase large additional quantities, either locally or from distant places, according to circumstances, unless indeed the policy of purchasing grain by Government should be modified, either with reference to instructions from the Government of India, or in consequence of the progress of the private trade in grain. The probability of further purchases being intended was borne out by orders which had

Purchase and transport of grain in Madras.

been issued by Government for the transport of large quantities of grain in the ceded districts and Kurnool.

3. When at Madras on the 26th January I received from the Government of Madras two statements of the purchases made in Calcutta and in Madras, the first of which showed a total of 30,000 tons of rice, the amount ordered from Calcutta. The second showed an additional amount of 11,000 tons bought in Madras. The total thus amounted to 41,000 tons.

4. Besides this amount there were, as I understood, certain small quantities of grain purchased locally by district officers for payment of relief labourers in kind in preference to cash.

5. I learnt then at Madras that no further purchases by Government were either made or intended; that purchasing by Government in any way had ceased.

6. I have since had the advantage of verifying the above facts by conference with his Grace the Governor at Bellary on the 12th February, and I still understand that they are substantially correct, and that the Government of Madras have not purchased anything beyond the 30,000 tons from beyond the Presidency, and that no further local purchases have been or will be made.

7. When the cessation of purchases by Government was announced to me on the 26th January, it seemed to follow that the relation between the Government of Madras and Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company as Government grain brokers would immediately cease: such, indeed, I presumed to be the case. Up to that time, however, the impression in the interior of the presidency seemed to be that the firm were still up to that date considered as Government brokers. It was assumed that from that time at all events they would cease to be Government brokers. It has since been notified that they had already ceased to act in that capacity since the 5th of January.

8. As regards the transport of Government grain, I understood, when at Madras on the 26th January, that the transport arrangements in the ceded districts and Kurnool would be revised with reference to the cessation of Government purchases; that the grain already purchased by Government would be transported to suitable localities, and no more.

Part II., p. 38.

9. I had by a minute dated the 19th January, and transmitted on the same date from Cuddapah to Madras, recommended that the plan of paying the relief labourers in grain be abandoned, and that a part of the Government grain already purchased should be sent to places distant at least 60 miles from the railway, and that the rest should be held in reserve. No definite reply was given to me at the time, nor has any since been received by me to that recommendation. It seems to me, however, since I re-entered the ceded districts on the 10th February, that quantities of this grain are being sent to several places within 60 miles of the railway, and comparatively close at hand, and I gather that the transport arrangements are so made as to include the whole of the Government grain, leaving none in reserve. It appears to me clearly that the expense of carting the grain to these easily accessible places, that is, to places within 60 miles of the railway, might be saved, inasmuch as there is no likelihood of its being wanted in those places. And if such grain be regarded as a reserve, the least expensive arrangement will be to keep it at Madras, avoiding the cost of sending it up the country by railway and then carrying it by country carts further into the interior. I would again ask the consideration of the Government of Madras to the matter.

No. 82.

No. 115.

No. 62, dated Bellary, 13th February 1877.

From the Secretary to Sir Richard Temple to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Forwarding No. 81.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to forward copy of a minute recorded by him in respect to the purchase and transport of Government grain in the Madras Presidency.

2. Inasmuch as this subject has attracted some attention in the Calcutta market, and as it may receive the notice of the Government of India, Sir Richard Temple would be much obliged if the Government of Madras would favour him with information whether the facts as mentioned in this minute are correct. If the present statement is open to correction, or ought to be supplemented in any particular, Sir Richard Temple would be much obliged if you could, with the permission of the Madras Government, inform him accordingly.

No. 83.

Note by Lieutenant D. A. Scott, R.E., Officiating Deputy Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for guaranteed railways, on the accumulation of grain at stations on the East Indian Railway. Nos. 156. 181.

13th February 1877.

Accumulation of grain at the stations of the East Indian Railway.

On the 25th January I visited the stations between Howrah and Sahibgunge.

I found the platforms of most of the stations between Burdwan and Sahibgunge covered with bags of rice waiting to be carried to Howrah.

At each of these stations a register is kept, in which the dates of the receipt and despatch of consignments are entered. The consignments are despatched strictly in accordance with the place they occupy on this register.

2. The following statement gives the quantity of grain waiting despatch at the principal stations on the loop line on the dates on which I visited them.

In column two of this statement is given an approximate estimate of the amount of rice stored in the adjacent bazaars for export. This estimate can only be a very rough one; but it will serve to give one an idea of the enormous quantity of rice still remaining to be carried away by the railway from this district alone.

In the third column will be found the number of maunds despatched to Howrah during the week previous to my visit, viz., from the 18th to the 24th January inclusive.

APPROXIMATE Quantity of Grain for DESPATCH at the Principal Stations and adjacent Bazaars on the Loop Line.

Names of Stations.	Grain for despatch.		Quantity despatched from 18th to 24th January inclusive.	REMARKS.
	At Stations.	In Bazaars.		
	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	
Gooshkharah - - -	8,000	19,000	4,159	(*a*) On the 25th January 1877.
Bhulpore - - -	15,000	90,000	10,588	(*b*) On the 26th January 1877.
Amoodpore - - -	16,000	2,000	3,906	
Cynthea - - -	20,000	30,000	8,038	
Mullarpore - - -	11,000	1,000	(*a*) 4,747	
Rampore Haut - - -	7,000	19,000	6,776	
Nalhati - - -	53,000	21,000	10,456	
Mooraroee - - -	50,000	30,000	5,364	
Pakour - - -	12,000	38,000	4,300	
Sahibgunge - - -	11,000	5,000	23,113	
Bhaugulpore - - -	15,000	—	(*b*) 8,164	A very large quantity for export in the bazaar, merchants despatching goods by boats.
Colgong - - -	15,000	15,000	4,283	
Total -	2,33,000	2,55,000	93,894	

3. Approximately there were 5,00,000 maunds of rice at the stations and in the bazaars waiting to be taken away, and the amount removed during the seven days given in the statement is a little short of 1,00,000 maunds. At this rate it would take five weeks to clear off the grain accumulated on this part of the line.

From a letter which I received from Mr. Hime, the Collector of the Beerbhoom district (see Appendix), it appears that no heavy export of rice need be expected after this rush, so that by the end of this month it may fairly be supposed that the Railway Company will have carried off nearly the whole of this large rice traffic.

The country about the stations on this district has been invaded by a number of foreign merchants from different parts of India, who have been attracted to these parts by the unusually good harvest and the high prices obtainable in Calcutta.

4. The most noticeable accumulations of grain were at Bhulpore and Nalhati.

At Bhulpore bags of rice were heaped up on both sides of the road leading to the station for about a quarter of a mile. There had been a fall of rain two or three days previous to my arrival, and some damage had been done to the rice, but the loss sustained by the merchants could not have exceeded one per cent.

At Nalhati, where the State railway joins the East Indian Railway, great discontent prevailed amongst the merchants owing to the right of preference to through goods from the State railway having been abolished. I learnt from Mr. Hoyle, outdoor traffic inspector of the loop line, who accompanied me over his district, that it was customary to give priority of despatch to through goods; but that owing to several merchants of

Accumulation of grain at stations of the East Indian Railway.

Nalhati having booked their consignments to Azimgunge and then re-booked them through to Howrah, in order to reap the advantage of this preference, the Traffic Manager had put a stop to the arrangement. Through goods are now treated as local goods, and are registered accordingly.

Major Luard, who visited Nalhati on duty some few days after I was there, and who had more leisure to inquire into the actual circumstances of the case, has written a note on the subject, so that it is unnecessary for me to say more than this, that I think, before taking any decisive steps in the case, the matter should have been referred to the Agent for his consideration, and also that timely notice of the change should have been given to the Manager of the Nalhati line; for, however fair this action may have been to the majority of the local merchants of Nalhati, it was hardly fair on the State railway, which is responsible for the through consignments lying at Nalhati station.

At Burdwan, the whole station compound was filled with bags of rice. The actual amount registered on the 25th January was 58,000 maunds, and consignments were still being brought in. The total amount of rice carried away from the 18th to 24th January was 11,000 maunds; but the register was only cleared off as far back as the 4th December 1876.

5. On the 27th January I met Mr. Hudson, District Traffic Superintendent, at Dinapore. He informed me that in his district (which extends from Nawadi to Mogulserai) he was receiving no empty waggons, and he was able to work off the outwards traffic with the waggons which brought in the inwards traffic. There were no noticeable accumulations of grain in this district, but the station-masters at almost all the stations told me that merchants were not sending their goods to the stations because there was so much delay in procuring waggons.

6. Between Mogulserai and Allahabad the stations were pretty free from accumulations of grain. At Mirzapore, on the 29th January, there were 30 waggon loads of seeds, sugar, &c. waiting despatch. The seeds were for Howrah and Bombay for export, and the rice for Howrah. The station-master informed me that in former years the rice traffic had been inwards coming from Bengal, but this year, owing to the extraordinary demand in Howrah, merchants were exporting it. There was a large quantity of seeds for despatch in the bazaar.

7. On the 30th January, at Cawnpore, I found an enormous accumulation of grain. There were on the ground 100,000 bags, or 2,50,000 maunds, of grain for the Great Indian Peninsula Railway alone, but only a small quantity for Howrah. The gates of the station yard had been closed since the 15th of the month, but they were to be opened again on the 31st, when 100,000 bags of wheat and seeds for Howrah were actually registered for admission. No more consignments were being sent to the Great Indian Peninsula line on account of the block of loaded waggons at Jubbulpore; but as soon as this block was removed, through booking would be resumed.

8. From the 1st to the 29th January the total weight of grain sent from Cawnpore to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was 2,66,750 maunds, and to the main line during the same time 2,73,400 maunds. The average number of loaded waggons despatched per day during these days was 89.

9. Mr. Carter, the Deputy Traffic Manager, informed me that here and at all stations in his district the strictest impartiality was observed in the despatch of consignments, and that preference was not even given to English firms, who brought some lakhs of rupees to the Company yearly.

10. The principal accumulations in the district, which extends from Cawnpore to Delhi, were at Etawah and Delhi.

At Etawah station there were 6,000 maunds of grain, cotton, and ghee for Howrah, and outside the station about 50 waggon-loads of wheat for Howrah, and other grains for the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

At Delhi there were in all 180 waggon-loads of goods lying inside the station yard, 400 waggon loads outside the station yard, in the serai, and a very large quantity in the bazaar. From this district the number of loaded waggons sent to Howrah and stations below Cawnpore during January was 2,222, and to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway 568.

11. On the Jubbulpore line there were very large quantities of grain accumulated at the four stations next Jubbulpore, namely, at Kutnee, Sleemanabad, Sehora Road, and Deoree.

The following statement gives the quantity of goods registered at these stations, with an approximate estimate of goods stored in the bazaar and outside the station compound for export.

STATEMENT showing Quantity of Outwards Goods on hand at some of the Stations on the Jubbulpore Line, 5th February 1877.

Accumulation of grain at stations of the East Indian Rail way.

Name of Station.	Quantity of Goods at Station.	Description.	Where for.	Approximate Quantity of Goods in the Bazaar.	Number of Waggons supplied in December 1876.	Number of Waggons supplied in January 1877.
Kutnee - - - -	5,000 mds. -	Rice, wheat, seed, and mowha flower.	Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	40,000 bags, or about 110,000 maunds.	194	135
Sleemanabad - - -	7,000 „ -	Grain, seeds, and mowha flower.	„	8,000 mds. -	53	45
Sehora Road - - -	25,000 „ -	Rice, wheat, teel-seed and lin-seed.	„	10,000 „ -	66	61
Deoree - - - -	42,000 „ -	Wheat, seeds, rice, &c.	„	12,000 „ -	95	67

12. At Jubbulpore, on the 4th February, there were 26,000 bags or 65,000 maunds of grain, &c. waiting despatch. Goods registered so far back as the end of November last were only then being sent off. I was told that there were about 20,000 bags of grain for export in the bazaar.

On this date (4th February) there were 227 loaded East Indian Railway waggons waiting to be taken away by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. A statement is given in the Appendix showing the number of East Indian Railway waggons on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway during January; also the number of East Indian Railway waggons detained at Jubbulpore daily, &c. From this statement it will be seen that—

The daily average number of East Indian Railway waggons on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway during January was - 727

„ „ sent to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway - - - - 93

„ „ returned loaded - - - 7 } 81

„ „ „ unloaded - - - 74 }

„ „ detained at Jubbulpore - - 192

13. Thus, during this great rush of down traffic, the East Indian Railway has lost the use of a large number of waggons, for which (I was informed by the Deputy Traffic Manager) they get no return from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Considering that the stock of waggons on the East Indian Railway is insufficient to meet the present requirements of the traffic, this large withdrawal of waggons prevents the Company from working off the enormous accumulation of goods at some of their stations, which otherwise they might relieve to a very great extent.

14. The station-master at Jubbulpore informed me that lately the Great Indian Peninsula Railway had cut down their number of outwards trains from 10 to 6, on account of a deficiency of break vans. They had, however, borrowed some from the East Indian Railway.

He also said that in calculating the loads of their trains, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway took two of the East Indian Railway waggons as equivalent to three of their own; so that 20 waggons only were carried away by a Great Indian Peninsula train out of the usual East Indian Railway train load of 30 waggons. The reason of this is, that the carrying capacity of an East Indian Railway waggon is 10 tons, that of the Great Indian Peninsula waggon being only six tons.

15. Altogether it is clear that the inability of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to work off the rush of traffic brought down upon them has caused great loss and inconvenience to the East Indian Railway.

Another matter was brought to my notice at Jubbulpore which deserves attention.

The waggon mileage rate on both lines is the same, the carrying capacity of the East Indian Railway waggons being 10 tons, whilst those of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are most of them 6 tons.

16. On the 26th January I met the Traffic Manager at Jamalpore. He assured me that there had been no undue detention of East Indian Railway waggons on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and that they were all (with perhaps one or two exceptions) returned within the allotted time. This seems to me to be a very liberal allowance, since the average detention of each waggon is about 10 days.

Grain traffic on East Indian Railway.

The following figures give an idea of the present enormous down traffic on the E. I. R. :—

Goods carried to Howrah during December 1876.

	Tons.
Rice	30,000
Wheat	16,000
Other grains	13,000
Pulses	500
Total	59,500

To the Great Indian Peninsula Railway during the same month.

	Tons.
Wheat	7,370
Rice	7,120
Pulses	5,700
Other grains	1,470
Total	21,660

The traffic to the Madras line from the E. I. R. is merely nominal. Out of a daily average of nearly 800 tons of grain booked through on to the G. I. P. Railway during December, not more than 30 tons went on to the Madras line.

The average number of miles run per day (including those run on foreign lines) by covered goods waggons, open-sided waggons, and goods break vans during November 1876, as compared with November 1875, is as follows :—

	November 1876. Miles.	November 1875. Miles.
Covered goods waggons	115¼	96¾
Open-side waggons	62¼	41¾
Goods break vans	118¼	102½
The average for the whole stock is	90¼	74

17. In conclusion, I may add that this heavy traffic on the E. I. R. is being conducted with regularity, and consignments are despatched with the strictest impartiality.

At each station a register of goods is kept, in which the dates of receipt and despatch of consignments are shown. This register is strictly adhered to. It is hardly necessary for me to say that the goods rolling stock is inadequate to meet this heavy rush of traffic. At all the stations I visited (and I visited all the stations except those on the Chord and some of the branch lines), I do not think that there was a single station at which the station-master did not inform me that he was in want of waggons.

In the Appendix will be found two letters from the Traffic Manager, E. I. R., to the Agent of the Company, concerning the traffic to the G. I. P. Railway. It will be seen from the latter paragraph of his letter dated 22nd January 1877, that he repudiates the notion that more favour has been shown to the down traffic to Howrah than to the traffic to the G. I. P. Railway.

Indeed, it is evident from paragraphs 12 to 15 of this report, that the E. I. R. has not only given the G. I. P. Railway more traffic than it can deal with, but has also given it a large number of waggons, the use of which it could ill afford to lose.

No. 84.

Nos. 85. 115.

MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding the Conditions and Prospects of the Mysore Province.

Bellary, 13th February 1877.

Mysore Province.

Sir Richard Temple, at the request of the Government of India, visited Bangalore, and conferred with the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Saunders, C.B. By the courtesy of Mr. Saunders, he met all the officers of the Civil and Public Works Departments at the head-quarters of the Mysore Administration; he met a deputation of the chief traders of Bangalore, and he travelled through the Bangalore and Kolar districts in company with the Commissioner, Colonel Pearse, and with the Deputy Commissioners, Mr. Ricketts and Mr. B. Krishna Iengar, C.S.I. Near Bangalore, and also in the interior of the

Bangalore and Kolar districts, Sir Richard Temple was able to inspect several gangs of relief labourers, and also some of the charitable relief houses. Mysore Province.

2. The province of Mysore consists of eight districts, with a total population of five millions. The population, the area, the estimated average out-turn of the current season's harvests, the number of persons on relief works and on charitable relief, and the proportion borne by the persons on relief to the whole population is shown for each district in the following statement. The per-centages of the population that are in receipt of relief does not, it will be seen, vary precisely with the extent of failure of crop. In some cases explanation of the variation can be readily given. For instance, the Túmkúr district sends away annually some 30,000 labourers to the coffee districts. This year the coffee emigration was far larger than usual, and so fewer people were thrown upon the works. A similar explanation applies, in a less degree, to the Chittaldroog district. Many of these labourers are, however, now returning, because the coffee crop too is suffering from the drought, and many of the people will probably come upon the relief works.

Name of District.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Proportion of Crops saved.	Number on Relief Works in beginning of January.	Number on Charitable Relief in beginning of January.	Per-centage of the total Population who are thus receiving Relief.	Remarks.
Bangalore - -	2,914	828,000	2 annas	12,983	11,527	3 per cent.	*In the Kolar memorandum the proportion of the crop saved was taken at 2 annas, which was the Deputy Commissioner's estimate. The present figures give the estimate formed by the Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner.
Kolar - -	2,577	618,000	3* „	8,500	3,763	2 „	
Túmkúr - -	3,606	632,000	2 „	8,900	2,100	1¼ „	
Mysore -	4,127	948,000	8 to 11 „	5,560	3,699	1 „	
Hassan - -	3,291	669,000	8 „	9,746	4,249	2 „	
Shimoga - -	3,797	499,000	9 „	1,236	1,546	½ „	
Kadur - -	2,294	334,000	4 „	6,296	1,430	2 „	
Chittaldroog -	4,471	531,000	2 „	6,000	1,780	1½ „	
Total -	27,077	5,054,000	—	59,301	30,088	1¾ per cent.	

3. In the Hassan and Shimoga districts, which lie close to the Western Ghâts, there was some rainfall, and there was a moderate harvest. In the Mysore district the rainfall to the south and the Cauvery irrigation to the north have brought up the average yield of the district. But over the rest of the province there has been grievous failure of rain; nearly all the rain-fed tanks in the northern districts are dry; and the "dry" crop has, for the most part, failed. The disastrous effect to the country from the failure of the tanks may be judged from the fact that Mysore possesses 16,000 irrigation tanks, and the "wet" or irrigated land is one-sixth of the whole cultivated area of the province. This failure has affected two-thirds of the Mysore province, while tracts inhabited by more than two millions of people must be held to be severely distressed.

4. The difficulties of the present year are aggravated by the facts that the crops of the previous year (1875–76) were poor, equal to about one-third of an ordinary yield all over the province. The crops of 1874–75 were, however, good and full. So bad had the failure of the previous year been in some parts, that in July 1876 water began to fail in parts of Chittaldroog. Large importations of grain into Bangalore by railway began in October; but it was not until the end of November, when the latter rains (north-east monsoon) had absolutely failed, that relief operations were generally begun throughout the province.

5. The grain markets of Bangalore and of the Mysore province are well supplied. Most of the grain exposed for sale is foreign grain that has come into Bangalore by railway from Madras and from the west coast. Private trade began early in the autumn to bring grain into Bangalore, and has been very active ever since. The grain brought into Mysore by railway during the last two months is returned as follows:—

During the Month of	Carried into		
	Bangalore.	Other Mysore Stations.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
December 1876 - -	10,570	1,344	11,914
January 1877 - -	10,820	2,588	13,408

Mysore Province.

The grain dealers say that this importation will continue until June (or July), so long as there is grain at Madras or anywhere else to come. They say that their only difficulty is the delay which sometimes occurs in getting consignments off from Madras by train. It seems that the Bangalore dealers despatch daily some hundreds of cart-loads of grain into the districts of the interior. This grain goes into the Bangalore, Túmkúr, and Chittaldroog districts Parts of the Bellary* and Kolar districts also draw their supplies from Bangalore. The Mysore district lives at present on its home produce, while the districts of Hassan, Shimoga, and Kudoor are subsisting on their own produce eked out by food imported from the western coast. These three districts last mentioned have large highland tracts abutting on the Western Ghâts, wherein the rainfall has been good.

* Note. — When Sir Richard Temple visited Pennekonda, the southern division of Bellary, he found that its three taluks (250,000 population) drew the whole of their supplies from Bangalore. But a part of the Chittaldroog district gets supplied from Bellary.

6. The traders say that the local stocks will not come out into the market until the tanks fill in June or July next, and the next crop is thereby assured. Until that time the demand for imported grain will continue. Indeed, in the month of May, when the ports on the west coast are practically closed, new demand on the Bangalore source of supply may arise from districts which are now fed from the west. There are excellent bridged roads all over the country, and there is abundance of carts and draught cattle, so that supplies can be carried to whatever tracts require and can pay for them.

7. So far as the facts can be ascertained tracts containing $2\frac{3}{4}$ millions of people are now drawing grain from the railway between Bangalore and the eastern border of Mysore; probably nearly two-thirds of this population may be consuming old stocks, and thus perhaps 900,000 people may require imported grain. An import of 13,000 tons a month would support this population, and the railway is already doing more than this. But this calculation would show that Mysore will continue to draw grain largely from Madras by railway up to an average of about 430 tons daily. So that the Mysore demand upon the powers of the railway is and will remain even larger than was supposed at the time when the proposal for doubling the Madras Railway to Arconum was considered and was recommended by Sir Richard Temple.

8. The Madras Government desired Sir Richard Temple to ascertain whether Bangalore could not draw some of its supplies from the port of Negapatam *viâ* the Southern Railway; and they stated that freights from Calcutta to Negapatam were the same as to Madras, while the grain rates on the Southern Railway had been purposely lowered, so as to make it as cheap for Bangalore dealers to import by Negapatam as by Madras. The dealers, when questioned, replied that they had not heard of the reduction of the railway freight rates by Negapatam, that they had correspondents at Madras, but not at the southern ports, and that there was no great imported store at Negapatam for them to draw upon as there was at Madras. They admitted, however, that if it were demonstrably cheaper, and as speedy to get grain *viâ* Negapatam, that route would no doubt be taken.

9. Prices of grain are easier than they were; thus at Bangalore the prices have ranged:—

	Number of Seers sold for One Rupee.		
	Common Rice.	Rági.	Cholum or Jowári.
Last fortnight of December -	$6\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	7
First fortnight of January -	$6\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{3}{4}$
Second fortnight of January -	7	$9\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$

The prices in the interior of the affected districts, for instance, in Túmkúr and Chittaldroog, range from 10 to 15 per cent. dearer. In the Kolar district, through which the railway passes, prices are much the same as in Bangalore.

10. The memorandum on Kolar shows that in this district a large number of relief works are ready, and that many of these works are actually open. In the Bangalore district, as also in Túmkúr and Chittaldroog districts, relief works are open; and the Chief Commissioner has now issued orders that relief works shall not be stopped in tracts where they are really needed by reason of the temporary failure of money allotments. All the work is done at ordinary piece-work rates, and the officers of the Engineering

Department co-operate most fully with the civil officers in carrying out relief works. The relief works in progress are mainly tanks, on which so much work has to be done all over the country before the many chains of irrigation tanks are all brought up to the required standard of completeness. All the work, therefore, that is being done is undoubtedly good and useful work. Mysore Province.

11. Sir Richard Temple inspected the gangs on two great works near Bangalore, namely, the waterworks tank and the Dharmboody tank. One, if not both, of these works would be undertaken and pressed forward in ordinary years. Among the thousands of labourers on these two works Sir Richard Temple did not detect any persons who seemed to be in a reduced physical condition, though he saw considerable numbers of men and women who appeared well able to take care of themselves without State aid. Sir Richard Temple also inspected several gangs on large and small works in the interior of the Bangalore and Kolar districts. On a tank near Doodha Ballapore, in the Bangalore district, he observed several men who were in a very reduced physical condition; and he found a very few cases of the same kind in a gang at Begapilly in the Kolar district. In most of these cases it turned out that the labourer was the only bread-winner for a family of six or eight persons, and so he was unable to earn enough to keep his relations alive and also to maintain himself in a fit condition for hard labour. Such cases seem to show that the village relief organisation should be worked up so as to find out and relieve very destitute families of this kind. Unless such village relief be promptly set to work, there is risk that individuals belonging to such families may perish.

12. No single large relief work, on which several thousands could be employed, has yet been sanctioned in Mysore. So long as good useful work on irrigation tanks is being done at piece-work rates, perhaps it may not be necessary to begin any large work. But if hereafter very large bodies of people should require relief employment, the Mysore Government has ready two excellent schemes, if its means allow of its embarking upon either of them. These schemes are, firstly, the railway from Bangalore to Mysore (84 miles) which has been surveyed, aligned, and for which the project is in every respect ready. The line, however, does not pass through the worst famine tracts; but the railway would be a very great boon to the province. The second scheme, which has also been thoroughly prepared, is the Valase reservoir in the Chittaldroog district, which would cost 15 lakhs of rupees and irrigate 50,000 acres. If, therefore, large works are required, the Mysore Government has them ready for immediate commencement.

13. Outdoor relief in the shape of cooked food (ragi pudding and a little curried vegetable) is being given to about 30,000 persons throughout the province. Sir Richard Temple visited some of these relief houses in Bangalore, and another at Bagapally in Kolar. For the most part the paupers seemed to be quite fit recipients of charitable relief. At the Bangalore relief house were some few cases, principally travellers, in which hunger must have caused severe suffering. When the system of rural and village relief is in working order, such cases will probably not recur. Sir Richard Temple suggested that at large centres like Bangalore, Doodha Ballapore, Kolar, and at the taluk head-quarters indoor relief should be given at relief camps on the Madras system. The many chuttrums (serais) on the roads would probably serve the purpose without building special sheds. Hereafter, when distress becomes keener, it may be necessary to have a relief house in every hooblee (subdivision of a taluk) throughout the worst parts of the severely affected districts.

14. The Chief Commissioner has issued orders that all village officials shall relieve at the Government expense, and bring to the nearest relief officers, any person, whether a resident or a wayfarer, who may be in dangerous distress. With the careful supervision which will, under Mr. Saunders' orders, be given to this matter, the effective organisation of village relief will doubtless be soon accomplished.

15. It does not seem probable that there will be serious dearth of drinking water in the Mysore province, unless such difficulty should occur in Bangalore itself. For the plough and draught cattle also there is not much apprehension, provided the usual rains come in April and May. Some mortality from want of fodder has already occurred, and much more must, it is feared, occur among the poorer sorts of cattle.

16. In consideration of the extreme gravity of the scarcity and of the fact that the present is the second consecutive year of failure of crops, the Chief Commissioner has promised remission of eight annas (one half) of the "wet" assessment, and six annas (three eighths) of the "dry" assessment to those ryots whose crops have wholly failed.

No. 85.

Nos. 86. 115.

MEMORANDUM respecting the Kolar district of Mysore.

Kolar District (Mysore).

When Sir Richard Temple was at Mudanpally, a subdivision of Cuddapah, on the 1st and 2nd February, he learnt that one of the roads thence to Bangalore lay through Kolar. As this is considered one of the most distressed districts of Mysore, save only Túmkúr and Chittaldroog, he desired that its condition and the character of relief there should be ascertained on the spot. At the same time Sir Richard Temple had engaged to meet certain English officers and native gentlemen of North Arcot on the road to Gudiatum, which passes through British territory only. He therefore sent me, his Secretary, by way of Kolar to confer with the district officers there. I met on the road the Amildar (tahsildar) of Sreenaraspurum. At Kolar, Mr. B. Krishna Iengar, C.S.I., who has been Deputy Commissioner of Kolar for twelve years, showed me over the nearer relief works, and gave me every information in his power. He introduced me also to the Amildar and the medical officer of Kolar.

2. The Kolar district contains an area of 2,500 square miles and a population of 600,000. In physical features, in manner of agriculture, and in condition of its people it resembles very closely the upland (plateau) taluks of Mudanapally (South Cuddapah), and Palmonier or Punganoor (North Arcot). The elevation of the plateau is the same; there are the same granite hills and rocky gorges, and the same plains with a soil of decomposed granite schists. Kolar, however, grows more exclusively ragi than do the two border British districts. Kolar grows ragi as a dry crop, and produces very little cholum (jowari). Kolar abounds in tanks, every one of which is rain-fed, and is consequently dry this year. The Madras Railway traverses the south of the district, which is supplied with abundance of good metalled and bridged roads.

3. The average rainfall of Kolar is about 30 inches. The harvest of 1874 was on the whole good. Last year (1875) the rainfall was short (15 inches only), and the yield was estimated at six annas (more than one third of an ordinary harvest). But this season (1876–77) the rainfall has been only 10½ inches; the tanks are all dry. The total yield of the district for the current year is estimated at only two annas (one-eighth of an ordinary crop); in some tracts, for instance Sreenawaspoorum, the yield is perhaps only one anna; but the irrigated parts in the south bring the total average up to two annas. Kolar generally produces much more ragi, which is its * staple grain, than its population requires, and it exports largely to Bellary and to the British coast districts.

In ordinary years large stocks of ragi are kept in underground granaries ("peos"). But in 1874 the October floods got in to many of these "peos," and the grain began to spoil, consequently many holders of grain sold off all their old ragi for export, and it left the district. And thus the people of the Kolar district entered on 1875, a year of short harvest, with comparatively small stocks, which were still further depleted by the time the failure of 1876 declared itself. Still the people of the district were still living on their old stocks up to about October last. In ordinary years the ryots of Kolar are well off; few of them are in debt. The country is entirely ryotwari, and zemindars (intermediate holders between the Government and the ryots) are unknown.

4. The grain markets at Kolar and at the chief towns are well supplied. But all the grain now exposed for sale is foreign grain, imported by railway. What stocks the richer ryots may possess are now held, and will be held till rain comes. So far as we could, we tested this by visiting some of the grain shops, and questioning the chief traders of three different castes in the town. They showed us their different kinds of grain, and said it all came by railway, the rice and pulse from Madras, and the ragi from Salem and Coimbatore. They declared that the ryots would not sell their stocks, but they were quite confident that the trade would supply all demands both of Kolar town and of outlying marts. There were plenty of carts to do the business. But they said there was fear lest the railway could not supply them quickly enough, as there was delay about getting off consignments from Madras. I told them that the doubling of the line to Arconum would mend matters in this respect.

5. Mr. B. Krishna had previously given information identical with the account given by the traders whom we questioned at their shops. He explained that each large town (kusbah) procured its own supplies from the railway, and that village dealers carried grain from the kusbahs to the weekly markets in the interior. He had, as yet, not heard that the supply had anywhere fallen short. He believed and had all along thought that private traders would supply the country, so far as the railway could enable them to do

* NOTE.—Some cholum (jowari) is produced as an irrigated crop in the black soil taluks to the north-west. The areas under the chief food grains in ordinary years are—

Rice - - -	46,670 acres.
Ragi and other food grains -	391,814 „

so. At one time there was a talk of organising the country carriage for the traders, but they said such interference would only make carts more expensive, and so the proposal dropped. The price of grain at the present time is— Kolar District. (Mysore).

Common rice	-	-	-	8 seers per rupee.
Ragi, home grown	-	-	-	$8\frac{1}{2}$ „ „
Ragi, foreign	-	-	-	10 „ „

The Kolar ragi is a "dry" crop, whereas Madras ragi is mostly grown on irrigated lands. The dry ragi is a harder more valuable grain than the irrigated (or "nath") species, and is easily distinguishable therefrom. Prices in the beginning of December ruled at 6 and $6\frac{1}{2}$ seers. The comparative cheapness is due to the large importations from Madras, where grain is now growing much cheaper.

6. Distress first began in September, and for some months it was relieved by private charity only. In the month of November relief works were opened, and at the present time 382 different works, estimated to cost Rs. 1,30,000, are either open or ready to be opened, as soon as relief is really required. Only two out of all the relief works proposed by the Deputy Commissioner are road works. The rest are tanks or irrigation works of some kind. These works are spread over all the ten taluks of the district. On them are now employed 8,437 relief labourers, besides about 3,000 persons who are employed under the executive engineer on the ordinary irrigation and road works of the district. The Deputy Commissioner anticipates that if good rain falls as usual in March and April, then the largest number of relief labourers on his hands at one time will not exceed 12,000 or 15,000 in all. If the spring rains should be withheld, matters will become much more serious.

7. All the relief works, with one exception to be noticed hereafter, are done and paid for on the piece-work system. It almost all consists of earth-work, chiefly on the repair and deepening of tanks. The work is done under the ordinary revenue staff, which consists of—

(1.) The Amildar and his establishment of clerks and gomashtas for the whole tahsil (or taluk).
(2.) The Sheikdar, who presides over a hooblee, or subdivision of a tahsil, containing about seven to ten thousand persons. The Sheikdar gets a salary of Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 a month according to his grade.
(3.) The Patel, who is the head ryot of the village or cluster of small villages, and has to help him the "shanbog" or village accountant.

The responsibility of a patel in regard to a relief work varies according to the size of the work, its distance from paid supervision, and the respectability of the patel. A head cooly on 3 annas a day, who can keep account, is allowed to each patel, while the shanbog is employed on revenue work. There is one head cooly, who can write and read, on 3 to 4 annas, over every fifty labourers. The head cooly measures the work daily, and payment is made according to the work done, either by the patel or by the sheikdar, or by a tahsil officer who goes out for the purpose. The rate of piece-work varies with the hardness of the ground and height of lift. Labourers are required to bring their own tools. Labourers of the Wuddah caste, who do the stone facing for the tank banks (bunds), bring their own little stone carts. The rates for earth-work yield about 2 annas a day to an adult male who works hard. The Wuddahs who work in stone earn a little more. The Deputy Commissioner said that the piece-work system was well known to all the people, who in ordinary years repair their tanks on that system, and the people would at once detect and complain of any attempt of a head cooly to make short payments for the work done.

8. On a certain work in Kolar town the Deputy Commissioner was obliged, by the circumstances of the work, to pay daily labour, and then he reduced the daily wages to $1\frac{1}{3}$ anna a day. There was some complaint at first that the rate was cruelly low. But he adhered to his decision; the people worked on, and when a part of it was done and he was able to measure it up roughly, he found that it had been cheaply done. The relief labourers whom I saw to-day on this particular work appeared to be sufficiently well nourished. But I did not see very many of them, as to-day is a festival.

9. Something had been said at Mudanapally about the undesirability of tank work for the employment of relief labour, and it had been said that the tanks were managed by the engineer department, and that they could not be touched without engineering guidance. The Deputy Commissioner of Kolar, Mr. B. Krishna Iengar, from the first preferred tank work to any other relief work. He said that all over the country there were tanks which wanted repair or which had been breached in former years; he urged that their repairs could be done by task-work and without engineering supervision. If

Kolar District. (Mysore).

he heightened the bund (bank) he widened and occasionally heightened the escape-weir (calingula), and in some cases he put in an extra irrigating sluice (tooboo) to carry water off to higher lands from the heightened level of the tank. He urged that by deepening a tank he held more water in it, and so made the supply for the old "ayakat" (irrigable area) more secure. Wherever he deepened a tank, he strengthened the bank (bund); and in some cases he took off and relaid the boulders which rivet the sloped water-face of the bund (bank). If he had water left in the tank, then he used it to puddle the face of the bank; but if not, he was obliged to forego puddling, as it cost* him so much to carry the water to the bank.

* NOTE.—I observe that in his relief works Mr. B. K. Iengar foregoes puddling, and tamping or consolidating metal, as such work would greatly add to the cost of his relief. He looks forward to doing this in the rainy weather from ordinary funds, when water will be everywhere available.

10. I visited a large tank which had been breached many years ago, and had since been unused. This tank, distant 3 or 4 miles from Kolar, was the first big work undertaken near Kolar. Save in Kolar town no other relief work was opened within six miles. Rs. 3,000 have already been spent upon it, and Rs. 1,500 more will have to be spent. It will irrigate about 250 acres of now uncultivated land. The bank is of earth, part of the front is puddled, and it is riveted with carefully packed boulders on a slope of one in one and a half. A new high-level irrigating sluice has been put in, and the old low-level sluice is being repaired. The waste weir (calingula) is being widened, as the tank bank is somewhat higher than before. I could see all the places whence the earth, paid for by measurement, was taken out. Out of the 800 labourers usually on the tank, only about 50 were at work to-day, because it was a festival. And the Deputy Commissioner explained that the workpeople were not obliged to come, but if they did no work of course they got no pay. We came back from the tank by a new road 19 miles long, which had been begun in better times by the neighbouring ryots at their own expense, and which is now being finished as a relief work. I saw that the earth-work on this road also was being paid at piece-work* rates. The masonry culverts were charged against the ordinary maintenance grant from local funds.

* NOTE.—Both at Kolar and in Bangalore the baskets used by the women for carrying earth on relief works seemed about double the size of the baskets used on relief works I have recently seen in British districts.

C. B.

11. Gratuitous relief is being given at the Government expense at ten places. Cooked food, one meal of (half a seer) ragi, with a spoonful of pulse soup, is given to all but high caste recipients, who are allowed to take away uncooked food. In Kolar town 354 persons are being thus relieved daily. At the nine relief houses in the interior an average of 1,238 persons daily are receiving a meal of cooked food. From such persons no work is at present exacted. They take their meal and go to their homes. I visited the Kolar relief house to-day. About 200 persons were there. All the people were infirm, sickly, or else quite young children. They seemed to be fit recipients for relief. None of them bore on their persons marks of emaciation, except two or three children, who had or were just recovering from small-pox. Up to the month of December the relief in Kolar was paid for by private charity. The Hindu managers never sent any applicants away empty, and so the numbers relieved were much larger than they are now, Now that the gratuitous relief is charged to the Government, applicants are sifted before a ticket for relief is given them.

12. Seeing that so little was spent on relief in this district, compared to the adjoining subdivisions of Pennekonda and Mudanapally, though the population is about the same —600,000 in each case—I made particular inquiries whether the Deputy Commissioner and his officers thought that enough relief was given. The amildar of Sreemwaspoorum, whom I just met, the Deputy Commissioner, and the Kolar amildar seem to be all very confident that there are no deaths from starvation, and that the people who do not come to the works or to the relief houses are getting along somehow. Every patel (village headman) and shanbog (village accountant) in the district has received clear orders to relieve any person who may be in danger of starving within their jurisdictions, and to send the bill in to the amildar. As yet no patel in the Kolar taluk has sent in any such bill, though each amildar has an allotment of money to meet such bills. No funds have been placed with the patels for the defrayal of charges of this kind, and the patels just at present do not get their full incomes now that the land revenue collections are slack. It seems that there is need for special steps to ensure and

NOTE.—I have since seen in Bangalore Mr. S. Venkut Verada Iengar, who was in charge of Kolar district during December and January, while Mr. B. Krishna Iengar was away. He too expresses full confidence that people did not die of starvation during those months. Colonel Pearse, Commissioner of the division, also endorses the opinions expressed on this matter by his subordinates, the Deputy Commissioners of Kolar.

C. B.

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supervise the fulfilment of the orders given to the patels on this subject, or else people may be left unrelieved and may die in remote villages.

13. Occasionally the Deputy Commissioner has heard allegations of deaths caused in part by hunger; for instance, two people who died in the dispensary were said to have been reduced by want. Now that cholera is about in the district sudden deaths occur, and they are put down sometimes to cholera and sometimes to hunger. I called on Miss Anstey, a lady missionary, who speaks the Canarese language very well, and takes the closest interest in the people. She said that stories had reached her of deaths from starvation; but she only returned to Kolar 10 days ago, and no such cases had come under her own notice. She believed, however, that scarcity of food must have accelerated some deaths in a time like this.

14. I am particular about this, because the scale of expenditure in Kolar contrasts strongly with that in the adjoining taluks of Bellary and Cuddapah, and I wished to exhaust possible sources of information as to the sufficiency of Kolar relief measures. The Deputy Commissioner has been twelve years in command of this district; he knows the people, they know him, he is their fellow-countryman, and is accessible to them at all times; personally he is kind and charitable.* He says that if there were starvation, he believes he would be the first to hear of it. He has given strict orders and makes constant inquiries on the matter. He is aware that many of his district people (perhaps 3,000 in all) go over to works in Bellary and Mudanapally. The authorities of those districts have written to him; and he has explained that the people have works open close to their homes; but they not unnaturally prefer a fair daily wage and light work to piece-work pay only. If piece-work were exacted over the border, then he believes that none of the Kolar people would trouble the Bellary or Mudanapally relief works.

* NOTE.—I heard incidentally from the lady missionary, Miss Anstey, mention of the Deputy Commissioner's private charity, and I then, with difficulty, extracted from him, as bearing on this point, that his cash subscriptions to relief houses amount to Rs. 325 a month, besides the cooked food he distributes to mendicants at his own house every evening. His salary is Rs. 1,300 a month.—C. B.

15. In respect of gratuitous relief I could see that a good deal of selection is now exercised. Outside the missionary's door this morning I saw some people asking alms; and on inquiry I ascertained that two out of these had been refused admission to the relief kitchen, because they had relatives competent to support them. I saw the same sifting process going on outside the relief kitchen. Possibly a Native Collector of 12 years' experience, acting through subordinates whom he knows and trusts, can check indiscriminate relief better than a European officer could do. And my impression, formed on what I have seen and what I have ascertained by careful questioning, is, that the restrictions on relief exercised in the Kolar district are not excessive or dangerous to the safety of the people; although I fear that here, as elsewhere, one or two occasional deaths, caused indirectly or partly by hunger, may have occurred.

16. The Deputy Commissioner showed me a letter he had received this morning from Major Gompertz, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, who is at present on tour in the north of the Kolar district. The purport of that letter (dated 2nd February) is, that the people there (taluks Gudibunder and Bagapilly) "are better off" than further south towards Bangalore, and "though many are suffering from scarcity, yet there are no signs "of absolute famine." He writes further: "I have noticed that only a few appear emaciated, though many I am told are reduced to mixing devdari leaf in their food." This testimony from an officer outside the department is satisfactory. The devdar leaf, the Deputy Commissioner tells me, is eaten as a vegetable by many classes, and Mr. B. Krishna Iengar at times eats it himself.

17. The Deputy Commissioner tells me that the Chief Commissioner has decided to remit one half of the land revenue on "wet" crop lands in cases were the water-supply has failed, and to remit $\frac{3}{8}$ (six annas in the rupee) of land revenue on "dry" crop lands. He explains that never before in the history of Mysore, so far as his knowledge goes, has remission been granted on "dry" lands. But this year is the second bad season the people have had one after another; this time the failure has been grievous beyond all memory or expectation, and so the grant of a partial remission on dry crop land is a fair concession. The abkari (toddy excise) revenue contractors have had no remission granted to them, but the receipts of still head duty on spirit has decreased somewhat.

18. The water-supply in tanks has failed, and many wells also are failing. But in all tanks which are being improved by relief labour the Deputy Commissioner digs a hole down to some spring, so as to keep drinking water for the neighbouring cattle and people. He is also deepening and clearing by relief labour may wells and bowdis (large cistern-shaped wells) near to public road. He does not expect there will be actual dearth of water.

Kolar District. (Mysore).

19. But about the future of the cattle there is cause for anxiety. Many must have died, and the Deputy Commissioner is aware that ryots have sold away good cattle for merely nominal prices. The Chief Commissioner has opened the reserved forests and the ryots are allowed to take away grass thence free. As yet these forests have not been opened to cattle for grazing. The Deputy Commissioner thinks that there may be some little fodder left, rági straw, cholum straw (kurbi), and jungle grass; for the ryots will not yet take the trouble to prepare prickly pear for their cattle. Yet the Deputy Commissioner, his locum tenens in December last, and his assistant have each of them in different parts of the district demonstrated to the people by experiment on a large scale that the prickly pear, when properly prepared, is eaten by and supports cattle. The Kolar taluk, the Malwagul taluk, and other parts of the district abound with prickly pear; so there is an important resource still available for the cattle.

No. 86.

Nos. 87. 115.

XXXV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple.

Bellary, 14th February 1877.

Mysore relief

In forwarding two memoranda of facts ascertained on the spot regarding the famine in the Mysore province I desire to acknowledge cordially the courtesy with which the Chief Commissioner of Mysore and his officers afforded me valuable information which had an important bearing on the work of my mission to the Madras Presidency.

2. I think there can be no doubt that the relief operations in Mysore have been much more economically conducted than in the neighbouring districts of Madras. The carefulness exercised in this respect is very creditable to the local authorities in Mysore.

3. At the same time it appears to me most important that there should be a house-to-house visitation throughout the more severely affected tracts, so that cases of severe distress may be found out, and may receive timely succour. The existing organisation of village officials, supervised by salaried servants of Government (the sheikdar in his hobli and the amildar in his taluk) is the best that could be desired for effectively carrying out systematic village relief. The Chief Commissioner, moreover, is ready to strengthen the supervising staff where additional help may be absolutely needed. An active and well-directed system of village relief is especially necessary to prevent occasional cases of disaster in districts where, as in the Mysore province, economy in relief expenditure has been carefully practised from the beginning.

4. I communicated unreservedly to the district and other superior officers my views regarding the situation in the tracts which I visited, and the result of my experience of famine affairs in other parts of India. All the civil and engineering officers of Mysore whom I met evinced a humane zeal to save human life and to mitigate the present calamity, together with a careful regard to the financial interests of the Government under which they are serving.

Nos. 88. 115.

No. 87.

No. 65, dated Bellary, 14th February 1877.

From the Secretary to Sir Richard Temple to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

Forwarding Nos. 84–6.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple I have the honour to submit copy of a minute recorded by him, together with two memoranda regarding the scarcity in the province of Mysore. Sir Richard Temple desires to tender his cordial acknowledgments for the courteous reception he received, and for the valuable information he gained, while in the territories of Mysore.

2. A copy of Sir Richard Temple's minute, regarding the effective organisation of village relief, is also forwarded in case the Chief Commissioner should wish to peruse it. The suggestions it contains are believed to be equally applicable to Mysore.

No. 88.

No. 66, dated Bellary, 14th February 1877. No. 115.

From the Secretary to Sir Richard Temple to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras.

His Grace the Governor of Madras was pleased to express to Sir Richard Temple a view that it would be advantageous if the Bangalore grain demand could be supplied, partly at any rate, by Negapatam and the Southern Railway, in order that the pressure on the Madras port and the eastern sections of the Madras Railway might be relieved. Grain supply.

2. Sir Richard Temple inquired into the matter at a conference held with the Bangalore traders in presence of the Chief Commissioner and his principal officers. The results of that inquiry will be found embodied in the enclosed extracts (paragraphs 5 to 8) from a memorandum of the facts ascertained by Sir Richard Temple regarding the scarcity in Mysore. No. 84.

No. 89.

Memorandum by Capt. W. S. S. Bisset, R.E., on special duty, of the Proceedings of a Meeting held at Bombay on the 9th February 1877, between Colonel H. F. Hancock, R.E., Consulting Engineer, Mr. Henry Conder, Traffic Manager, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and himself. Nos. 90. 115.

Bellary, 14th February 1877.

Captain Bisset submitted to the meeting extracts from the books at Raichore, showing that, although Mr. Conder had been good enough to order increased attention to the arrangement of trains sent into Raichore, there had been no change for the better up to the 7th February. Railway grain traffic arrangements.

Marshalling of trains sent to Raichore.

Captain Bisset mentioned further, that in his opinion this appeared to be mainly due to the want of free communication between the two local traffic officers at Raichore; but that at a meeting at Raichore on the 6th February, arrangements for mutual accommodation had been made, as a result of which it was to be hoped that the working of the traffic at Raichore will be much simplified.

Mr. Conder was good enough to confirm the following portions of the arrangements come to at Raichore on the 6th, and to state that he had recently renewed his orders for increased attention to the following points :—

(1.) To place all Raichore waggons together;
(2.) To put all waggons for transhipment at Raichore together;
(3.) To deliver both these classes of waggons at Raichore by a separate train when this is possible.

2. Captain Bisset then submitted a fourth proposal, viz. :—

That the waggons for the Madras Railway should be arranged before delivery at Raichore as much as possible in station order, so that the shunting at Raichore might be reduced as much as possible, and the trains forwarded after simply changing engines, or after a few shunts.

Mr. Conder represented that this involved his Company in work which fell properly on the junction station at Raichore; and on this being allowed as correct, he replied to a request for its performance as a favour, that he doubted the necessity of the work, that he could not undertake to detain trains at roadside stations for such work, but that he would endeavour to obtain attention to the arrangement of waggons in station order as far as was possible without additional shunting.

He further promised to consider the possibility of his doing the work thoroughly at one of the larger Great Indian Peninsula Railway stations on the condition that his Company were paid the cost of the shunting.

3. The Traffic Manager of the Madras Railway proposes to place one of his assistants at Raichore during this pressure, and to await further experience before making any proposals involving payment to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. But if after experiencing the benefits of the improvements already agreed to, the Madras Railway Company find it impossible to pass the increased traffic through Raichore without this further assistance, it will be necessary for them to ask for this further assistance, and for the agents of the railways to arrange the terms under which the work shall be done.

Mr. LeMesurier was kind enough to assure me that he would consent to any such proposals for facilitating the delivery of grain to the Madras Presidency.

Railway grain traffic arrangements.

Loading of cotton waggons with through grain.

4. Captain Bisset submitted notes of the actual numbers of waggons that had recently been received at Raichore requiring transhipment.

The numbers averaged only eight a day for the first seven days of February, and these numbers were considered as easily manageable, the difficulty of transhipping at Raichore arising from the constant disturbance of the transhipment by shunting, which it is hoped will now be much reduced.

NOTE.—The arrivals of these waggons on the 8th, 9th, and 10th February were afterwards found to be 4, 14, and 16 respectively.

Mr. Conder mentioned having recently repeated his orders to avoid loading cotton waggons for stations beyond Raichore, and he assured the meeting that under these orders the loading of such waggons would be practically stopped.

Local booking of grain to Raichore.

5. Captain Bisset represented that the Madras Railway should be trusted to work from Raichore up to its full powers with through waggons only, and that if it does this there can be little or no room for grain re-booked at Raichore.

Mr. Conder stated that during the recent cessation of through booking every effort was made to discourage the booking of grain to Raichore, and that it was explained to merchants offering grain for conveyance to Raichore, that the cessation of through booking was only temporary, and that by waiting a few days they could book their grain direct to its final destination.

The grain booked to Raichore has been during the last few days unloaded in the new sidings, which are found very convenient for this purpose.

It is to be hoped that the local booking may not continue heavy, as it causes increased work to the staff at Raichore, besides involving longer detentions of the rolling stock.

Through booking to the Madras Railway.

6. Captain Bisset pointed out that, after the last suspension of through booking, there had been an interval of two days (27th and 28th January) during which the Madras Railway had not had full work.

Mr. Conder stated that he had never suspended the transmission of through-booked waggons from the East Indian Railway or other railways beyond his own line; that he had constantly in view a continuous supply of waggons to Raichore, and that no fears need be entertained of any short delivery at present.

Mr. Conder further intimated that he had resumed through booking for the Madras Railway on the 8th February; that the demands for carriage were not now so pressing; that the accumulations at the stations were now much reduced, those at Nagpore, Moortizapore, and Akola being the only ones of any magnitude; but that he saw no reason for supposing that the supply would not keep up to 150 waggons a day for some time yet.

Limitation of despatches of through waggons for Raichore.

7. Captain Bisset submitted a memorandum showing the increased work done by the Madras Railway at Raichore, and expressed an opinion that further discussion on the question of limitation was at present unnecessary, as with the additional engines so soon to be placed at the service of the Madras Railway, their carrying powers would probably be fully equal to removing all the waggons delivered by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Colonel Hancock, however, made some inquiries for his own satisfaction on this point.

Mr. Conder reminded the meeting that he had not pressed more waggons into Raichore than the Madras Railway Company had asked to be sent there; that in loading up all the waggons he had at his disposal he had acted according to his usual practice; and that, on finding that there were no more waggons to spare, and no accommodation for more at the stations on the road, he had suspended further booking to the Madras Railway.

Mr. Conder assured the meeting that, according to his experience, the delays or irregularities which Captain Bisset seemed to fear from very heavy despatches followed by temporary suspensions of through booking are not more objectionable to the dealers than any attempt to limit the despatches would be.

Captain Bisset mentioned the following reasons for his belief that as regular a despatch should be maintained as possible:—

(1.) Rolling stock would be economised.

(2.) The train service would be more regular.

(3.) Some approach to regularity would be attained in the interval between the consignment of goods and their delivery at their destination.
(4.) Traders could make all their arrangements for supplies with much more certainty and economy if such regularity could be attained.

Railway grain traffic arrangements.

There was no conclusion arrived at on the subject, except that with a smaller amount of rolling stock the present mode of working would hardly be practicable.

Colonel Hancock considered that in their effect upon private trade, the merits of the different modes of dealing with the traffic were almost entirely a matter of opinion, and he remarked that it was evident that the difficulties from detention of waggons and from any irregularity of the train service fell entirely on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, and that it might be assumed that Mr. Conder would not incur these difficulties if he were not thoroughly convinced of the advantages of his present practice.

8. With reference to the question of responsibility for the accumulations caused by this mode of working, Captain Bisset represented that the Madras Railway Company was still very short of engines, and that it was impossible to consider that Company altogether responsible for the failure to keep in constant circulation all the waggons which might by an effort on the part of its more fully-stocked neighbour be poured down upon the junction station, and that in his opinion the best interests of both railways and also of the grain traffic to the Madras districts would be best served by mutual accommodation and by the adaptation of the strength of the one railway to the weakness of the other.

Both Colonel Hancock and Mr. Conder stated that no complaint was made on their part of the present working of the Madras Railway, but that they believed that a stimulus to more vigorous working had certainly been given by the knowledge that so many waggons were lying under load for the Madras Railway.

9. The meeting closed with assurances of the strongest desire on the part of the Bombay railway authorities to do all in their power to forward the further development of the grain traffic, and with regrets that somewhat different views as to the method of doing this had apparently been interpreted as obstacles to the attainment of this end.

10. It has been noted above that the Traffic Manager of the Madras Railway has determined to place one of his assistants at Raichore during the present pressure of work there.

The propriety of this step was urged by the Deputy Consulting Engineer, Madras, after his visit to Raichore on the 6th February. I now mention a slight loss of work on the 11th instant, which appears to me to have arisen solely from the want of that prompt intercommunication which the presence of a superior officer of the traffic department at Raichore is likely to secure.

On the 11th February a Madras Railway train, which was ordered in accordance with a definite expectation of larger arrivals of waggons from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, had to be cancelled. This occurred within a few days after the local traffic officers had met at Raichore, and arranged in the most cordial manner for working into each other's hands.

I am confident that this occurred from want of early intimation that more waggons were wanted at Raichore, and I have only mentioned the matter in the hope of inviting continued attention to the working of Raichore station, which should, in my opinion, be left altogether to the traffic officer on the spot.

No. 90.

Nos. 68 and 69, dated Bellary, 14th February 1877. Nos. 99. 115.

From the Secretary to Sir Richard Temple to the Secretaries to the Governments of Bombay and Madras.

By desire of Sir Richard Temple I have the honour to forward copy of a memorandum by Captain Bisset, regarding the decisions taken by the Great Indian Peninsula Traffic Manager, Mr. Conder, on certain points connected with the joint working of grain traffic over the Great Indian Peninsula and Madras Railways.

2. The Bombay railway authorities are manifestly ready and anxious to promote the smooth and rapid working of the traffic. Sir Richard Temple has ascertained from the Madras railway authorities that they are ready to do their part loyally to the best of their power. And he trusts that the harmonious working of this great traffic, which is

Railway grain traffic arrangements.

so very important to the very lives of the people in the ceded districts, may be thoroughly maintained.

3. Sir Richard Temple will have much pleasure in bringing to the notice of the Government of India that since the 29th January there has been a regular stream of grain waggons (the average being 110 waggons* daily) of northern grain from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway into the ceded districts. It is confidently believed that the daily delivery will shortly be worked up to 150 waggons. Already the effect has been felt in the Bellary markets, where northern cholum (jowari) is now (14th February) quoted at 10 seers per rupee.

*About 660 tons.

No. 91.

Nos. 142. 221.

No. 11,606–40, dated Bangalore, 15th February 1877.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George.

Influx of the distressed from Mysore into British territory.

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 508, of the 10th instant, in which you intimate that large numbers of people are flocking from this territory to the famine relief works and feeding houses in the Bellary and Cuddapah districts as well as to the Wynad, "in the hope of securing the means of subsistence," that efforts have been made, but without success, to eliminate these people from the works and relief houses in Bellary and Cuddapah, and that recognising "the serious risk involved in sending "away to Mysore territory large numbers of distressed folk," the Madras Government have given the Collectors of those districts and Malabar instructions to make arrangements for providing relief and work for these people, with the intention of demanding that the expenditure so incurred be defrayed by the Mysore State.

2. The Chief Commissioner cannot disguise the surprise which he has felt on receiving this communication, and trusts that his Grace in Council will, on a further consideration of the circumstances which have led to the migration of a certain portion of the people in the border districts of Mysore into Her Majesty's territory, be induced to withdraw from the intention expressed in your letter.

3. It is undoubtedly true that considerable numbers have left their villages in the three districts of Chitaldroog, Tumkur, and Kolar, and that some portion of these have betaken themselves to the relief works and feeding houses in the adjoining districts, but from the inquiries that have been made the Chief Commissioner is satisfied that, so far as relates to the migration into Her Majesty's districts, the cause is to be found, not in any omission on the part of this administration to provide the people with the means of subsistence, but in the fact, which Mr. Saunders understands admits of no denial, that the system on which works and gratuitous relief have been established in the Bellary and Cuddapah districts, has proved a strong temptation to the Mysore people to seek employment and food on the easiest possible terms.

4. In this province the Chief Commissioner has, from the first, made it a rule that a light task on piece-work should be exacted from, more or less, all persons employed on relief works, while it is a matter of notoriety that in the works carried on over the frontier such persons have received a fixed daily wage, for which hitherto no equivalent labour has been exacted. As regards gratuitous relief also, operations have been, it is understood, conducted in the Madras districts on certainly a most liberal and philanthropic scale, and it is not surprising that the Mysore people should have been largely attracted by the expectations they had formed of obtaining relief on much more favourable terms than they could have obtained it on this side of the frontier.

5. Another cause which has been assigned by the district officers as contributing in some measure to the migration eastwards, has been the desire on the part of the petty ryots to evade the land revenue demand, which, after full consideration, the Chief Commissioner decided to enforce to a certain limited extent. Though the number of the kists was increased from four to seven, the payment of the first four kists has been made imperative on all those who were in a condition to pay, and the Chief Commissioner can only regard it as an unfortunate circumstance that a system of relief operations should have prevailed in the Madras districts which is calculated to defeat the efforts made to collect the revenue, as well as the earnest endeavours made by this Administration to abstain from any measures which would produce a demoralising effect on the people, and weaken their sense of self-reliance.

6. The Chief Commissioner has been unable to obtain any precise statistics on the subject, but he has ample grounds for believing that the migration from the three districts

referred to above has been chiefly in the direction of the western taluks of the province and Coorg, to which, from an early period in this season of scarcity, the people were reported to be proceeding in large numbers, accompanied by their cattle, in quest of labour on public works and on the coffee estates, and also of forage and water for their cattle. As his Grace in Council will be aware, the labour required for the coffee estates in the Wynad and elsewhere, not only during the crop-picking season, but throughout the year's operations, is ordinarily supplied from this province. Under present circumstances it is natural that the influx into the Wynad, as well as into Coorg and Manjarabad, should have increased to some extent, and perhaps beyond the means of the employers of labour in those districts to meet the demand. In any aspect of the case it would have been inexpedient for this Government to make any attempt to check the movement, the result of which has, it is believed, so far profited the planters that they have been able to obtain labour on cheaper terms than formerly; and had any attempt been made to interfere with the labour market, Mr. Saunders feels convinced that as strong objections would have been raised to the measure as were, it will be remembered, advanced in reference to the supposed interference with the exportation of grain from the Mysore country. The contingency of having to provide for the numbers returning from the plantations was, however, foreseen, and along the whole extent of the western frontier, as well as in Coorg, and in the central parts of Mysore, new road and other works have been opened, and all practicable means taken to afford relief and work, on an extensive scale, for those who need it. From Gundlupet onwards, on the Neilgherry road and on the Manantoddy road, to the northern and eastern frontiers of the Ashtagram division, as well as from Periyapatna on the Coorg road, relief kitchens have been established at convenient distances to meet the requirements of the returning coolies, and separate officers have been already appointed to the special charge of the relief arrangements on these roads. Full information in regard to work provided has been sent to the Secretary to the Planters' Association in Wynad, and to the Commissioner of the Neilgherries, with printed notices in the vernacular, for the information of the returning coolies, of the localities where works are in progress and can be obtained. Mysore migration.

Under these arrangements the coolies are now returning with their earnings at the rate of from 300 to 400 per diem to the province.

7. The Chief Commissioner feels assured that the Madras Government, in arriving somewhat suddenly at the conclusion stated in your letter, have acted on an erroneous assumption of facts, and there is further evidence of this in the assertion contained in your last paragraph, where you say that "the rates of wages in Mysore are understood "to be the same as in this (the Madras) presidency." On this point I am to remark that though the wages earned on relief works in this province might amount to 2 annas 6 pies per diem, the rates adopted vary from 1 anna to 1 anna 4 pies per cubic yard of excavation, and it is only on works of a character that do not admit of exact test that a daily wage of 2 annas, and in some cases 2 annas 6 pies per diem is paid.

8. Under this explanation of the procedure that has been adopted in this province the Chief Commissioner trusts that his Grace in Council will see that it is impossible for him to assent to the suggestions made in paragraph 5 of your letter, and I am desired to add the advance of Rs. 500 should be made to Mr. Mahomed Ali by the Commissioner of Nundydroog to meet emergent requirements.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kolar, Túmkûr, and Chitaldroog will instruct the Amildars of the border taluks to comply promptly with the requisitions made upon them for the purpose by the Assistant Commissioner. Those who are able-bodied should be relegated to the special or other relief works in progress, and those who are physically unable to work should be promptly admitted to the feeding kitchens, under arrangements to be made by the Deputy Commissioners and their assistants.

No. 92.

No. 11 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

February 16, 1877.

Forwarding and reviewing Sir Richard Temple's minutes.

We submit for your consideration our weekly summary of the principal matters which have engaged our attention in connexion with the famine in Madras and Bombay since the date of our last Despatch.

Reviewing Sir Richard Temple's minutes.

2. Among the papers which we now enclose will be found minutes and memoranda by Sir Richard Temple regarding the condition of the districts of Chingleput and North Arcot in the Madras Presidency, and the expenditure which will have to be incurred for purposes of relief throughout the distressed districts in Madras.

Nos. 33. 48.

3. The Chingleput district adjoins the town of Madras, bounding it on the north, west, and south. Its area is 2,753 square miles, and its population slightly under a million. It has had three bad seasons to contend against. The harvest in 1874 was poor. It was bad in 1875, and in the present year there has been a serious failure, the rainfall ranging from 8 to 16 inches against an average of 34 inches. The out-turn of the whole district for the present year is estimated at less than one fourth of an ordinary crop. The district, however, has the great advantage of being traversed by three railways,—the Madras Railway, the Carnatic Company's Railway from Arconum to Conjeveram, and the railway recently constructed by the Great Southern of India Railway Company from Madras to the southern districts. The local markets are consequently well supplied, and generally the prices are much the same as in Madras. At the time of Sir Richard Temple's visit 14,000 persons were employed on the relief works, and 8,000 persons were receiving gratuitous relief in the shape of cooked food. These people, however, were being gathered into relief camps, where they will be housed, fed, and put to such light work as they can do. There are also four relief camps in, and in the immediate neighbourhood of, the town of Madras, containing 10,000 pauper inmates in all, mostly immigrants from Chingleput, North Arcot, Vellore, and Cuddapah, who came to Madras to seek for work and food. It appears that many of the persons taken into these camps had been much reduced before they reached Madras; but as their strength was restored, they were draughted out upon the works. At each of the camps which Sir Richard Temple visited there were a considerable number of women and children in an emaciated and miserable condition, and some hundreds of people were being treated for diarrhœa brought on or aggravated by want of food. The death-rate among these persons was very high. The Collector does not expect to collect more than half the land revenue of the district this year, though much of the arrears due on the dry crop lands may be realised next year if the seasons are favourable. As yet the cattle had been kept alive; but a heavy mortality was expected if showers did not come within the next six weeks. In some localities there was already a difficulty about water; but it was not apprehended that there would be anywhere a complete failure of water either for man or beast. Wells were being deepened by relief labour.

No. 34.

4. While in the Chingleput district, Sir Richard Temple inspected the proposed line of the railway from Conjeveram to Chingleput. As stated in our Despatch of the 9th instant, he does not recommend that it should be taken up as a relief work. From a rough estimate furnished by Captain Bisset, he finds that the cost of the earth-works would not exceed Rs. 44,000 out of a total estimate of 13 lakhs. The amount that would be expended on relief wages is comparatively small. The line would not be of special service for relief operations; for in the part of the district through which it runs the distress is not extreme, and there are other railway lines, a good metalled road, and plenty of good carts by which the local markets are, and will continue to be, well supplied with grain. Sir Richard Temple does not consider the financial prospects of the line, should it be made, to be very good. The line runs parallel to the Palar river, the bed of which in that part of its course is very broad, and he thinks it probable that for a part of the year the traffic would be attracted to the other lines on the north and south of the river.

5. Sir Richard Temple has paid a second visit to the district of North Arcot. His first report on that district is contained in the memorandum submitted with our Despatch of the 2nd instant. He was induced to visit the district a second time, partly in consequence of his having seen in the relief camps at Madras a number of persons from the North Arcot district who had been reduced to a very deplorable condition before they came to the camps, and partly in consequence of his having heard bad accounts of the state of the district from the Inspector-General of Police. The conclusions at which he arrived were less favourable than those which he had formed on the occasion of his first visit, and he has suggested the immediate adoption of various measures of relief. In his report on this district he mentions information given to him regarding certain taluks in the South Arcot district by an American missionary, who stated that in the course of a recent tour he had seen much distress, and in some cases physical emaciation from want of food. This district has not hitherto been classed among the distressed districts. In the same report Sir Richard Temple adverts to a delay in starting certain relief works in North Arcot owing to some departmental difficulty, which, he observes, could be at once removed if a superior officer, invested with full power to direct all relief operations in all

departments, were sent down. Both these statements will doubtless have attracted the attention of the Government of Madras. It is obviously of great importance that the superior control of the expensive operations now in progress in various parts of that presidency should be rendered as effective as possible. Reviewing Sir Richard Temple's minutes.

6. Sir Richard Temple has recently visited Bangalore, and has conferred with the Chief Commissioner of Mysore on the condition of that province. He has also travelled through one of the most distressed parts of it. His detailed report has not yet reached us, but he has informed us by telegraph that the Mysore relief operations are carefully and economically conducted. He has pressed upon the Mysore authorities the need of visitation from village to village to watch distress and prevent any deaths from starvation occurring. He states that in the ceded districts and Kurnool "the well considered "orders of the Madras Government for check of excessive expense are being executed "fully in some respects, but slowly and imperfectly in others." He is urging the local authorities, by visiting every village throughout the country, to prevent the possibility of any lives being lost, but at the same time to strictly prevent waste and extravagance. He adds, "Condition of people fair and good, and private trade in grain extraordinarily "active. Cholera has appeared in many places, but has now decreased. No sign of "drinking water failing yet. Draught cattle still sustained." Nos. 84-6

7. The orders of the Madras Government to which Sir Richard Temple alludes, are those of the 31st January, of which copies were sent to your Lordship with the Madras Despatch of the 3rd instant, and to which reference was made in the foot note to paragraph 5 of our Despatch of the 9th instant. Of these two orders, the first prescribes a reduced scale of wages similar to that recently adopted in Bombay, and the restriction of State relief to those who without it would be in danger of perishing, while at the same time it impresses upon the district officers the necessity of not relaxing their vigilant exertions to prevent loss of life from starvation. The second directs that grain wages are only to be paid so long as food is not purchasable on the spot, and that then it is to be purchased in the districts or from established local dealers after calling for tenders by public advertisement, or should the local dealers fail, by calling for tenders from a wider area. To meet any sudden emergency, and until supplies can be brought in from other sources, recourse may be temporarily had in the districts of Kurnool, Bellary, and Cuddapah to certain small reserve depôts of Government grain which were being formed in the localities most difficult of access; but resort to these depôts is absolutely forbidden except when food for the labourers or for the paupers in the feeding houses provided for the infirm and aged is unpurchasable from private dealers, and it is to cease immediately on other supplies becoming available. These orders appear to us to be unexceptionable, and we trust that they are being carefully acted on, especially in the matter of non-interference with private trade. The statement made in Sir Richard Temple's telegram, from which we have quoted, and which was despatched only yesterday from the Bellary district, to the effect that the private trade in grain is extraordinarily active, would seem to furnish very conclusive evidence that this is the case. We refer to the subject, as we are aware that there is an impression in some quarters, which we believe to be entirely unfounded, that the arrangement made by the Madras Government some months ago with a local firm for the supply of grain on account of Government has not been practically terminated.

8. In connexion with the question of reducing the rates of wages, we enclose a reference which we have received from the Government of Bombay regarding a combination among the labourers in the Sholapur district to refuse the reduced rates, and our reply. We have informed the Bombay Government that we entirely share their opinion as to the mischief of yielding to a strike on relief works attributable to combination, and that the relief wages should not be raised if the Local Government is satisfied that the rates are sufficient,—a point which must necessarily be left to its judgment. Some days ago a report appeared in one of the Bombay newspapers of numerous deaths from starvation at Sholapur, which, however, appears to have been greatly exaggerated. The Collector stated that in the town of Sholapur only one death attributable to that cause had occurred. Nos. 62. 71. 78.

9. We also enclose a further correspondence on the subject of the grain traffic on the Great Indian Peninsula and Madras Railways with which we have been furnished by the Government of Bombay. We are glad to learn that the Madras Railway authorities expected to be in a position to forward 150 waggons from Raichore to the Madras stations by the 14th instant. As we said in our last Despatch, every exertion is apparently being made by both the railway companies to overcome the difficulties necessarily resulting from the enormously increased traffic. Nos. 13. 19. 21. 29. 31. 32. 37. 38. 39. 40. 55.

Reviewing Sir Richard Temple's minutes.

10. Your Lordship will have received from the Government of Madras a copy of their letter of the 9th instant on the subject of remissions of land revenue. Before this letter reached us, we had intimated to both the Governments that the matter would be left to their discretion. We have now only to observe that we consider that the Madras Government have shown good reasons for the opinion which they strongly hold, that in ryotwari districts it would, as a general rule, be inexpedient to substitute suspensions for remissions of revenue, especially in the case of a season so disastrous as the present.

Question of remitting or suspending land revenue.

We do not overlook the statement which appears to have been made to Sir Richard Temple by the Collector of Chingleput, and to which we have already alluded, that much of the arrears due on the dry crop lands may be realised next year, if the seasons are favourable. It is possible that there may be local circumstances which justify this expectation as regards the particular district in question; and if so, the Madras Government will doubtless act on our suggestion, that "the balances should be held in suspense "in cases in which it appears likely that the landholders will, without undue pressure, "be able to pay the revenue in arrear during the next season." We feel, however, that the question is one which must be treated with the greatest caution, and which must be left to the judgment of the Local Governments and their officers.

11. The weekly return of persons employed on the relief works in the Madras Presidency is incomplete, the returns from Nellore and Malabar not having been received. Taking for these districts the figures of last week, the Madras returns show a further diminution of 32,204 persons, the aggregate number on the works being 876,206 against 908,410, the number for the previous week. The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief had also diminished by upwards of 7,000. The total is 53,287 against 60,402, the number for last week. In Bombay, also, there was a considerable decrease of the numbers on the relief works, which is said to be mainly due to a stand made by the people of Sholapur against the orders for the reduction of wages. Exclusive of 7,136 hillmen and immigrants employed in Canara and Ratnagiri, the number on relief works was 249,158 against 290,537, the number for last week. The numbers receiving gratuitous relief in the Bombay districts, not including Dharwar, for which there were no returns, was 4,968.

Nos. 51. 52.

12. Sir Richard Temple, in his revised forecast for the Madras Presidency, estimates the State expenditure on the relief of the present famine at Rs. 2,92,00,000 (2,920,000*l.*) of which Rs. 67,49,000 (674,900*l.*) have already been spent. His estimate is based on the assumption that the checks on expenditure recently ordered will be strictly enforced, and also that there will not be a failure of the usual spring showers. In our Despatch of the 2nd instant we stated that Sir Richard Temple's revised estimate of the famine expenditure in Bombay amounted to 126 lakhs. The aggregate expenditure for the two presidencies would thus be 418 lakhs (4,180,000*l.*). In regard to the probable loss of revenue by remissions, we have not at present the means of forming any definite estimate. Some time ago it was estimated at 66 lakhs for Bombay and 117 lakhs for Madras (see our Despatch of the 12th January), or in all 183 lakhs, which, added to the expenditure, would give a total loss from the famine of 601 lakhs.

13. According to the latest returns prices were falling in most of the Madras districts, owing, doubtless, to the large importations. In Bombay there was but little change in this respect. Cholera was more or less prevalent throughout the distressed districts of Madras, though apparently decreasing in some of them. In the southern districts of Bombay, especially in Dharwar, this disease was very prevalent. On the general aspect of the situation we have nothing to add to what was said in our last Despatch.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 93.

No. 115.

XXXVI.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, recommending commencement of earthwork of line from Bellary to Hooblee.

Bellary, 16th February 1877.

The proposed Karwar-Bellary Railway.

The Government was pleased to direct me to report, after communication with the Madras Government, upon the proposal to commence the earth-work of the Karwar and

Bellary Railway as a relief work. At Bellary, therefore, on the 12th current, I conferred with his Grace the Governor of Madras upon the subject. Colonel Hancock, as representing the Government of Bombay, was present at the conference, having been deputed thither by his Excellency Sir Philip Wodehouse. Mr. J. H. Master, Collector of Bellary, Colonel Mullins, Chief Engineer to the Government of Madras, and Colonel Shaw-Stewart, Consulting Engineer for Railways, were also present. The proposed Karwar-Bellary Railway.

2. I caused the salient points of the Bellary and Karwar Railway scheme, as far as they concerned relief work, to be put together in the appended memorandum. And after the conclusion of the conference I despatched to the Government of India a telegram to the effect that, in consideration of financial exigencies and the claims of other proposed lines I was adverse to undertaking at present the Karwar and Bellary Railway. At the same time I recommended that as difficulty existed in finding suitable work for relief labourers in the Bellary (and, perhaps, in the) Dharwar and Kaladgi districts, the Madras and Bombay Governments might be authorised to employ relief labourers in making the earth-work of the line from Bellary as far as Hubli in the Dharwar district. I suggested further that the cost of the land taken up for this railway should be charged to the Local Governments, and that the Imperial Government shall be held in no way pledged to the ultimate construction of the line. I added that the Madras Government concurred in my view, and that the Government of Bombay would probably concur also.

3. I desire now briefly to place on record my reasons for submitting this recommendation, and I would premise that when I had the honour of being a member of the Government of India, it was my duty to consider this and other railway projects, and I have always held that railways in India should be undertaken on political and military grounds quite as much as on purely commercial considerations.

4. I am adverse to undertaking at present the Karwar and Bellary Railway, because—

Firstly.—The finances of the country can afford to take up only a limited number of new State railways at a time. There are already a number of lines to which the Government is more or less committed; such, for instance, as the Nagpore and Chutteesgurh line, the Western Rajputana Railway, the Lahore and Peshawur line, the Northern Bengal extensions, and the North Behar lines. None of these, in my judgment, ought to be postponed to the Karwar and Bellary line.

Secondly.—If the finances can afford one or more additional railways in the Bombay Presidency, then I think that the line from Dhond to Munmar, a line from Dhond (or some other point on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway) to Sattara and onwards into the Southern Mahratta country, and a line from some point in Guzerat into the Kattywar country, are all politically and generally more important than the Karwar and Bellary line.

Thirdly.—There seems much doubt about the capabilities of, and the need for, future expenditure on the Karwar harbour, and unless the harbour be accessible during the monsoon, it would appear that much of the Dharwar and Bellary cotton may still take ship at Madras or Bombay.

5. Although I am, for these reasons, adverse to undertaking for the present the Karwar Railway, yet there is another consideration, namely, that useful work is wanted for the 350,000 relief labourers in Bellary. They have already made a great length of local roads—quite as many roads, indeed, as can be maintained hereafter. Metal for future years' use is being collected on these roads. But soon there will, for a great many of these labourers, be no useful work left to do. And therefore it seems desirable to employ these superabundant relief labourers on the earth-work of the Borkellary Railway, which earth-work may hereafter be useful if the line is ever made. I propose that relief labour should be employed on the Bellary to Hubli section only, because I do not think it will practically be possible to transport to the Canara ghauts large gangs in time enough to do any appreciable work thereon before the monsoon (rainy season) begins. The length from Bellary to Hubli is the cheaper and easier section of the line. And according to the opinion expressed by Bellary cotton dealers, this section would bring a considerable cotton traffic from Dharwar upon the Madras (or upon the Great Indian Peninsula) guaranteed railway.

No. 94.

No. 115. No. 195, dated 16th February 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department.

Bengal Civil officers sent to Madras.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 31st ultimo, requesting that the services of the following Bengal Civil Officers may be placed at the disposal of the Government of Madras for duty in the famine-stricken districts of that Presidency :—

Mr. Howe	from	North-western Provinces to Bellary.
„ H. M. Kisch	„	Bengal to Bellary.
„ Kirkwood	„	„ Cuddapah.
„ Hodgkinson	„	„ Nellore.
„ A. W. Mackie	„	„ „
„ W. B. Oldham	„	„ Kurnool.
„ H. C. Fanshawe	„	Punjab „
„ Damant	„	Assam to North Arcot.
„ Kitts	„	Berar to Madura.
„ Williams	„	Central Provinces to Salem.

2. In reply, I am to state that the services of the under-mentioned officers have been placed at the disposal of the Madras Government, and that they have already been ordered to report themselves to the Collectors of the districts wherein they are required for duty, viz.:—

Mr. Howe	to report himself to the	Collector of	Bellary.
„ H. M. Kisch	„	„	„
„ A. W. Mackie	„	„	Nellore.
„ W. B. Oldham	„	„	Kurnool.
„ Kitts	„	„	Madura.

3. The services of the gentlemen mentioned in the margin not being available, I am to state that the following officers have been ordered to proceed in their stead :—

Messrs. Damant, Hodgkinson, H. C. Fanshawe, Kirkwood, and Williams.

Mr. G. Sharp to the Nellore district.
„ A. Weekes „ Cuddapah.
„ H. Gillan „ Kurnool.
„ A. C. Tute „ Salem.

4. Thus it will be observed that, to complete the number required, only one officer is required, who will be appointed shortly.

5. As regards the pay and allowances which the officers deputed will receive, I am to refer to my telegram and letter of the 8th instant, and to state that the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to sanction the same rates of pay and allowances as were granted to officers who had been deputed from other parts of the country for famine duty in Bengal in 1874, namely, their existing pay and allowances, *plus* a monthly allowance of Rs. 300 to officers above five years' standing from the date of their landing in India, and Rs. 200 to those below five years, besides the carriage of horses to the famine districts and back.

No. 95.

No. 115. XXXVII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the receiving of labourers from Mysore and the Nizam's territories on relief works in the Madras Presidency.

Bellary, 16th February 1877.

Treatment of Mysore and Hyderabad subjects resorting to relief works in British territory.

I desire to submit to the Government of Madras certain observations on its general order of the 9th February, which directs that "coolies (relief labourers) from Mysore "and Hyderabad are to be treated on relief works exactly as our own people."

2. Already many persons of this description have resorted from Mysore and Hyderabad to the relief works in the Madras Presidency, and, after their necessities have been relieved, have been sent back to their own province, Mysore or Hyderabad, as the case may be, by which authorities they have been duly received. Both in Mysore and Hyderabad relief works are open, and I know that the authorities in both these States are willing and able to take care of their own people and to avoid casting the burden of supporting them on the British Government.

3. In Mysore the relief operations are entirely under the direction of British officers, just as if they had been in British territory. But as relief has been allowed somewhat more liberally in the Madras Presidency than in Mysore, there is no fear of British subjects resorting to Mysore, while there is every fear of Mysore subjects resorting to Madras districts. I was distinctly warned of this by the Mysore authorities themselves, who said that many thousands of their people might be resorting to British districts, who all the time might properly be, indeed, ought to be, maintained by Mysore. The Chief Commissioner would, I am sure, be glad that such people should be sent back to him. And I know that the Chief Commissioner is as anxious as he is resourceful, to provide for all Mysore subjects.

4. If, therefore, in virtue of the Madras Government order cited above, any number of Mysore ryots were to come upon Madras works, an unnecessary expenditure of British money would be incurred, upon that which was really the business of the Mysore State, notwithstanding that the Mysore State is anxious to undertake its own duty with its own money.

5. The same remark, *mutatis mutandis*, applies to the Hyderabad territory.

6. It is true that in 1874 the Bengal Government received on its relief works refugees from Nepaul, but then the adjoining Nepaul districts were not under British supervision, and, so far as we knew, did not contain any relief works. It was therefore deemed necessary to receive the poor people. But the case is quite different with the Mysore State, which is administered by our own officers; and also the case is different with the Hyderabad State, where ample provisions of relief are known to have been made.

7. I would therefore suggest that the officers in the Madras districts be directed to receive persons from Mysore or Hyderabad temporarily if seen to be labouring under immediate necessity, but to give the earliest intimation to the nearest local authority either in Mysore or Hyderabad, as the case may be, in order that these persons may be transferred to their own territory.

No. 96.

XXXIX.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the doubling of the line of Railway from Ambatoor, near Madras, to Arconum.

No. 115.

Humpé, Bellary District, 16th February 1877.

Railway from Ambatoor to Arconum to be doubled.

On the 27th January I submitted to the Government of India by telegraph a recommendation that the line from Ambatoor near Madras should be doubled as far as the Arconum Junction. This suggestion was made after consultation with his Grace the Governor of Madras, and after a conference with Mr. Elwin, the Agent of the Madras Railway. The Government of India have been pleased to accede to the proposal; and I deem it right to record briefly my reasons for recommending this undertaking.

2. The whole inward and outward railway traffic of Madras, except the trade towards the coast districts of Chingleput and Cuddalore (South Arcot), has to pass over 42 miles of line from Madras to Arconum Junction. Out of this length, seven miles only consist of double line, while 35 miles from Ambatoor to Arconum have a single line of rails only. From Arconum Junction the line bifurcates,—one branch goes north-westward into the ceded districts and towards Bombay, while the other goes south-westwards through North Arcot, Salem, and Coimbatore towards Beypore. From this south-west line breaks off the branch to Bangalore in the province of Mysore. During the present time of scarcity a part of the food required for the ceded districts, and almost the whole of the foreign grain required by North Arcot, Salem, and the Mysore country, has to pass over the 35 miles of single line between Ambatoor and Arconum Junction.

3. The daily supply of imported food sent into the famine districts is therefore limited by the carrying power of the 35 miles of single line over which the ordinary inward and outward traffic of the country has to pass. There is a very large store of grain on the Madras beach waiting for despatch into the interior; the demands of the famine country are great, and up-country dealers complain that they cannot get their consignments of grain away from Madras. According to the lowest computation, and on the understanding that the ceded districts will for the most part consume grain brought by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from the north, the famine districts now require 1,200 tons* of grain per diem from Madras. If the northern supply should in any way fail, or when the monsoon shall close the west coast parts, the famine districts

* Note—See the sketch of the amount of imported food required by the famine districts, submitted to the Government of India on the 27th January. Subsequent inquiries into the circumstances and trade of Bangalore have shown that the Mysore

Doubling of Railway from Coimbatoor to Arconum.

demand may have been under estimated in that sketch. will in all probability require more than 1,200 tons a day from Madras.

4. With a single line, the Madras Railway has never worked more than 7,200 tons of grain over the Arconum length in one week. It is said that, with great exertions, 9,000 tons a week might be carried. It is evident, however, that the single line can, even if everything works smoothly and well, barely meet the present minimum requirements of the country. If anything goes wrong, or if the demand increases, then the Arconum length of the railway cannot do the work which the country requires of it. This requirement is not merely for ordinary articles of commerce, but for actual food, without which prices must rise greatly, and the food supply of the country must fall short. The two lines which branch off from Arconum could, between them, carry considerably more than 1,200 tons of grain, if only it could be carried to Arconum.

5. Under these circumstances it seems absolutely necessary to double the line to Arconum, so as to enable the Madras Railway to carry as much grain as the country needs, and as the trade seems ready to supply. Though the Madras Railway does not possess spare rails sufficient for the 35 miles, yet rails are to be had in the country, and I was informed by the Madras authorities that the work could be finished in six weeks from its commencement. The cost of the work would probably be from 80,000*l.* to 100,000*l.*, and this amount would be added to the guaranteed capital of the Madras Railway.

No. 97.

No. 181.

LXXVI.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, recommending the deputation of European and Native Officers from the Madras Army for employment on relief operations.

Camp Bellary, 16th February 1877.

Employment of European and Native officers of Madras army necessary.

The time has now come when the few civil officers and engineers in the interior of the country are unable properly to control and employ all the hundreds of thousands of relief labourers that are upon the hands of Government. Some few civil, military, and engineering officers have been sent from the Bengal Presidency by the Government of India to work under the Collector of the more distressed districts. I would now recommend that a certain number of European officers, Native officers, and selected privates from the Madras army should, if his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief were pleased to spare them, be made available for controlling relief operations.

2. During the Bengal famine, by the kindness of the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Napier of Magdala, some scores of European officers, and some hundreds of Native officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Bengal army were deputed to North Behar and North Bengal for relief work. It was found that the Native officers and men were, from their habits of discipline and order, specially fitted to control and to direct the employment of large numbers of relief labourers. Many of these Native officers and men gained for themselves honourable mention, which redounded to the credit of their service. The position of such officers in the army makes them less likely to succumb to temptations, such as are sometimes too strong for the honesty of temporary Native officials on small salary. I trust that selected Native officers and men of the Madras army would prove themselves as able and energetic as their brethren in Bengal. And I would recommend that his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief be asked temporarily to depute, for the assistance of the Civil Government in this time of sore need,—

20 European officers.
60 selected Native officers, commissioned and non-commissioned.
40 selected men.

These officers and men, if his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief were pleased to spare their services, might perhaps be allowed by his Grace the Governor to draw deputation allowances at the rates allowed to their brethren of the Bengal army in the Behar famine of 1874.

No. 98.

Nos. 104. 15.

Telegram, dated 17th February 1877.

From C. E. Bernard, Bellary, to T. C. Hope, Calcutta.

Hubli-Bellary Railway.

Your message of 13th has missed me. Repeated message 16th received to-day. Sir Richard's recommendation is that earth-work be begun on proposed line from Bellary

to Hubli, a great cotton mart of Dharwar district. He does not recommend work west of Hubli at present. Minute, with detailed opinion goes to-day.

No. 99.

No. 76, dated Bellary, 17th February 1877. No. 115.

From the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to submit copy of a memorandum by Captain Bisset, regarding his recent meeting with officials of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, together with a copy of the letter which Sir Richard Temple has caused to be addressed to the Governments of Bombay and Madras on the subject. Nos. 89. 90.

2. There can be no doubt that the grain traffic from the north is now working fairly well into the ceded districts, and there is prospect of further improvement. The proposal for working the Raichore section of the Madras line by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company need not now be pressed. Grain traffic

3. Sir Richard Temple is of opinion that Captain Bisset's services in this matter have been highly creditable to that officer.

No. 100.

XLI.—MEMORANDUM by CAPT. W. S. S. BISSET, R.E., on special duty, on the PROGRESS of the ARRANGEMENTS for IMPROVING the DELIVERY of GRAIN from the NORTH to the MADRAS RAILWAY. Nos. 119. 147.

Bellary, 17th February 1877.

Railway grain traffic arrangements.

Suspensions of through booking.

Through booking from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to the Madras Railway was suspended about the 5th January, resumed on the 23rd January, again suspended on the 4th February, and again resumed on the 29th February. Mr. Conder informs me that, even during the suspensions, goods booked to Madras Railway by the East Indian Railway or by other lines beyond the Great Indian Peninsula Railway's system were duly forwarded. Mr. Conder explains that the Native merchants fully understand and are not discouraged by these alternations; and although I cannot understand this, I cannot suppose that Mr. Conder would accept (as he does) all the difficulties of detention of waggons and shunting of trains at roadside stations without very strong convictions of the superiority of the mode of working which he adheres to; and although I believe that the traders of the ceded districts of Madras would deal more directly with the distant markets if they could reckon more confidently on any regular interval between the despatch and the arrival of their goods, it must be noted that any deficiency of enterprise in the distant markets is made up for by the activity of the trade from Poona, Sholapur, and the Nizam's dominions.

II. Efforts are made at the Great Indian Peninsula Railway stations to discourage the booking of grain locally to Raichore as an alternative to through booking, the consignors being advised that any suspensions of through booking are temporary, and that the Madras Railway Company's trains from Raichore are occupied with through traffic. But Raichore station can, under present arrangements, receive local grain without inconvenience; and now that this reason can no longer be urged, the argument in favour of getting large quantities of grain as near as possible to the distressed districts cannot but be admitted; and moreover grain has now begun to go from Raichore to Kurnool, and more might be expected to take this route if the road and its arrangements could be improved.

During the first sixteen days of February there have been 1,460 through booked waggons passed through Raichore, against 297 waggons booked locally, and the local booking has not unduly increased and it is now quite manageable.

III. The additional sidings were promptly put in at Raichore station, and they have been found of the greatest assistance, particularly in unloading grain for Raichore.

Crossing stations and additional sidings.

IV. Crossing stations are being constructed, one near the Tungabhadra river (with special reference to the water-supply) and another between Kosgi and Adoni.

ailway ain traffic range- ents.

Additional sidings and grain sheds are ordered at Adoni, where there is now, and where there is likely to be, a heavy traffic.

The crossing stations south of Adoni are not yet in progress, it being considered that the traffic south of Adoni can be passed without further assistance.

I believe that as soon as it is found possible to draw supplies from the north, the demand from the districts south of Gooty will increase much more than it has already done. But in the meantime I fear a temporary check will occur in the traffic as a result of the great fall in the prices of northern grain which has lately taken place, and if the estimates are not altogether wrong, this check will be followed by a more severe pressure than has yet occurred.

Below the junction for Bellary the number of trains may be practicable, but on the line between Raichore and Goondacal junction, I think no means of facilitating the passage of trains should be neglected.

V. The Traffic Manager of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has now made arrangements to give all the desired assistance to the traffic through Raichore.

The numbers of waggons handed over to the Madras Railway at Raichore are now regulated by the demands* made by the station-master of the junction station; the times of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are arranged to suit the requirements* of the Madras Railway Company; the waggons are now arranged in station order as much as possible, with the view of reducing the work at, and avoiding difficulties in, the Raichore station; and the waggons for Raichore itself, and for transhipment at Raichore, are being delivered together and by the trains arriving at the hours most convenient for prompt unloading and transhipment.

* An Assistant Traffic Manager will soon be stationed at Raichore, and will take up these among other duties.

VI. The arrangements for mutual accommodation at Raichore junction provide for keeping the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company informed how many waggons the Madras Railway Company can take and promptly dispose of daily.

VII. It will be noticed from the appended table that the number of waggons moved from Raichore southwards has not been maintained up to the average of the first six days of February.

Since the 6th February two engines have been transferred to Raichore, but the third, promised about the 16th, has not yet arrived. Of the two sent up, one failed on the 11th, and another of those formerly on this section has also failed, so that the power at Raichore is again no greater than before.

But, even with the temporary increase of power from the 6th to the 11th, the average number of waggons worked away during the last 10 days is only 102 against 110 a day during the first week of February. It is said that both men and engines were worked at too high pressure during the former period, and this is perhaps the case.

But, possibly, the Locomotive Superintendent may find it possible to arrange for larger shed staff to undertake the necessary shed work to the engines, and to relieve the drivers and firemen from this work so that they may have all their time at home for rest. I learn that many of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company's engines are at present worked longer hours, but with reliefs of drivers and firemen, and I see no reason why, with increased running shed establishment to look properly after the engines, this should not be possible on the Madras Railway.

At present a great many of the hours on the road are spent at stations waiting for other trains or crossing orders, and improved regularity of the train service will do much to increase the effective work of both men and engines.

VIII. Reference has already been made to the system under which the movements of the trains on the Madras Railway are regulated, as one of the main causes of this irregularity. The system works very well with few trains, whose irregularities are easily adjusted; but with the multiplication of trains, telegraphic references to and replies from the directing officer increase proportionally, the telegraphic communication fails in the promptitude necessary to prevent serious delays, and in consequence of these delays (which have always a tendency to become cumulative) the train service gets disorganised.

This disorganisation throws an incessant strain on the directing* officer. But its consequences are perhaps most severely felt by the train staff, whose working hours are extended to the full limit of endurance.

* At the present moment one of these officers at Madras has been invalided from incessant work; and at Gooty it has been found necessary to appoint a second officer for this special duty and for work also at Raichore.

A change (involving some delay and considerable expense) to the block system is now being made between Raichore and Adoni, but it will not be practicable, even if it

is desirable, to introduce this change over the whole line in time to be of present use. I believe that a change to the system in force on most of the other Indian railways might safely be introduced, length by length, with a few days of special attention by the telegraph and traffic officers to each length as the change is made. Railway grain traffic arrangements.

But even if this is considered impracticable, I believe that even with the present system an increase to the telegraph staff would afford considerable relief, and I am confident that if the necessary signallers are not available in this presidency, they could be obtained from other parts of India.

The importance of economising the time of the working staff cannot in my opinion be over-estimated; for, besides considerations of public safety and of humanity to the staff, it has to be remembered that the supply of trained staff is limited, and that upon the vigilance and endurance of the staff during the next four months the supply of food to the people depends.

IX.—Sufficient watering arrangements are of equal importance with an increase of engines and staff, and there is considerable anxiety about the sufficiency of the supply in the length from Raichore to Cuddapah. Efforts are now being made to supplement the supply, but it will very probably be necessary to provide a supply of portable tanks to convey water for use on the long trips where no water can be got. Fortunately, there are a number of suitable iron tanks available in Madras. Watering arrangements.

An addition has been made with great success to the area of the station well at Kosgi, and similar additions are being made at one of the other stations.

It can hardly be hoped that all the enlargements of the wells will be equally successful, but to meet the coming emergency every possible source of water should be, and I believe is being, tried.

X.—It will be seen from the above notes that, although there is a slight difference of opinion on the through-booking question, the General Traffic Manager of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has done all that he has been asked to do, and in some respects more than he is legally bound to do, to facilitate the through traffic at Raichore.

The Madras Railway Company, with equally good intentions, has much greater difficulties to contend with. It is short of engines, and its traffic and locomotive staff is ordinarily kept very low.

It has never before had to deal with a traffic so large as the present, and it has for the first time to encounter the difficulty of adapting its arrangements to working a heavy traffic.

And it is thus not to be wondered at that from one cause or another there is not the same facility of expansion on the Madras Railway as there is on lines which have often before had to meet these emergencies.

But with regard to the through traffic from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, although the mishaps recorded in paragraph 7 have prevented the Madras Railway from working up to the promises made to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the advance made has been considerable.

The average number of waggons worked away from Raichore for the first 16 days of February has been 105 a day, while the daily average of the period from the 4th to the 22nd of January was only 72 waggons. The difference in weight of grain amounts to 200 tons a day, and this increase has been attained without any corresponding sacrifice of the despatches from Madras.

Railway grain traffic arrangements.

STATEMENT showing the DAILY ARRIVALS of WAGGONS at RAICHORE JUNCTION, and the daily despatches from the same station southward, obtained through the courtesy of the Traffic Manager, Madras Railway.

Month and date.	Number of through booked Waggons delivered at Raichore in Waggons which can run through.	Number of through booked Waggons which have to be transhipped at Raichore.	Number of Waggons delivered at Raichore to be unloaded there.	Number of through Waggons detained at Raichore.	Number of Waggons (through transhipped and local) forwarded from Raichore southward.	Remark.
February 1st -	106	16	26	136	128	
„ 2nd -	73	3	10	131	110	
„ 3rd	78	10	6	116	113	
„ 4th -	90	5	11	116	113	
„ 5th -	48	10	29	106	90	
„ 6th -	22	6	3	82	107	Two additional engines arrived.
„ 7th -	51	4	1	32	131	
„ 8th -	73	4	28	33	117	
„ 9th -	101	16	9	65	80	
„ 10th -	91	14	17	37	115	Two engines failed.
„ 11th -	119	10	16	68	79	
„ 12th -	95	8	17	53	95	
„ 13th -	106	8	8	74	119	
„ 14th -	106	2	7	79	95	
„ 15th	91	8	15	83	114	
„ 16th -	84	12	2	75	73	
	1,334	136	297	Total not required.	1,679	

No. 101.

No. 70, dated Bellary, 17th February 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, Bart., K.C.S.I., to the RESIDENT, Hyderabad.

No. 95. Hyderabad subjects resorting to relief works in British territory.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to forward copy of a minute recorded by him regarding the reception of Mysore and Hyderabad labourers upon relief works in the Madras Presidency.

2. Sir Richard Temple would hope that you may see fit to move his Excellency the Minister to direct the Nizamat officers to employ and keep within the Hyderabad districts any persons who may be desiring work. It is understood that his Excellency has already established ample relief works.

No. 102.

XL.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the question of the port of landing for the supply of grain destined for Mysore. Nos. 116. 133.

Goondacal, 19th February 1877.

Negapatam as a port of landing for sea-borne trade for Mysore.

I desire that Captain Bisset will be good enough to inquire from the Mysore traders regarding the question of the sea-borne grain destined for Mysore being sent from the port of Negapatam by the South of India Railway to Bangalore, instead of being sent from the port of Madras by the Madras Railway Company's line.

2. When I visited Bangalore, I understood that the Government of Madras preferred that the grain should be sent from Negapatam rather than from Madras, in order to relieve the unavoidably over-burdened Madras line. I therefore urged this view upon the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, and upon the Native traders assembled at Bangalore. I explained to them the merits of the Negapatam route, and the convenience which would result if they could, consistently with their trading interests, adopt that course. They did not give me a clear answer at the time, though they promised that they would consider the matter. My impression, however, was that they felt considerable doubt, and that they might prove unwilling to change from Madras to Negapatam, partly because the freight to Negapatam might be higher and the conveniences of that port less, partly also because they already had their agencies established at Madras. By this time, however, they will be able to form a more definite answer. I therefore shall be glad if Captain Bisset will proceed to Bangalore and learn, as exactly as may be possible, how the matter stands. He could ascertain whether, in the event of the Negapatam project failing, the grain could be brought from the Western Coast.

3. With a view to prepare himself for the discussion with the Mysore traders, he should first visit Negapatam, in order that he may be able to explain to them what the advantages of that port are.

4. The Chief Commissioner of Mysore (to whom a copy of this minute will be forwarded) will, I am sure, give him every assistance.

No. 103.

No. 563, dated 19th February 1877. Nos. 127. 221.

From the Commissioner, Nundydroog Division, to the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

Complaint of migration from Bellary to Mysore.

I have the honour to report for the Chief Commissioner's information that the Amildar of the Maddagiri taluk complains that the people of Hindupur and Madaksira, in the Bellary district, are coming into his taluk both to the relief works and the kitchens in large numbers and are spreading cholera throughout his taluk. These people say that work has been stopped and the kitchens closed in parts of their taluks.

No. 104.

Telegram, dated 20th February 1877. Nos. 105. 115.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta, to Revenue Secretary, Madras.

Earth-work of railway from Hubli to Bellary sanctioned.

Government of India sanction immediate commencement of earth-work of railway between Hubli and Bellary by relief labourers. The land to be taken up and charged to the Local Governments. This in no way pledges the Imperial Government to ultimate construction of the railway. Further instructions will issue from the Public Works Department.

No. 105.

Nos. 108. 115.

Telegram, dated 20th February 1877

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta, to Sir Richard Temple, Bellary.

Government of India have informed Governments of Madras and Bombay that they sanction immediate commencement of the railway between Bellary and Hubli on the terms you suggest.

No. 106.

STATEMENT A.

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRESSED DISTRICTS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

N.B.—This statement consists of extracts from the information furnished by the Government of Bombay on November 4th, 8th, and 15th, 1876, in accordance with the telegram from the Government of India of the 22nd October, and of summaries submitted by that Government of the reports of each taluka called for by the Government of India on November 30th, 1876.

KEY to the alphabetical headings in the following statement :—

(*a.*)—A careful estimate of the amount (if any) of the crop which has been saved, calculated in annas on the assumption of an average yield being represented by 12 annas : *kharif* and *rabi* should be shown separately ; if there be any prospect of further sowings, it should be mentioned :

(*b.*)—An estimate, as close as may at the time be practicable, of the amount of revenue to be remitted :

(*c.*)—Information as to the mortality, past and anticipated, among cattle and agricultural stock ; the measures already adopted by Government and the people, their result, and suggestions for the future :

(*d.*)—The nature of the water supply, extent of its failure, further anticipated failure up to next rains, and remedial measures possible, if any :

(*e.*)—The course of prices weekly of each of the principal food-grains from October 1st up to the date of report in each case, and six years' averages :

(*f.*)—The local stocks as far as ascertainable ; the centres, railway stations or otherwise, whence further supplies are being or may be drawn, and the probability of private enterprise being sufficient to maintain them, as also of a fall in prices owing to ample importation :

(*g.*)—The character of the population, whether high or low caste, poor or well to do, purely or only partly agricultural, and if the latter, in what proportions urban or artizan ; also the character of the landholders, whether large, wealthy, able to aid their tenants and likely to do so, or the reverse :

(*h.*)—The movements of the people ; how far emigration has taken place, and with what result (have the people bettered themselves, or merely gone elsewhere to starve, or are they returning), and whether further emigration is probable :

(*i.*)—The relief works already started, their sufficiency or otherwise, and the further works which are considered practicable, arranged in the order of their necessity :

(*j.*)—The nature and amount of charitable relief given to travellers, and to the aged, infirm, &c. who are unable to work :

(*k.*)—The number of persons whom the Government has on its hands at date of report for relief (1) by works, (2) by charitable measures, and the number, roughly estimated, which it is likely to have on its hands on March 1st, May 1st, and July 1st.

NORTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE COMMISSIONER—MR. L. R. ASHBURNER, C.S.I.

KHANDEISH DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR, MR. W. H. PROPERT.

TALUKAS.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875–76.	Rough Proportion of *kharif* to *rabi* Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.
			Rs.	*Kharif.* Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	Inches.
1. Dhulia	759	66,929	1,69,915	159,239	6,319	23·83	12·73
2. Amalner	529	79,863	2,58,024	173,204	20,022	21·93	15·15
3. Erandol	467	76,689	2,30,127	158,192	18,073	30·4	14·79
4. Páchora	542	84,880	2,86,181	170,697	6,906	28·31	12·86
5. Chálisgaon	511	44,568	1,27,905	91,373	8,837	28·19	13·21
6. Pimpalner	1,039	60,125	1,19,345	109,393	12,891	26·78	16·81
7. Nundurbár	647	45,285	1,25,676	46,333	22,502	24·74	16·57
8. Taloda	1,135	35,278	59,304	9,370	17,510	29·4	28·32
9. Sháháda	468	46,228	2,05,913	65,943	40,865	21·36	16·6
10. Virdel	507	63,350	2,41,838	153,656	27,593	18·57	7·95
11. Shirpur	780	34,642	1,29,830	58,625	17,235	20·55	11·24
12. Chopra	495	51,581	1,60,482	86,912	11,622	Information not available.	11·97
13. Sauda	867	124,519	2,78,744	182,518	27,206		13·4
14. Bhusáwal	570	84,245	2,46,223	154,127	11,264	26·47	8·41
15. Nasirabad	319	60,109	2,11,532	83,326	30,307	Information not available.	12·31
16. Jámner	527	70,351	1,75,088	140,514	744		13·26
Total	10,162	1,028,642	30,26,127	1,842,822	279,896	—	

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

KHANDEISH

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

DHULIA Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. C. G.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield is 4 annas, and the rabi, which is cultivated only in irrigated lands, promises well. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The total amount of revenue is not given, but the probable remissions are Rs. 45,000.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated, as the ryots have imported abundance of grass.	About three-fourths of the water supply has failed; in 40 villages there will be a total failure of the ordinary supply. To meet this, ziras are being made, and wells deepened and repaired.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Tur Dall.
7th October 1876	29¾	31½	42	28
15th "	28	28	32⅜	28
22nd "	27⅞	28	31½	28
31st "	26½	26½	31½	28
7th November 1876	22½	24½	28	22½
15th "	23⅝	23⅝	28	19½
22nd "	23⅝	26½	28	19½
30th "	26½	26½	29⅜	21
7th December 1876	24½	26½	31½	21
15th "	24⅝	27½	31½	21½
22nd "	25⅜	29½	31½	21
31st "	25⅜	29⅜	31½	23½
Average of six years	30⅛	31⅜	51⅝	23⅜

PIMPALNER Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. C. G.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield may be taken at 8 annas, and the rabi, which is cultivated only in irrigated lands, promises an average crop. No further sowings are probable this season.	The total amount of land revenue is not given, but the remissions are estimated at Rs. 500.	There is no mortality from starvation amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated.	There will be no scarcity of water, though there is less than usual.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Tur Dall.	Jowári.
7th October 1876	38½	38½	28	
14th "	31⅜	31⅜	28	
21st "	28	28	28	
28th "	28	28	28	
4th November 1876	28	28	28	
11th "	28	28	28	31½
18th "	31⅜	31½	24⅝	
25th "	28	28	21	
2nd December 1876	28	28	21	
9th "	24	28	21	
16th "	28	28	21	35
23rd "	27	28	28	34
30th "	27	27	21	34
Average of six years	—	33	26	—

NIZÁMPUR PETHA, Pimpalner Taluka (1st Assistant

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
In about eight villages the kharif crop has failed; in the rest it has been from 10 to 12 annas. The rabi crops have been equal to or above the average. There are no prospects of any further sowings this season.	The total amount of revenue is not given, but the probable remissions are Rs. 1,500.	No unusual mortality has occurred or is likely to occur amongst the cattle.	There will be no distress owing to scarcity of the water supply, though it is less than usual.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Tur Dall.
1st October 1876	38½	38½	45½	31½
8th "	38½	38½	45½	31½
16th "	31½	31½	38½	31½
24th "	31½	31½	38½	31½
1st November 1876	28	24½	29½	31½
8th "	28	26½	31½	31½
16th "	24½	24½	28	24½
24th "	24½	24½	28	24½
1st December 1876	28	28	31½	31½
8th "	28	28	31½	28
16th "	28	28	31½	28
24th "	28	28	31½	28
1st January 1877	28	28	31½	28
Average of six years	40⅝	43⅛	49	28½

SHÁHÁDA Taluka (1st Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield has been an average one. The rabi crop is good, with the exception of gram and linseed, which will yield only 8 annas.	No remissions are necessary.	No mortality from starvation has taken place or is anticipated.	There will be no failure of water, the usual amount of rain having fallen.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Tur Dall.
8th October 1876	42⅛	43⅛	38⅛	42
15th "	42⅝	43¼	30	42
23rd "	40	43½	30	42
31st "	32	32¼	28	31 1/10
8th November 1876	32	32⅛	25½	27
15th "	24⅛	28	22	24 1/10
23rd "	28 1/10	28	26⅜	23⅜
30th "	31	36½	26⅜	27
8th December 1876	29	36⅛	27 7/10	28
15th "	32	36⅛	28	28
23rd "	32	34	28	28
31st "	31	32½	27 1/10	28
Average of six years	54⅙	62½	30⅜	34⅓

KHANDEISH.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
There are about 900,480 lbs. of grain in store, and it is imported from the Central Provinces and Cawnpore viâ Chálisgaon.	The bulk of the population consists of Kunbis who are poor. Sowkars will assist the ryots who work under them.	No emigration has taken place, nor is any anticipated.	No works, except Provincial and Local Funds, are in progress, nor will any be needed.	Rs. 200 have been allotted by the Songir Municipality for charitable purposes, but no expenditure has been made.	Government is not at present affording relief to any persons either on works or by charity, nor is it probable that help will be required from Government.
lathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
Most of the well-to-do ryots have a year's supply of grain for their own consumption ; the amount in store or for sale is not given; but no scarcity is anticipated, though prices are high. If necessary, grain can be imported from Dhulia and Málegaon.	The population is almost purely agricultural; and there are no landholders likely to aid their tenants should they require help.	No emigration has taken place, nor is any probable.	No relief works are in progress, nor will any be needed.	No charitable relief is given, and none is sought by any one.	It is improbable that Government will have any people to support either on works or by charity.
Collector Mr. C. G. Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
Most of the ryots have kept sufficient corn for their own consumption. There are no large grain markets.	The people, except between 50 and 75 sowkars and shopkeepers, are agricultural Kunbis, and are poor. There are no large landholders.	There has been no emigration, and none is anticipated.	There are no relief works in progress, nor are any necessary.	The aged and infirm are in no worse condition than in ordinary years.	It is not likely that Government will be called upon to afford relief either on works or by charity.
Mr. C. G. Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
There are 1,344,000 lbs. of grain in store, and this is sufficient for local consumption.	The population consists of Bheels, Guzars, and Kunbis. The Guzars and Kunbis, and some of the Bheels, are employed in agriculture. The rest of the Bheels in labour. There are no large landholders.	No emigration has taken place, nor is any probable.	No relief works are in progress, nor are any required.	No special arrangements are necessary for relief either on works or by charity.	

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

KHANDEISH—

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

NANDURBÁR Taluka (1st Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The crop, both kharif and rabi, has reached the average. There are no prospects of further sowings this year.	The total amount of land revenue is not given, but the probable remissions are Rs. 1,000.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle nor is any anticipated.	There will be no distress from scarcity of water.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Tur Dall.
7th October 1876	36½	38	41	37
15th „	36½	38	41	37
25th „	28⅔	29½	33	37
31st „	28⅔	29½	41	37
7th November 1876	24	25	27 1/10	28
15th „	26	24	27 1/10	28
22nd „	22	22	26	18
30th „	22	22	26	18
8th December 1876	25	26	30½	24 1/10
15th „	25	28	31	24 1/10
21st „	27	31	33	28
30th „	27	31	33	28
Average of six years	40⅝	49½	63	33⅓

TALODA Taluka (1st Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif crop will be an average one, viz., 12 annas, and the rabi promises the same.	The total amount of revenue is not given, and the probable remissions will be Rs. 1,000.	No cattle have died, or are likely to die from starvation.	There will be no failure in the water supply.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Wheat.	Jowári.	Tur Dall.
8th October 1876	42	37 5/16	42	42
15th „	42	37 5/16	42	42
23rd „	30⅝	30⅝	35	42
31st „	28	28	35	33⅓
8th November 1876	24½	28	28	26¼
15th „	24⅓	24⅓	26¼	25 5/16
23rd „	25⅜	25¼	26¼	25 5/16
30th „	25 5/16	25 5/16	26¼	28
8th December 1876	28	28	28	33⅓
15th „	30⅝	30⅝	33⅓	33⅓
23rd „	28	28	31½	28
31st „	28	28	31½	28
Average of six years	51⅛	42 7/12	56 7/12	50½

AMALNER Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield is 5, and the rabi 3 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will be Rs. 30,000. The total amount of revenue is not given.	There has as yet been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, but the Collector thinks many will die. Government have opened forest reserves, and sanctioned advances to Wanjaries.	According to the Assistant Collector, the water supply is not a matter of anxiety. Old wells are being repaired, and new ones dug. The Collector, however, anticipates a serious failure.	

Date.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Tur Dall.
1st October 1876	31	35	39	28
8th „	28	28	38	28
16th „	24	28	35	28
23rd „	24	28	35	28
31st „	22	24	31	28
8th November 1876	20	24	28	20
16th „	21	24	28	20
23rd „	22	28	30	20
30th „	22	28	30	20
8th December 1876	24	28	31	21
16th „	24	28	29	21
23rd „	24	28	30	21
30th „	26	28	30	21
Average of six years	32	42	56	22

PAROLA PETHA AMALNER Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield is 5 annas. There is no rabi. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions are Rs. 4,000. The total revenue is not given.	Some slight mortality amongst the old and worn out cattle is expected, but no Government aid is necessary.	The water supply generally has not failed, but the town of Párola itself is badly off. Large wells are being dug there, and failing them a pumping arrangement from a well on the Bori River would be a success, so far as supplying the town is concerned, but enormously expensive.	

Date.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Tur Dall.
1st October 1876	30	37	42	30
8th „	30	32	32	30
16th „	26	28	31	30
23rd „	24	28	32	30
31st „	24	28	32	25
8th November 1876	23	24	28	23
16th „	23	23	25	18
23rd „	23	23	28	21
30th „	20	22	27	23
8th December 1876	22	24	30	23
16th „	23	26	28	24
23rd „	24	29	29	25
30th „	24	29	29	25
Average of six years	28	42	56	28

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. C. G. Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
There is sufficient grain for local use.	Half the population consists of Bheels and the other half of Kunbis; the former are labourers and the latter agriculturists. Their condition will be nearly the same as in ordinary years.	There has been no emigration, and none is probable.	No relief works are in progress, nor are they necessary.	No special charitable aid is required.	No relief on works or by charity will be required.
Mr. G. C. Blathwayt's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
The supply of grain will be sufficient for the year.	About two thirds of the population are Bheels, *and* mostly very poor, and the rest are Kunbis and Guzars. The bulk of the people consists of cultivators, but some are labourers. There are no large landholders able materially to aid their tenants.	There has been, and will be, no emigration.	No relief works are in progress nor are any required.	No special arrangements are necessary for relief either on works or by charity.	
Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 6th January 1877).					
There are no large stocks of grain in store; it is imported as required from Holkar's territories and Jalgaon and Mhasáwad Railway Stations. No fall in prices is anticipated, but private enterprise will supply the market.	About one half of the population consists of cultivators, one fourth of artizans and traders, and the rest of labourers, mendicants, &c. There are no landholders likely to aid their tenants, but the sowkars may do so.	No emigration has taken place, and none is anticipated.	One road work, the Amalner-Párola road, is in progress, and is at present sufficient. Should it be necessary, the Amalner-Jalgaon road can be commenced.	A fund of Rs. 350, Rs. 100 being Government money, has been raised for feeding the incapable poor.	600 are at present on works, and none supported by charity. The probable numbers requiring relief will be on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 1,500 / 100 1st May - 2,000 / 150 1st July - 2,000 / 150
Collector Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 6th January 1877).					
There are 1,680,000 lbs. of grain in store; it is imported from the western talukas, from Holkar's territories, and the G.I.P. Railway. Private enterprise will supply the market, but prices are unlikely to fall.	The population amounts to 28,000, of whom 10,000 are cultivators and a large number are weavers living in the town of Párola. Half the cultivators are well-to-do, and the other half poor. There are no large landholders, but the cultivators have good credit with the sowkars.	There has been some emigration chiefly from Párola itself on account of the scarcity of water there, but it is not likely to become general.	The Mhasawad tank and the Amalner-Párola road are in progress. The Bhokar tank and Amalner-Jalgaon road may have to be commenced, and will probably prove sufficient.	No charitable relief has yet been given, but a fund of Rs. 350 (Rs. 100 being Government money) has been collected, and will be used, if necessary, in feeding the infirm poor.	There are now about 600 persons on the works. There will be on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 1,500 / 200 1st May - 2,000 / 200 1st July - 2,000 / 300

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

ERANDOL Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant Collector

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.			
The kharif yield is 4, and the rabi 3 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions are Rs. 30,000. The total amount of revenue is not given.	No unusual mortality has yet occurred amongst the cattle, though it is anticipated to a small extent among the old and worn-out ones. The Satpuras are not far, and the people are sending their cattle there or importing grass.	The water supply is not a matter of anxiety, though in some villages it will have to be brought from a distance, and other villages may have to be abandoned for a few months.	Date.	Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Tur Dall.
				1st October 1876	30	24	32	28
				8th "	30	27	32	28
				16th "	30	26	30	24
				23rd "	26	26	30	24
				31st "	22	24	27	22
				8th November 1876	20	21	24	16
				16th "	20	21	24	16
				23rd "	20	21	32	16
				30th "	20	24	28	16
				8th December 1876	24	24	28	16
				16th "	24	24	28	16
				21st "	24	24	28	16
				Average of six years	32	38	48	22

CHALISGAON Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant Collector

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.			
The kharif yield may be taken at 9, and the rabi at 7 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The amount of land revenue is not given; but the remissions are estimated at Rs. 6,000.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, nor is there any reason to anticipate any, as Government have thrown open the forests of the taluka.	There is no danger of a serious failure in the water supply. The rivers Girna and Titur and several large nullahs will hold sufficient for the year. In about 15 villages it may be necessary to undertake repairs to wells.	Date.	Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Tur Dall.
				1st October 1876	32	38	45	32
				8th "	29	31	38	32
				16th "	23	27	36	28
				23rd "	25	26	32	25
				31st "	25	26	32	28
				8th November 1876	21	25	27	21
				16th "	20	21	27	17
				23rd "	27	24	32	18
				30th "	27	24	32	19
				8th December 1876	25	28	33	21
				16th "	24	28	34	21
				23rd "	25	28	31	24
				30th "	27	28	32	28
				Average of six years	36	50	60	26

PACHORA Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd Assistant Collector

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.			
The kharif yield may be taken at 7, and the rabi at 2 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The total amount of land revenue is not given; but the remissions will probably amount to Rs. 15,000.	No unusual mortality amongst the cattle has occurred, and none is anticipated, except in the case of old and worn-out animals.	This taluka is well watered by the Girna and its tributary streams from the Satmalas. There need be no apprehension of a failure in the water supply.	Date.	Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Tur Dall.
				1st October 1876	32	38	46	28
				8th "	25	30	33	28
				16th "	25	30	36	28
				23rd "	24	28	35	28
				31st "	22	24	29	24
				8th November 1876	18	21	28	18
				16th "	18	23	28	18
				23rd "	24	28	32	22
				30th "	24	28	31	17
				8th December 1876	24	31	36	23
				16th "	27	28	32	22
				23rd "	27	28	32	22
				30th "	27	28	34	24
				Average of six years	32	45	49	31

BHADGAON PETHA, PACHORA Taluka (Acting Extra 2nd

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.			
The kharif yield, which takes up more than three-fourths of the area of the Petha, may be taken at 7 annas and the rabi at 3 annas. Fodder, but no grain, may be sown.	The total amount of the revenue is not given, but the remissions will probably be Rs. 10,000.	No unusual mortality amongst the cattle has occurred, and none is anticipated, except in the case of the old and worn-out animals.	Many villages to the north of the taluka will suffer from scarcity of water; the only remedial measure is to repair such old wells as are promising. The Jamda Canal will, however, greatly alleviate the inconvenience.	Date.	Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Tur Dall.
				1st October 1876	32	35	38	24
				8th "	31	32	36	24
				16th "	24	28	32	24
				23rd "	24	28	32	24
				31st "	24	28	32	24
				8th November 1876	24	24	31	21
				16th "	18	22	25	18
				23rd "	18	24	26	18
				30th "	19	25	27	18
				8th December 1876	19	25	27	18
				16th "	20	28	29	19
				23rd "	22	28	29	23
				30th "	22	28	29	22
				Average of six years	26	43	49	24

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 6th January 1877).					
10,752,000 lbs. of grain are estimated to be in store; it is imported chiefly from Jalgaon and Mhásawad railway stations. Prices have fallen, but are not likely to decline further, and private enterprise will supply the market.	About one-half the population consists of cultivators, one-fourth of artizans and traders, and the rest of labourers, mendicants, &c. A fair proportion of the first two classes is well off. There are no large landholders, but the sowkars will aid the people.	There has been no noticeable emigration, and none is expected.	The Enandol-Meheji and Jalgaon-Girna River roads are in progress. If a further grant is made for the former, and the latter is extended to Dharangaon or Amalner, they will prove ample.	The infirm poor receive gratuitous support from Government funds, aided by private contributions.	At present there are 125 eople supported on works, and 40 by charity. The number requiring support will be on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 1,000 / 100 1st May - 1,500 / 150 1st July - 2,000 / 150
Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 7th January 1877).					
There is at present a six months' supply of grain in store. It is imported from the Chálisgaon railway station and the Nizam's dominions. Private enterprise will supply the market, but prices are not likely to fall further.	Out of a population of 45,000, 33,750 are high, and 11,250 low caste. About one-half may be put down as fairly well off. There are 9,000 cultivators, a small proportion of whom combine other occupations with agriculture. There are no large landholders.	There has been no noticeable emigration, and none is anticipated.	There are no relief works in progress at present; it will, however, be necessary to start one shortly, and improving the Utráh Ghát road to the foot of the ghát is proposed. Should another work be necessary, the Chalisgaon-Lohara road can be improved between Ozur and Waghli.	Demands for charitable aid are met by voluntary subscriptions.	At present Government have no people to support. Relief on works may be sought by— On 1st March - 500 „ 1st May - - 1,000 „ 1st July - - 1,000 The spontaneous liberality of the richer people will obviate all necessity for Government charity.
Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 7th January 1877).					
There are at present about 1,344,000 lbs. of grain in store; it is imported by rail and from the Nizam's territories. Private enterprise will supply the market, but prices are unlikely to fall.	One-half the population is well off, and the other half poor. Of the latter, three-fourths are cultivators and one-fourth labourers. One or two large landholders will probably aid their tenants.	No emigration has taken place, and none is expected.	The road from Páchora to the Titur River is in progress. On its completion, portions of the Chálisgaon-Lohara road will be undertaken.	No expenditure on charity has been incurred.	At present there are 124 persons, chiefly immigrants, on the Páchora road. There will probably be on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 300 / 50 1st May - 500 / 50 1st July - 500 / 50
Assistant Collector Mr. H. T. Ommaney's Report, dated 7th January 1877.)					
The local stocks of grain are not large, but there is no fear of any scarcity. Supplies are imported by rail and from the Nizam's territory. A fall in prices is not anticipated.	The poorer class preponderates over the wealthier. The population, except in the town of Bhadgaon, is almost purely agricultural. There are no large landholders.	No noticeable emigration has taken place, and none is anticipated.	Three relief works are in progress. On their completion, the people must go on to the Chálisgaon - Lohara road.	No gratuitous support has yet been given.	There are 330 persons now on works. The numbers for relief are, on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 500 / 50 1st May - 500 / 50 1st July - 500 / 50

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

VIRDEL Taluka (District Deputy Collector

The kharif yield is estimated at from 8 pies to 8 annas, and the rabi from 1 to 6 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.

The total amount of land revenue is not given, but the Collector estimates the remissions at Rs. 25,000.

There has been no mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated, as Government have thrown open the forest-grazing.

The water-supply is chiefly derived from rivers and good wells, and is on the whole sufficient to last till the next monsoons. There will, however, be scarcity in about eight villages, in which wells must be cleared and deepened.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Tur Dall.
7th October 1876	37	43	32	35
15th "	30	36	28	35
22nd "	28	41	27	31
31st "	24	32	23	23
7th November 1876	25	32	24	22
15th "	24	27	23	23
22nd "	22	28	22	23
30th "	28	34	24	23
7th December 1876	28	34	26	23
15th "	28	34	26	23
22nd "	28	36	24	26
31st "	28	34	25	26
6th January 1877	28	34	24	27
Average of six years	42¾	52½	35⅝	33⅝

SHIRPUR Taluka (District Deputy Collector

The kharif crop is from 2 to 10, and the rabi from 1 to 6 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.

About Rs. 55,000 will probably have to be remitted. The total revenue is not stated.

There has been no unusual mortality among cattle, and none is anticipated. Fodder is plentiful.

There is no fear of the water-supply failing at present. But in 24 villages wells will have to be cleared out and deepened before the hot season.

For the ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Tur Dall.
7th October 1876	36	37	34⅜	
15th "	29½	45	26	
22nd "	28½	41¼	27½	33⅛
31st "	24 3/16	32 5/16	23 5/16	23 5/16
7th November 1876	25 1/16	37 5/16	24	22¾
15th "	23⅜	32 5/16	22 5/16	21
22nd "	28⅛	32½	24	24
30th "	26	30	24	24
7th December 1876	32	34⅜	27½	24½
15th "	28½	34⅜	25⅜	24½
22nd "	28½	31	24	24½
31st "	28½	34⅜	25	24½
6th January 1877	28½	34⅜	25	24½
Average of six years	46	54	34	36

NUSSEERABAD Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector

The yield of the kharif crop is 4½, and that of the rabi 3 annas. There will be no further sowings this year.

Rs. 65,000 will have to be remitted out of a revenue demand of Rs. 2,11,532.

Mortality among the cattle and agricultural stock has as yet been little more than nominal; but it is expected that many will die from want of fodder and water before the end of the hot weather. The cultivators are taking every precaution for the preservation of their cattle, and have secured large stocks of hay, and all the cattle not in immediate use have been sent to the hills and forest reserves to graze. The Second Assistant can suggest no further remedies than those already adopted by Government.

The only sources of water-supply are rivers and wells; many of the latter will soon run dry. Deepening them and digging pits in beds of rivers are the only remedial measures possible.

Date.	Weekly Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Tur Dall.
1st week, October 1876	32	44 11/16	31	31½
2nd "	22	37	27½	31½
3rd "	28½	34⅜	23 3/16	22½
4th "	27⅝	37	24	24½
1st week, November 1876	25	27½	20⅝	18 7/16
2nd "	25	31	20⅝	19¼
3rd "	25	31	21⅝	21
4th "	28½	32 5/16	24	22½
1st week, December 1876	28½	32 5/16	24	22½
2nd "	28½	34⅜	24½	24½
3rd "	30½	34⅜	27½	24½
Average of six years	40⅞	58⅞	33½	28

CHOPRA Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector Mr. J. Pollen's

The kharif crop is estimated at 6, and the rabi at 2½ annas.

Out of a revenue demand of Rs. 1,60,482, about Rs 50,000 will probably have to be remitted.

No unusual mortality has occurred among cattle and agricultural stock, but it is anticipated that before the end of the hot weather many will die from want of fodder and water. All the cattle not in immediate use have been sent into the hills and forest reserves to graze. The Second Assistant is not prepared to suggest any further action in the matter.

The only sources of water-supply are rivers and wells. Many of these wells will run dry before the end of hot season. The only remedial measures possible to improve the water-supply are deepening the wells and digging pits in the beds of streams.

Year 1876.	Weekly Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Tur Dall.
1st week, October 1876	36½	41¼	31⅜	31 3/16
2nd "	30 5/16	33	28 5/16	31 3/16
3rd "	30 5/16	33	27½	28
4th "	28½	33	24½	24
1st week, November 1876	28½	31⅜	23⅜	18 5/16
2nd "	23½	28 5/16	20⅝	18 5/16
3rd "	28½	33	23⅜	21
4th "	28½	33	23½	21
1st week, December 1876	31	33	24½	22½
2nd "	28½	31⅜	24½	24
3rd "	28½	30	25⅜	24
Average of six years	53	52	35	38

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. Shriniwas Balaji's Report, dated 8th January 1877).					
Supplies of grain can be drawn from the railway stations of Mhasáwad and Chálisgaon; and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population, which is about 20,800, are for the most part high caste, Kunbis and Rájputs, and purely agricultural. About 1,300 are urban or artizan. About 10 large landholders may aid their tenants.	No emigration has taken place, and none is likely.	The present relief works, consisting of the Songir-Nándurbar road and a tank, will prove sufficient.	No demands have yet been made for charitable assistance, but the sum of Rs. 3,768 has been raised for the purpose by private subscriptions.	At present 1,219 persons are supported on the works, and none by charity. There will probably be, on— *On Works.* — *By Charity.* 1st March - 4,000 — 200 1st May - 8,000 — 400 1st July - 3,000 — 600
Mr. Shriniwas Balaji's Report, dated 9th January 1877).					
The local stocks are estimated at 1,050 tons. Supplies are drawn from the province of Nimad, bordering on the taluka, and the large importations have lowered prices. Private enterprise will meet all demands.	The pop' 'n consists c Bheels and d is almost gricultural. proportion of the urban or artizan to the whole agricultural class is about 2 per cent. There are few well-to-do people. There are 8 or 10 large landholders able to aid their tenants.	No emigration has taken place, and none is anticipated.	The only relief work in progress is the repairing of the Agra road. The Shirpur-Chopra road which has been sanctioned as a relief work will soon be started. If this proves insufficient the District Deputy suggests the repairing of the Shirpur - Sháhada and Amalner road.	The public have subscribed Rs. 1,537 for charitable relief, but none of this sum has yet been expended.	There are 286 persons on the hands of Government for relief on works, and 25 for gratuitous relief according to the Mámlatdár's report, but the District Deputy doubts the latter statement. The Mámlatdár estimates the number to be relieved by works at, on the— 1st March - - 300 1st May - - 700 1st July - - 600 The District Deputy, however, disputes the correctness o this estimate, and is of opinion that the numbers will be more than double; and that the numbers to be gratuitously relieved will be, on the— 1st March - - 100 1st May - - 300 1st July - - 400
Ir. J. Pollen's Report, dated 30th December 1876).					
To trustworthy information is obtainable as to the amount of the local stocks of grain, but they are supposed to be small, and importations will be necessary. Supplies to meet all local wants can be readily procured from the large markets of Jalgaon and Bhusáwal.	The population is chiefly agricultural, and the vast majority of the cultivators are very much in debt; not more than 10 per cent. can commence agricultural operations without the aid of sowkars. The sowkars are the capitalists of the taluka, and many of them are large landholders, both able and willing to aid their constituents.	There has been no unusual emigration.	No large relief works have been started in this taluka.	About Rs. 50 have been spent in relieving travellers and the infirm poor; besides which, Rs. 1,000 have been granted for expenditure on light labour relief gangs, employed in improving the cleaned tracts in the taluka.	The number of persons relieved by works at date of report was 261 and by charity 25. The numbers expected to be on the works hereafter are— On 1st March - 3,000 „ 1st May - - 5,000 „ 1st July - - 2,000
port, dated 30th December 1876).					
trustworthy information can be obtained as to the extent of the local stocks of grain, but they are believed to be small. Grain can, however, be imported in any quantity which may be required from the large markets of Jalgaon and Bhusáwal.	The population is chiefly agricultural, and the vast majority of the cultivators are said to be hopelessly in debt; not more than 10 per cent. can commence agricultural operations without the aid of sowkars. They are the capitalists of the taluka. Many of them are large landholders, and are both able and willing to aid their constituents.	No unusual emigration has taken place.	No large relief works have been opened in this taluka.	About Rs. 50 have been spent in charitable relief to travellers and infirm poor in the larger towns. In addition to this, Rs. 1,000 have been granted for expenditure on light labour relief gangs. These gangs are employed in improving the cleaned tracts of the taluka.	The number of persons, whom Government had on their hands at date of report, was on works 378, on charity 39. The numbers on works will hereafter be— On 1st March - 700 „ 1st May - - 1,200 „ 1st July - - 1,000 The numbers, who may have to be relieved by charity, are not given.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

SAUDA Taluka, with its Pethas of Yáwal and Ráver (2nd

The kharif crop is estimated at 5½, and the rabi at 4½ annas.

The remissions will amount to about Rs. 57,000 out of a revenue demand of Rs. 2,78,743.

There has been no unusual mortality among cattle and agricultural stock, but before the end of the hot weather many deaths are anticipated from want of fodder and water. All the cattle not in immediate use have been sent into the hills and forest reserves to graze. The Second Assistant has no further suggestions to offer on this head.

The only sources of water-supply are rivers and wells; many of the latter will run dry before the end of the hot weather, and should be deepened. Jhiras also should be dug in the beds of rivers.

Year 1876.	Weekly Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Tur Dáli.
1st week, October 1876	48	55	31	28
2nd "	42 4/4	45 1/16	30	28
3rd "	33 1/16	29 1/2	27 1/2	28 1/2
4th "	28 1/2	34 7/8	25 3/4	24 1/2
1st week, November 1876	26	34 3/8	22 15/16	22 3/4
2nd "	25	27 1/2	22 15/16	18 3/8
3rd "	25	30	24	18 3/8
4th "	31 3/16	31	24	20 1/2
1st week, December 1876	31 1/16	31	24	20 1/2
2nd "	28 1/2	31	24	20 1/8
3rd "	28 1/2	31	24	20 1/8
Average of six years	41	45 1/16	29 13/16	24 1/2

BHUSÁWAL Taluka (Assistant Collector

The kharif and rabi yields will each be 8 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.

The fixed land revenue is Rs. 2,50,000, and the probable remissions are Rs. 70,000.

No mortality has occurred amongst the cattle, nor is any anticipated.

In about 30 villages, where the wells and nullahs are dry, the people will have to go some distance to fetch water. It is proposed to excavate new wells and deepen old ones, and to attach cattle-troughs to them.

Date.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Pulse.	Oodida.	Moog.	Gram.	Rice.
8th Oct. 1876	28	20 3/4	42	28	28	28	33 1/3	14
16th "	29 1/2	28	40 1/2	28	28	31 1/2	36 1/4	14
22nd "	26 1/2	26 1/4	35	26 1/2	26 1/4	28	29 1/2	14
30th "	26 1/2	24 1/2	35	26 1/2	26 1/2	28	31 1/2	14
6th Nov. 1876	22 5/8	22 3/4	26 1/4	22 3/4	22 3/4	22 3/4	28	13 1/8
13th "	22 3/4	22 3/4	28	22 3/4	22 3/4	24 1/2	26 1/4	13 1/8
20th "	24 1/2	26 1/4	31 1/2	22 3/4	22 3/4	24 1/2	28	14
27th "	24 1/2	26 1/4	31 1/2	22 3/4	22 3/4	28	28	14
4th Dec. 1876	24 1/2	28	33 1/4	22 3/4	22 3/4	28	29 3/4	14
11th "	26 1/4	29 3/4	33 1/4	22 3/4	22 3/4	28	29 3/4	14
18th "	28	31 1/2	33 1/4	22 3/4	22 3/4	28	29 3/4	14
25th "	28	31 1/2	33 1/2	22 3/4	22 3/4	28	29 3/4	14
Average of six years.	32 3/8	49	49 7/8	37 1/2	—	—	—	—

GENERAL.

Of the 15 talukas and three pethas, the crops in 10 seem fair and in eight indifferent.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 4,66,000.

The condition of the cattle, except in four talukas, appears satisfactory.

The recent heavy rain in Khandesh has probably dissipated all fears regarding the water supply.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this as of all other collectorates is either agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.

There has been scarcely any migration from the district.

The chief relief works are the Dhulia-Pimpalner and Songir-Nandurbár roads.

The expenditure upon charity has been very trifling.

The 7th February 1877.

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Assistant Collector Mr. J. Pollen's Report, dated 30th December 1876).					
No reliable information is procurable as to the extent of the local stocks of grain, but they are supposed to be small. Grain, however, can be imported in any quantities required from Julgaon and Bhusáwal.	The population is chiefly agricultural, and the great majority of the cultivators are said to be deeply in debt; not more than 10 per cent. can commence agricultural operations without the aid of sowkars. These are the capitalists of the taluka, and many of them are large landholders, and both able and willing to aid their constituents.	There has been no unusual emigration.	Only small relief works are in progress.	Rs. 50 have been expended in relieving needy travellers and the infirm poor; besides which, Rs. 1,000 have been granted for expenditure on light labour relief gangs, who are employed in improving the cleaned tracts throughout the taluka.	The number employed on works at date of report was 325, and that relieved gratuitously 32. The numbers will hereafter be— On 1st March - 2,600 „ 1st May - - 3,700 „ 1st July - - 1,700
Mr. H. Woodward's Report, dated 11th January 1877).					
The local stocks of grain are sufficient for the year; it can, if necessary, be imported from the Central Provinces, Berar, and Indore. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is mainly agricultural and very poor. There are no large landholders likely to aid their tenants.	A partial emigration has taken place in the direction of the Central Provinces, Indore, and Berar. Further emigration is expected.	The relief works now in progress, consisting of a tank and two roads, are sufficient. On their completion the only works which can advantageously be undertaken are deepening and excavating wells.	A sum of about Rs. 600 is available for charitable relief, but few demands have been made.	350 persons are being relieved on works, and 40 by charity The estimate for the future is— *On Works.* / *By Charity* 1st March - 1,050 / 120 1st May - 2,100 / 240 1st July - 350 / 40

OBSERVATIONS.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is—

On March 1st - - - - - - - -	16,950
On May 1st - - - - - - - -	28,200
On July 1st - - - - - - - -	16,650

No return of the Jámner Taluka has been received; it is reported to be unaffected by scarcity.

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. M. MACPHERSON,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

NORTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE

NÂSIK DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR,

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realizable Revenue in 1875-76.
			Rs.
1. Násik - - -	445	89,377	39,802
2. Sinnar - - -	507	64,872	1,37,078
3. Igatpura - - -	672	57,735	81,778
4. Dindori - - -	560	68,626	1,15,823
5. Nipar - - -	370	86,017	2,16,202
6. Chándor - - -	299	50,130	83,509
7. Yeola - - -	482	59,313	59,744
8. Nándgaon - - -	424	30,230	55,782
9. Málegaon - - -	774	62,716	1,59,091
10. Báglán - - -	1,420	59,051	1,24,835
11. Kalwan - - -	1,200	54,152	75,780
12. Peint State - -	960	47,033	45,571
Total - -	8,113	729,252	12,48,995

NÁSIK - - - - - - -

a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*

CHANDOR Taluka (Second Assistant Collector Mr. F. L. Charles' Report,

				Date.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.			
					Rice.	Bájri.	Wheat.	Jowári.
The kharif yield will be 9 annas, and the rabi 4 annas; vegetables and pepper will be sown hereafter in garden lands.	The land revenue is Rs. 81,045, of which about Rs. 25,000 will be remitted.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle. They are being sent to graze in Dindori and the hills near Chandor, where there is plenty of fodder. Government aid is unnecessary.	The water supply is failing. There are no large rivers, but a number of small nullahs, the flow of which has already stopped, though there are pools at intervals. In the hot weather water to the north of these nullahs will be scarce, and some villages will have to be abandoned on this account; but to the south water will be plentiful. Some wells will have water throughout the year, but others must be deepened.	1st to 15th Oct. 1876 -	21	30¼	27½	40
				16th to 31st „ -	21	24¾	24¾	39
				1st to 15th Nov. 1876	18	24¾	22	30
				16th to 30th „ -	21	24¾	24¾	30
				1st to 19th Dec. 1876 -	18	27½	27½	30
				Average of six years -	20	43½	33½	57

NIPHÁD Taluka (Collector Mr. H. N. B. Erskine's

				For the week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.			
					Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Rice.
The kharif yield will be 6 annas, the rabi 5 annas. Indian corn, jowári for fodder, methi, carrots, ratala, onions, and vegetables will be sown in garden lands.	The remissions may perhaps be Rs. 80,000, but the Collector considers this high.	No cattle have died from starvation. The people have sown Indian corn and methi for the support of their cattle, and will afterwards sow "khonde." Some have brought grass from the Dindori and Chandor Talukas, whither cattle to the number of 3,000 have been sent to graze, as also to Baglan and Pimpalner. Government aid seems unnecessary.	There will be a scarcity of water from March to June in about 40 villages, to relieve which zirars should be dug in the beds of rivers at a cost of Rs. 500. Most of the villages have a good water supply from the Godavery and other smaller rivers, and as yet want is not felt.	7th October 1876 -	33	36	44	24
				15th „ -	31	27	38	21
				23rd „ -	30	27	36	21
				31st „ -	28	27	32	20
				7th November 1876 -	12	22	27	18
				15th „ -	12	20	26	16
				23rd „ -	12	22	26	15
				30th „ -	12	22	28	15
				7th December 1876 -	27	24	28	16
				15th „ -	27	24	28	18
				23rd „ -	27	24	28	18
				Average of six years -	35½	40	—	20½

COMMISSIONER—MR. L. R. ASHBURNER, C.S.I.

MR. H. N. B. ERSKINE.

Rough proportion of *kharif* to *rabi* cultivation.		Average annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.
Kharif. Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	Inches.
79,764	33,567	29·41	15·97
141,876	44,003	22·49	10·65
71,274	25,383	109·59	114·57
81,618	47,909	25·57	17·65
90,345	63,551	17·94	12·39
85,239	20,907	32·55	12·58
68,877	48,600	26·62	14·96
69,825	11,743	26·15	13·66
111,364	57,495	24·60	10·42
} 174,736	56,092	38·6	{ 14·32 16·10
—	—	38·2	77·40
974,918	409,250	—	—

NÁSIK.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
No large stocks are kept. What is required for consumption is brought in by train. Probably large exportations have taken place to the Deccan. Private enterprise will keep up the supply; if the grain is largely imported the prices will fall. No Government interference is deemed necessary.	The population is purely agricultural, being mainly Kunbis. In the southern villages the people are well off; in the north and east they are poor. The Chief of Vinchur is the only large landholder, and he may assist his tenants; no aid from other landholders is expected.	No emigration has taken or is likely to take place, except in the case of people in charge of cattle.	One road work and one tank have been undertaken. These will suffice for the month. On their completion the Assistant Collector proposes the road from Chandor to Munmad station. The Collector, however, is of opinion that no further works will be necessary.	Rs. 150 have been received to relieve the aged and infirm poor, but nothing has yet been spent. A committee will be appointed at Chandor to administer to travellers' wants.	The number of persons at date of report on the hands of Government for relief by works was 1,742; by charity none. There will be on— 1st March - - 3,000 1st May - - 3,500 1st July - 1,000 to 1,500 None are being supported by charity, and it is impossible to say if any such demands will be made.

without date, forwarded with the Collector's Remarks, dated 6th January 1877).

Report, dated 6th January 1877).

There is a stock of about 9,910 tons; 3,303 tons will probably be imported. Merchants will probably do all that is required to supply the taluka without Government interference. The Collector observes that a large stock of grain is unnecessary, as the G. I. P. Railway runs through the taluka.	The population is almost purely agricultural, and consists mainly of Kunbis. The Chief of Vinchur is the only large landholder likely to aid his tenants.	There has been no emigration; the people are moving towards the relief works.	Three small road-works are in progress, and two more are required.	Rs. 200 have been granted by Government to aid the helpless and Rs. 70 have been spent.	On works, 8,926; by charity, 30. 1st March, May, and July about 13,000.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

IGATPURI Taluka (Assistant Collector Mr. J. A. Baines' Report,

a.	b.	c.	d.	For the Week ending	Rice.	Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Nagli.
The kharif and rabi yield may each be taken as 8 annas. There is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The remissions will be about Rs. 8,000.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated; precautions are, therefore, unnecessary.	There will be about six weeks scarcity of water, to relieve which it is proposed to deepen wells and to construct a dam across the Kadwa.		Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.				
				7th Oct. 1876	32 5/16	37 13/16	36 7/16	45 1/8	39 3/16
				14th „	32 5/16	39 7/8	34 3/8	45 3/8	39 3/16
				21st „	32 6/16	35 3/4	33 11/16	47 7/16	42 1/2
				28th „	30 1/2	31 5/8	31 3/8	45 1/8	43 5/16
				4th Nov. 1876	26 1/8	28 3/16	28 3/16	35 3/4	37 5/8
				11th „	26 1/16	27 1/2	26 15/16	35 3/4	35 3/4
				18th „	30 1/2	29 9/16	29 9/16	37 13/16	39 3/16
				25th „	33	33	33	37 15/16	40 9/16
				2nd Dec. 1876	32 5/16	32 7/16	31 3/8	52 1/4	44
				9th „	32 5/16	33 1/16	30 15/16	45 3/8	41 15/16
				16th „	32 5/16	31 5/16	31 3/8	45 3/8	45 1/4
				23rd „	34 3/8	31 5/8	32 5/16	46 1/4	40 9/16
				Average of four years	34 5/8	45 3/8	61 1/8	68 1/16	77 11/16

YEOLA Taluka (Second Assistant Collector Mr. F. L. Charles' Report,

a.	b.	c.	d.	Date.	Rice.	Wheat.	Bájri.	Tur Dall.	Gram.	Jowári.
The kharif yield will be 4 to 5 annas, and the rabi 2 to 3 annas. No further sowings are expected, except a few plots of pepper and vegetables, and methi for fodder.	The revenue is Rs. 64,316-10-1, and the probable remissions will be Rs. 45,000.	No unusual mortality has occurred, but large numbers of cattle have been sent to the hills on the borders of Khandesh. Beyond this no measures have been taken, nor are any deemed necessary.	The water supply will probably fail in the hot weather, in which case the best remedial measure would be for the people to emigrate, as they have done in former years, to the banks of the Godavery. The Collector thinks that the water supply of the town of Yeola will prove sufficient.		Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.					
				15th October 1876	18	26	26	22	28	28
				31st „	18	24	24	20	26 1/2	28
				15th November 1876	14	15	18	18	22 1/2	28
				30th „	14	23	24	19	24	28
				15th December 1876	17	24	25	21	26	28
				Average of six years	—	20 3/5	30 9/16	—	22 9/16	42 1/2

SINNAR Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector Mr. J. A. Baines'

a.	b.	c.	d.	For the Week ending	Bájri.	Wheat.	Rice.	Jowári.	Nagli.
The yield of kharif and rabi is estimated at between 4 and 5 annas; the yield of each is not stated. There will be no further sowings this season.	The remissions will probably range between Rs. 80,000 and Rs. 1,00,000. The amount of the ordinary revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, many of which have been sent away by the ryots to Khandesh and the hills to graze. Government interference will not be necessary.	There will be great scarcity of water in many villages, to alleviate which "Scindis" will have to be dug, and wells sunk, cleared, and deepened.		Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.				
				8th October 1876	31 1/2	31 1/2	21	—	—
				15th „	31 1/2	31 1/2	21	—	—
				22nd „	28 3/4	28 3/4	21	37 3/8	48
				29th „	28 3/4	28 3/4	21	37 3/8	42
				5th November 1876	28 3/4	28 3/4	21	37 3/8	42
				12th „	28	28	15	28 3/4	31 5/8
				19th „	25 3/4	28	15 1/2	28 3/4	31 5/8
				26th „	25 3/4	28	18 1/4	31 5/8	34 1/2
				2nd December 1876	25 3/4	28	18 1/4	31 5/8	34 1/2
				10th „	25 3/4	25 3/4	21	31 5/8	34 1/2
				17th „	28 3/4	25 3/4	21	34 1/2	34 1/2
				24th „	28 3/4	25 3/4	21	34 1/2	34 1/2
				Average of six years	44	32 1/2	23 1/4	38 1/4	—

DINDORI Taluka (Acting Second Assistant Collector Mr. F. L. Charles'

a.	b.	c.	d.	For the Week ending	Wheat.	Bájri.	Nagli.
The kharif yield may be taken at 6 to 7 annas, the rabi at 5½ to 6½, and the bagayet from 8 to 10. There are no prospects of further sowings this season, with the exception of a few isolated patches of vegetables.	The revenue is Rs. 1,15,578, and the remissions will probably amount to Rs. 40,000.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle, and none is anticipated.	Scarcity of water will be severely felt in those villages, 20 or 30 in number, which are dependent on wells alone for their supply. In such villages it will be necessary to deepen and clear the wells, and failing obtaining water by this means, the villagers must move to the nearest river.		Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.		
				1st October 1876	35 3/4	35 3/4	46 3/4
				8th „	33	33	44
				15th „	30 1/2	30 1/2	41 1/4
				29th „	28 7/8	27 1/2	41 1/4
				12th November 1876	23 3/8	22	38 1/2
				19th „	24 1/4	23 3/8	44
				26th „	24 1/4	27 1/2	38 1/2
				9th December 1876	24 1/4	23 3/8	41 1/4
				16th „	24 1/4	24 1/8	38 1/2
				Average of six years	38 1/2	43	57

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
without date, forwarded with Collector's remarks, dated 8th January 1877).					
There are no large stores of grain, but the Assistant Collector hopes to make arrangements with dealers for grain and fodder till the first rain falls.	The majority of the population are agriculturists, and about 3,000 are employed on railway works. Few only of the landholders are able to assist the labouring classes.	No emigration has taken place; but it is expected that after "Shinga" (27th and 28th February) many will go in search of a livelihood.	There are no relief works in progress, but the Sinnar and Goti road will soon reach the taluka; it is, however, a small work, and the dam at Walvihir may have to be undertaken.	A few isolated instances of private charity have occurred.	As no relief works have been started, no correct estimate of the probable number requiring relief from Government can be framed.
without date, forwarded with Collector's Remarks, dated 4th January 1877).					
There are no large stocks of grain in the taluka itself, but it can always be had in times of real scarcity from the Lasulgaon Railway Station, where piles of grain bags are heaped, and from the north via Manmád. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will be able to supply the market.	The population of Yeola is almost wholly agricultural, the bulk of the people being Kunbis and Mhars. The town of Yeola itself contains 17,461 inhabitants, who are principally manufacturers. There are a few landholders, notably the Vinchurkur, who will aid their tenants.	Out of a population of 59,313, some 3,000 to 5,000, many of them weavers, have left for the neighbouring talukas and for Benares. Further emigrations are probable, unless relief works are started within the taluka.	There are at present no relief works in progress, but two roads will shortly be commenced.	No charitable relief has yet been deemed necessary.	None are employed on works, and none relieved by charity. The number Government will have to provide for will be on— *On Works.* *By Charity.* 1st March 5,000 100 1st May 7,000 to 8,000 150 1st July 2,000 to 3,000 200
Report, without date, forwarded with Collector's Remarks, dated 8th January 1877).					
The present store of grain is estimated by the Mámlatdár at about 74,000 lbs. The Assistant and Collector make no remarks on this estimate. The market will be supplied by private enterprise without any aid from Government.	No reliable information is procurable as to the number of high and low caste people. There are no landholders capable of aiding their tenants.	A few people have emigrated to Bombay and elsewhere in hopes of employment. Others will follow if relief works are started.	The relief work at Ghorwad is sufficient for the present, but two roads will shortly have to be commenced.	Out of Rs. 200 granted for charitable purposes, 97 persons have been relieved, each adult receiving 1 lb. of bájri, 4 ozs. of pulse, and 6 pies cash, and each child 8 ozs. bájri, and 1 oz. pulse, and 3 pies cash.	At present 6,000 people are being supported on the works, and 16 by charity. On 1st March 10,000 persons will require relief on works, on 1st May 14,000 to 15,000, and considerably less on 1st July. The infirm requiring support on 1st March and 1st May will be about 150, and on 1st July 300.
Report, forwarded with Collector's Remarks, dated 8th January 1877).					
There is no deficiency of grain, but no estimate can be made of the stocks. Large importations are made from Niphád and the Peint State. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The total population amounts to 68,626, and is almost purely agricultural. The people are chiefly Kolis, and are very poor, and much in debt. There are no landholders who will aid their tenants.	No unusual emigration has taken place, and none is expected.	No relief works are in progress at present; but it may be necessary to start three road works, and make approaches to the Kadwa River.	No charitable relief has yet been given.	No people at present on relief works. There will be probably on— 1st March 3,000 to 4,000; 1st May 4,500 to 5,000; and very few on 1st July.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

NÁSIK—

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

NÁSIK Taluka (Assistant Collector Mr. J. A. Baines' Report

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield will be 6, and the rabi 4 annas. There is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The revenue is Rs. 1,30,000, and the probable remissions Rs. 30,000.	There have been no deaths from starvation amongst the cattle. None have been sent elsewhere to graze, and no precautions are deemed necessary.	The water supply is less, and scarcity will be felt earlier than usual.	

For the Week ending.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Rice.	Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Nagli.
4th October 1876 -	14	20	18	32	30
11th „ -	14	18	18	26	28
18th „ -	14	18	18	26	28
25th „ -	14	20	18	26	28
1st November 1876 -	12	14	14	20	22
8th „ -	11	16	14	20	24
15th „ -	12	16	16	20	28
22nd „ -	12	17	16	21	26
29th „ -	12	18	17	21	26
6th December 1876 -	12	18	17	23	28
13th „ -	13	17	17	24	28
Average of six years	$22\frac{9}{40}$	$29\frac{3}{10}$	$43\frac{1}{8}$	$49\frac{2}{5}$	$54\frac{2}{5}$

MALIGAON Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield will be 6, and the rabi 2 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions are Rs. 40,000. The total revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle, and none is anticipated.	About Rs. 5,000 may be required for deepening wells.	

For each Week in Oct., Nov., and Dec. 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Rice.	Nagli.
1st week Oct. 1876 -	20	25	$21\frac{3}{4}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—
2nd „ -	$18\frac{1}{3}$	$21\frac{3}{7}$	$21\frac{3}{5}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—
3rd „ -	$17\frac{5}{6}$	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$18\frac{3}{4}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—
4th „ -	$18\frac{3}{4}$	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$21\frac{3}{4}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—
1st week Nov. 1876 -	15	$18\frac{3}{4}$	$14\frac{2}{3}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—
2nd „ -	15	$18\frac{3}{4}$	$15\frac{1}{2}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—
3rd „ -	20	$18\frac{3}{4}$	15	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—
4th „ -	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$21\frac{3}{7}$	16	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—
1st week, Dec. 1876 -	$18\frac{3}{4}$	$21\frac{3}{7}$	$16\frac{2}{3}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—
2nd „ -	$18\frac{3}{4}$	$22\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—
3rd „ -	$18\frac{3}{4}$	$21\frac{3}{7}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	—

NANDGAON Taluka (Acting First Assisstant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield will be 10, and the rabi 4 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions are Rs. 2,500. The total revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle, and none is anticipated. About 2,000 animals have been sent for grazing to the Chalisgaon Taluka, Khandesh.	It may be necessary to expend about Rs. 4,000 in improving the wells of 15 villages.	

For each week in Oct., Nov., and Dec. 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Rice.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Nagli.
7th October 1876 -	21	35	42	32	—
15th „ -	21	28	35	28	—
22nd „ -	21	28	$38\frac{1}{2}$	28	—
31st „ -	21	28	35	25	—
7th November 1876 -	15	21	28	21	—
15th „ -	$17\frac{1}{2}$	28	35	$24\frac{1}{2}$	—
23rd „ -	$18\frac{1}{2}$	28	$29\frac{1}{3}$	$24\frac{1}{2}$	—
30th „ -	19	28	33	26	—
7th December 1876 -	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$28\frac{1}{2}$	$31\frac{1}{2}$	$24\frac{1}{2}$	—
15th „ -	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$31\frac{1}{2}$	35	28	—
22nd „ -	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$31\frac{1}{2}$	35	28	—
Average of six years	46	$17\frac{1}{2}$	$32\frac{1}{4}$	55	—

BAGLAN Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield will be 6, and the rabi 3 annas.	The probable remissions are Rs. 10,000. The total revenue is not given.	No unusual mortality among the cattle has occurred or is anticipated. About 10,000 animals have been sent to the Dangs, and the Pampalneir taluka, Khandesh.	The supply of drinking water is sufficient.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Rice.	Bájri.	Nagli.	Jowári.
7th October 1876 -	$32\frac{1}{4}$	$16\frac{17}{40}$	$35\frac{6}{10}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{8}$
15th „ -	$25\frac{1}{3}$	$16\frac{21}{40}$	$25\frac{1}{2}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{8}$
22nd „ -	$25\frac{1}{3}$	$16\frac{21}{40}$	$25\frac{1}{2}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{8}$
29th „ -	$25\frac{1}{3}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$25\frac{1}{2}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{8}$
5th November 1876 -	$25\frac{1}{3}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	$25\frac{1}{2}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{8}$
12th „ -	$22\frac{18}{20}$	$15\frac{2}{3}$	$23\frac{11}{20}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{8}$
19th „ -	$22\frac{18}{20}$	$15\frac{2}{3}$	$23\frac{11}{20}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{8}$
26th „ -	$22\frac{18}{20}$	$15\frac{2}{3}$	$26\frac{9}{20}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$25\frac{1}{3}$
3rd December 1876 -	$23\frac{12}{20}$	$15\frac{2}{3}$	$26\frac{9}{20}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	$26\frac{1}{8}$
10th „ -	$23\frac{12}{20}$	$16\frac{3}{15}$	$24\frac{6}{8}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	15
17th „ -	$23\frac{12}{20}$	$16\frac{3}{15}$	$24\frac{6}{8}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	15
24th „ -	$23\frac{12}{20}$	$19\frac{3}{40}$	$24\frac{6}{8}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	15
29th „ -	$23\frac{12}{20}$	$19\frac{3}{40}$	$24\frac{6}{8}$	$37\frac{1}{2}$	15
Average of six years -	$35\frac{3}{4}$	$17\frac{17}{40}$	$45\frac{18}{20}$	$49\frac{20}{40}$	$46\frac{8}{20}$

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
forwarded with Collector's Remarks, dated 6th January 1877).					
There is plenty of grain in the taluka, and the railway is at hand to bring whatever may be required. The rates will probably rise after the grain has begun to move from Bombay and other centres. Private enterprise will be equal to the demand.	There is no reliable information on this point. There are no large landholders capable of assisting their tenants.	No emigrations have yet taken place from the villages. The people earn a few pice from the sale of wood and grass, and refuse to labour on distant relief works. Those on the Ghâts may possibly emigrate, but at present they have no such intention.	No relief works are in progress, but the work of metalling the Nâsik and Trimback road and digging a large tank may shortly have to be undertaken.	No charitable aid has yet been given, and none will probably be necessary.	No persons are maintained by Government either by charity or on relief works. No estimate for the future can be framed.
Mr. W. Woodward's Report, dated 8th January 1877).					
The local stocks of grain are estimated at 740,000 lbs. Supplies are imported by railway from Nandgaon. Prices may fall, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The people are chiefly agricultural, with a sprinkling of well-to-do high caste people. There are no large landholders likely to assist their tenants.	No unusual emigration has taken place and none is anticipated.	No relief works are in progress at present, but it may be necessary before long to commence the Mâlegaon-Nandgaon road and some tanks.	A grant of Rs. 200 for charitable expenditure in the taluka has been made. But none of it has yet been spent.	At present no persons are on the hands of Government for relief either by works or charity. It is possible that later on in the year there may be 5,000 people on relief works.
Mr. W. Woodward's Report, dated 8th January 1877).					
The grain supply is ample; the railway station at Nandgaon is the centre for imports. Prices have fallen since October, but are likely to rise three or four months before the harvest. Private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is chiefly agricultural. There are no large landholders able to help their tenants if required.	There has been no emigration, and none is anticipated.	No relief works are at present in progress; but in March it may be necessary to commence the Malegaon-Nandgaon road, and the Râjpur Ghât between Nandgaon and Yeola.	No charitable relief has been necessary. A grant of Rs. 150 is available when required.	At present there are no persons on the hands of Government for relief either on works or by charity. The numbers on relief works may be on— 1st March - - 500 „ May - - 1,100 „ July - - 1,300
Mr. W. Woodward's Report, dated 29th December 1876).					
Each village has its own stock, and the amount in the taluka will probably prove sufficient.	The population is chiefly agricultural. There are no large landholders able to aid their tenants, if required.	No emigration has taken place, and none is anticipated.	No relief works are in progress; but the road from Bhawarbari to Satara will soon be commenced.	No charitable expenditure has been incurred.	There are at present no persons on relief works, and at the worst period there are not likely to be more than 2,000 people on them.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

NÁSIK—

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

KALWAN Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector Mr. W. Woodward's

The kharif yield will be 8, and the rabi 8 annas. No further sowings will take place this season.	The probable remissions are Rs. 9,000. The total revenue is not given.	No unusual mortality among the cattle has taken place or is anticipated. The people of the eastern villages have, however, sent their cattle towards the Dangs.	The water-supply is sufficient.	For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Rice.	Nagli.
				7th October 1876	32 7/10	35 1/10	—	21 5/10	—
				15th „	34 1/10	32 1/10	32½	20 8/10	—
				22nd „	26 2/10	27½	—	19 1/10	—
				29th „	33 2/10	28 7/10	32	21 7/10	—
				5th November 1876	26 5/10	29 8/10	—	21 1/10	—
				12th „	26 1/10	30	32	21 9/10	—
				19th „	24 8/10	27 7/10	27½	19 1/10	—
				26th „	25 7/10	27 6/10	—	14 3/10	—
				3rd December 1876	24 7/10	28 7/10	27½	17 5/10	39
				10th „	24 1/10	26 8/10	—	19 2/10	—
				17th „	24 2/10	28 1/10	26½	18 2/10	36
				22nd „	25	27½	32¼	17 2/10	36
				Average of six years	33 1/10	43 1/10	—	23 1/10	56

GENERAL

Of the 11 talukas the crops in eight seem fair, and in three indifferent.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 3,69,500.

The condition of the cattle throughout the Collectorate appears satisfactory.

In five talukas the prospects of the water-supply seems satisfactory, and in six indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either purely agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.

There has been very little emigration.

The chief relief works are the Bawarbari-Vinchur, Kapralla Ghát, Vinchur-Niphar, and Niphar-Deopur roads.

The 3rd February 1877.

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Report forwarded with Collector's Remarks, dated 16th January 1877).					
There is enough grain in the taluka for its wants.	The population is almost entirely agricultural. There are no large landholders who could help their tenants, were it required.	No emigration has taken place, and none is anticipated.	In September and October a few small works were undertaken for the relief of the Bheels. The pressure lasted only till the kharif harvest commenced. In March it may be necessary to commence the Diwathari Kalwan road.	No expenditure has been incurred on charitable relief.	No persons are at present on the hands of Government, and it is doubtful whether there will be any. At the outside there may be 500 on relief works where the pressure is the greatest.

OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure upon charity has been very trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is about—

On March 1st - - - - - - -	43,000
On May 1st - - - - - - -	53,100
On July 1st - - - - - - -	36,300

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept, as accurate or reliable, all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to Distressed Districts in Bombay Presidency.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE

AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR.

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875–76.
			Rs.
1. Nagar - - -	548	109,888	1,32,838
2. Párner - - -	731	82,422	1,12,500
3. Shrigonda - -	610	64,936	1,17,726
4. Karjat - - -	567	48,766	2,07,464
5. Jámkhed - - -	550	72,994	
6. Sheogaon - -	682	83,226	1,52,406
7. Newása - - -	621	62,418	1,29,815
8. Ráhuri - - -	469	59,093	1,34,536
9. Kopargaon - -	505	60,839	1,32,831
10. Sangamner - -	688	68,765	1,24,110
11. Akola - - -	676	60,591	77,814
Total - -	6,647	773,938	13,22,040

AHMEDNAGAR

a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*

KOPARGAON Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector

				For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Bájri.	Wheat.
5 to 6 annas will be the yield of the kharif, and 2 annas that of the rabi crop. No prospect of further sowings this season.	The Assistant Collector estimates the remissions at Rs. 78,000, which estimate the Revenue Commissioner considers too high.	No cattle are known to have died from starvation. At the commencement of the scarcity many were sent into the Konkan. The cultivators who have irrigated land are sowing kadwal. Rs. 650 have been given as tagai advances to assist in the purchase of fodder and the improvement of existing wells.	One-third of the villages are situated on or near the Godávari, and will be well supplied unless the river runs dry. The greater number of the other villages have wells which, with a little outlay, will last for the season. Some few villages are situated on nalas which have already dried. Ziras are being dug; and if this source should fail, the villages will probably be abandoned for the season.	1st week in October 1876	42	33	33
				2nd „ „ -	42	33	33
				3rd „ „ -	31½	30	27
				4th „ „ -	31½	30	27
				1st week in Nov. 1876 -	33	31½	28½
				2nd „ „ -	33	31½	28½
				3rd „ „ -	27	25½	24
				4th „ „ -	27	25½	24
				1st week in Dec. 1876 -	30	25½	24
				2nd „ „ -	30	25½	24
				3rd „ „ -	33	24	27
				Average of six years -	60	51	36

SANGAMNER Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector

				For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.
The kharif 6 annas, rabi 2 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.	About Rs. 76,000 -	About 300 cattle have died since September, the greater number probably from starvation. Many more will succumb as the season advances. The cultivators who have sufficient water are sowing kadwal. Rs. 750 have been granted as tagai for the purchase of fodder.	The water-supply is rapidly failing. Digging wells and tanks will be useful. Bunding a stream at Pokhvi at a cost of Rs. 5,600 would give water to a few villages and provide work for many persons. Rs. 2,000 have been granted as tagai for wells.	1st week in October 1876	27	30	24
				2nd „ „ -	27	30	25½
				3rd „ „ -	26½	33	27
				4th „ „ -	25½	33	25½
				1st week in Nov. 1876 -	25½	31½	24
				2nd „ „ -	24	30	22½
				3rd „ „ -	24	30	24
				4th „ „ -	25½	31½	24½
				1st week in Dec. 1876 -	27	33	26½
				2nd „ „ -	27	33	27
				Average of six years -	61½	75½	37½

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

COMMISSIONER—Mr. E. P. ROBERTSON.

Mr. H. E. JACOMB.

Rough Proportion of *kharif* to *rabi* Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.
Kharif. Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	Inches.
73,855	120,903	27·99	8·64
133,433	102,298	23·3	8·28
56,491	176,968	28·12	15·29
49,242	127,795	21·38	6·70
81,054	62,266	28·76	8·77
95,232	125,506	29·34	20·0
47,875	149,271	24·57	13·49
68,836	104,373	23·6	10·57
90,534	148,159	23·57	10·5
154,679	56,879	20·16	6·45
136,984	11,925	21·33	8·98
988,215	1,181,343	—	—

AHMEDNAGAR.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
In the 12 largest villages not more than about 330 tons are stored. Manmád, on the G. I. P. Railway, is 30 miles from Kopargaon, and grain is brought thence in large quantities into the taluka. Prices will probably fall before long, and there is little fear of any subsequent considerable rise.	Out of 72,000 people, about 50,000 are high caste, about 11,000 are purely agricultural, and about 5,000 combine agriculture with other occupations. There are only three considerable landholders, and there is no chance of their assisting their tenants.	About 18,000 people have left the taluka. None have returned, nor is it known whether they have bettered themselves. 1,000 more may yet migrate.	Three large road works are in progress, and three more may be undertaken on their completion. Tanks and prickly-pear may also be cleared, but sufficient work for more than two months cannot be found, unless the Dhond and Manmád Railway or some large irrigation work on the Godáveri be commenced.	So far no large sums have been given in charity, what has been given has been raised from private subscriptions. Government have made a grant which will be availed of later in the season as the distress increases.	On works 3,500. By charity 20. If only men belonging to the taluka be employed, the number will be about 5,000 on 1st March, 6,000 on 1st May, and probably none on 1st July, if rain falls seasonably. The plan of transferring labourers from one taluka to another will interfere with the calculation of each taluka.

Mr. F. S. Hamilton's Report, dated 21st December 1876).

There are very small stocks in the taluka, but grain comes from the Central Provinces via Deoláli on the G. I. P. Railway. Competition is active, and there is no fear of prices being fictitiously forced up.	The whole population 81,000 (except that of the chief town) is agricultural. About 1,000 combine trade with agriculture. There are no large landholders likely to aid their tenants.	Out of a population of 81,000, about 7,000 have left in search of work. Perhaps 8,000 or 4,000 more will go.	Four main roads are in progress. The Dhond and Manmád Railway would afford relief to the whole of the taluka. The Pokhvi tank would also be a useful work to undertake.	About Rs. 138 have been spent on charity. A travellers' grain depôt has been opened at Ambi Ghargaon on the Poona and Násik road. Private subscriptions have been raised. Government aid will be required in the hot weather.	On works 5,620. By charity 111. On 1st March 8,000. On 1st May 10,000, and probably none in July.

Mr. F. S. Hamilton's Report, dated 23rd December 1876).

PARNER Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.			
				For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.
2¼ annas of kharif crop, 2 annas of rabi. No prospect of further sowings this season.	About Rs. 90,000	No cattle have died from starvation. Many have been sent to graze on the Ghâts. The cultivators who have water enough are sowing kadwal to support their bullocks in the hot season. Rs. 2,785 have been granted as tagai for the purchase of fodder and the deepening of wells.	Unless rain falls about Christmas the scarcity of water will prove fatal to cattle, and possibly to human beings. There is no large river, and the small streams are drying up. The villages to the western edges of the central plateau will be uninhabitable during the hot weather; those at the foot of the ravine will be best off. It is proposed to excavate a tank at Párner. Rs. 958 were given in various villages for improving their water-supply; large bandaras for irrigation purposes might be made at Reewooli and Apdhup Dhond. The Collector opposes the earthen dam advocated by his Assistant, unless competent professional aid is available.	1st week in October 1876	28½	30	24
				2nd „ „	28½	30	24
				3rd „ „	27	30	24
				4th „ „	27	30	21
				1st week in Nov. 1876	25½	30	21
				2nd „ „	24	27	21
				3rd „ „	22½	27	19½
				4th „ „	21	24	19½
				1st week in Dec. 1876	24	27	21
				2nd „ „	24	28½	21
				Average of six years	45	59¼	31½

KARJAT Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.				
				For each Week in October, November, and December.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Bájri.	Wheat.	Rice.
In garden lands the kharif yielded 4 annas and the rabi 4 annas. There was no jirayet crop whatever, either kharif or rabi. There will be no further sowings this season.	The land revenue is Rs. 64,326, of which Rs. 52,543 will have to be remitted.	Of the 24,012 plough bullocks, half have been taken to the valley of the Godáveri and places north, where some have died, and others have been sold. Of the remainder, about 6,000 have already died, and 1,000 more may yet succumb. Nearly all the remaining cattle have been sent away. A large number have no doubt died, or been sold for trifling sums. Rs. 1,350 tagai have been given to help to purchase forage.	The water-supply is reduced by a half and will be very scarce in the hot weather. Wells are being cleared and deepened, and ziras in the beds of streams opened.	1st week in October	31	30	26	18
				2nd „ „	31	30	26	18
				3rd „ „	27	24	22	15
				4th „ „	27	24	22	15
				1st week in November	24	21	21	12
				2nd „ „	24	21	21	12
				3rd „ „	24	21	21	12
				4th „ „	24	21	21	12
				1st week in December	24	21	21	15
				2nd „ „	24	22	21	13
				3rd „ „	25	24	21	13
				Average of six years	58¾	46⅖	33 1/16	16 23/40

SHRIGONDA Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.			
				Date.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Jowári.	Bájri.
The kharif yield was 9 pies and the rabi 9 pies. No prospect of any further sowings except "kadwal" in garden land for forage.	The land revenue is Rs. 1,08,000, of which Rs. 90,000 will have to be remitted.	It is impossible to give a correct estimate of mortality amongst the cattle. As soon as the forage failed, all the cattle, except those used for gardens, were taken to the Gungathori, or to the Nizam's territory, where many died or were sold for trifling sums. Some are returning in a worn-out state and will probably die. The bullocks used for drawing water will probably be saved. Advances from tagai have been made to about 30 people. Some well-to-do persons have imported grass from the Konkan. The people have been shown how to prepare prickly-pear, but the process is too expensive to be adopted.	The water-supply for drinking purposes has not yet failed, but will be scarce before the next rains. All the small streams are dry, but there is water in the Bhima, Hanja, and Gornadi rivers. Wells can be deepened and ziras excavated to provide water in the hot weather.	15th Oct. 1876	22½	27	24¾
				31st „	18¾	24	21
				7th Nov. 1876	17½	19	20½
				14th „	18	18¾	20
				21st „	18	19½	22
				28th „	18	21	21½
				5th Dec. 1876	21	22½	22
				12th „	22½	24	24
				Average of six years	38	66	53¼

JÁMKHED Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.			
				Date.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.
The kharif yield is 6 annas. The rabi 2 annas. There is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The revenue is Rs. 82,000. Remissions to the extent of Rs. 37,400 will have to be made.	The number of cattle is about 60,000; 29,000 have been taken to the Nizam's territory, where many have died or been sold. Not more than 10,000 or 12,000 will return. Of those remaining in the taluka, 10,000 have died or will die. As there is no fodder in the taluka, the only measure that the ryots can take is to grow it in their gardens. Grants of tagai have been made for the purchase of fodder.	The water-supply is only from ⅓ to ¼ of what is usual, and it will be scarce in the hot weather. Rs. 2,000 are now being expended in deepening wells and excavating ziras in the beds of streams.	7th Oct. 1876	33	33	33
				15th „	36	36	33
				23rd „	33	33	27
				31st „	33	33	27
				7th Nov. 1876	24	24	21
				15th „	24	24	21
				23rd „	24	24	21
				30th „	25½	25½	22½
				7th Dec. 1876	25½	25½	22½
				15th „	25½	25½	24
				Average of six years	54	66	42

—*continued.*

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. F. S. Hamilton's Report, dated 23rd December 1876).					
Grain is imported by road from Nagar. There is no railway in the vicinity. It is thought that prices will continue to fall. There is no large store of grain in any village of the taluka.	Of the total population of 82,000 about half are Kunbis. Of these one half combine agriculture with trade. There are a few large landholders, who may, the Assistant Collector thinks, be induced to help their tenants. The Collector, however, considers it improbable that the landholders will help their tenants either by making advances or by any other means.	15,000 people have left the taluka. Many went to Bombay, whence they are returning, having been unsuccessful in obtaining employment.	Fifteen small roads are in progress, and four more and some tank clearances are proposed. When these are completed, unless some large work like the Dhond-Manmád Railway is commenced, it will be necessary to go on improving the existing roads, as no money will be available to keep any more new ones in repair.	About 250 poor people are daily fed at Párnar. The expenditure has been about Rs. 600.	On relief works 6,000. By charity 250; these will increase largely before long. The number of workpeople on 1st March will be 10,000 to 12,000, 1st May 20,000, 1st July 1,500 to 2,000.
Mr. A. F. Woodburn's Report, dated 20th December 1876).					
There is five months' supply in the taluka. There was a large store of grain at Mirajgaon and smaller stores at three or four other places, from which grain is being exported; it is being imported from Deksál, Pomalwari, and Jámkhed. Prices have fallen slightly. Private enterprise will keep up the supply.	The majority of the population belongs to the Kunbi and other inferior castes. The population is 52,933, of whom 3,447 are wealthy and 49,536 poor. Only 7,579 are reported purely agricultural, but the Assistant Collector believes the majority of the poor must belong to the agricultural class. There are no large landholders, except a few jaghirdars, from whom no aid can be expected.	22,956 people have migrated to the Godáveri and the country north, and probably to the Berars. Some having failed to obtain employment have returned and report that the others are badly off. The people who remain, knowing this, will not be likely to emigrate.	Three road works which have been sufficient so far have been undertaken, but the sanctioned amount will be finished shortly. Six road works, to cost Rs. 14,100, and two tanks to cost Rs. 4,000, have been provisionally sanctioned, but will not suffice to give employment to the people. The Assistant Collector recommends clearing and repairing five large tanks.	Rs. 300 from Government and Rs. 50 from the Nagar Relief Fund have been given for feeding the aged and infirm; 1¼ lbs. of jowári is given daily to adults, and 12 ounces to children. Provision for assisting travellers is considered unnecessary. The amount actually spent is not stated.	On works 7,210. By charity 173. Labourers likely to be on the works— 1st March - - 9,000 1st May - - 7,000 1st July - - 2,000
Mr. A. F. Woodburn's Report, dated 20th December 1876.)					
The local stocks are sufficient to last for three months. Further supplies are being brought from Nagar, Mirajgaon, Karjat, and Dhond Station (G. I. P. Railway). Prices have fallen during the last month. Supplies will probably be kept up by private enterprise.	The population amounts to 64,936, of whom 10,234 are purely agricultural, and 5,058 are artizans. The remainder must, the Assistant Collector thinks, be connected with agriculture. The people on the whole are poor. There are no large landholders.	The population is 60,000. About 20,000 have left principally for the valley of the Godaveri and further north. There is no accurate information of what they are doing. A few have returned and many will probably follow. No further emigrations are expected.	Four large road works, three of which have been completed. Tank clearances and cutting prickly-pear are the works which have been undertaken. Seven more roads and a tank have been sanctioned. The works have hitherto been sufficient, but those remaining will not nearly suffice. If the earth-works of the Dhond and Manmád Railways are undesirable, a substitute must be found in some large irrigation work not yet discovered.	The aged and infirm received doles of grain daily, adults 1½ lbs. and children 12 ozs. of jowári. Government granted Rs. 500 for this purpose, the Ahmednagar Relief Fund Rs. 250 in grain and cash, and Rs. 56-8 have been raised locally. Travellers receive a day's food and enough to take them on to Nagar. The amount spent in charity is not given.	On works 3,846. By charity 200. The number of labourers will be as follows:— 1st March - - 8,000 1st May - - 8,000 1st July - - 4,000
Mr. A. F. Woodburn's Report, dated 20th December 1876).					
The taluka has sufficient grain for itself. Prices have fallen owing to the large supplies of grain brought to Poona, Nagar, and other places. The Assistant Collector is of opinion that the Banias will import grain if it is required.	The population is 62,351, of which 1,200 are rich, 22,351 poor and partly connected with agriculture; 5,400 purely agricultural and 33,400 partly agricultural. The majority belong to the Kunbis and other inferior castes. No help can be expected from any landholders to their tenants.	12,565 have emigrated to the Nizam's territory northwards. Some have returned, as they could not find employment. More are expected to emigrate after the rabi is reaped.	There are five road works in progress, and nine small works for improving the water-supply. The money sanctioned for these will shortly be expended. The Collector has been asked to obtain sanction for 13 roads and two tanks. The works so far have been sufficient.	The aged and infirm are supplied with grain daily, adults receiving 1½ lbs. and children 12 ounces of jowári. Rs. 300 have been given for this purpose. A travellers' depôt has been opened at Kudeh, for which Rs. 100 have been sanctioned, where travellers and the aged and infirm of the locality are helped.	On works 2,365. By charity 280. Labourers likely to be on relief works:— 1st March - - 6,000 1st May - - 5,000 1st July - - 2,000

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

SHEOGAON Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. A. H. Spry's

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield will be 8 annas, and the rabi 8 annas. No further sowings, except in garden lands, can be expected.	Rs. 3,000 is the probable amount of remissions.	Some cattle brought in an enfeebled condition from other tulukas have died, and some have gone on to the Nizam's territory.	The water-supply is sufficient.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Bájri.	Wheat.
7th October 1876	30	24	21
15th „	27	24	21
23rd „	27	25	21
31st „	28	28	24
7th November 1876	30	24	21
15th „	27	24	21
23rd „	27	25	21
30th „	28	28	24
7th December 1876	30	28	27
15th „	30	28	27
23rd „	32	30	28
31st „	30	28	27
Average of four years	24¾	60¾	36¾

NEWÁSA Taluka (1st Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif and rabi yield will each be 6 annas. No further sowings are expected this season.	The revenue is Rs. 1,30,000. The 1st Assistant Collector estimates the remissions at Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 40,000; but the Revenue Commissioner sees no reason for remissions, except in some few cases.	Some cattle have died, though probably not from starvation, and a good many have been taken to places where fodder is more plentiful. No unusual mortality is anticipated. No advances have been made by Government.	The water-supply will be sufficient.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.
7th October 1876	30	36	36
15th „	30	36	36
22nd „	27	27	33
31st „	27	27	33
7th November 1876	24	24	30
15th „	24	24	30
22nd „	24	24	30
30th „	24	24	30
7th December 1876	27	27	30
15th „	30	30	33
22nd „	30	30	33
Average of six years	43	58	64

NAGAR Taluka (1st Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield will be 4 annas, and the rabi 10 annas in bagayet lands, from 1 to 4 in jirayet lands of most villages, and 4 to 8 in the others. The area of each is not given, but the rabi cultivation considerably preponderates over the kharif. No further sowings of grain crops are expected.	The revenue is Rs. 1,17,597, and the probable remissions Rs. 50,000.	600 cattle are reported to have perished, and 25,000 more are expected by the Mámlatdár to die. This estimate the Assistant Collector and the Revenue Commissioner consider high. A grant of Rs. 2,200 tagai has been made for the purchase of fodder, and two sums of Rs. 2,000 each have been allotted for improving the water-supply and growing kadwal. There are grazing places at Pimpri in the Sangamner Taluka on the bank of the Prawari at Kopargaon, Kokomton, and Sannatchar, in the Koprgaon Taluka on the bank of the Godáveri, and on the Ghats, where cattle can be accommodated. Some cultivators have purchased and sown fodder for the subsistence of their cattle. Others again are deporting them. The Mámlatdár proposes establishing six pounds for the admission of cattle, on the understanding that the owners relinquish all claims to them after they are put in; that Government should support them till the next monsoon, and then sell them, but the Assistant Collector and the Revenue Commissioner are both opposed to entering the market. The Collector supports his Assistant's suggestion to establish temporary Panjrapoles.	Of the total number of villages, 59 are on the banks of rivers, and 59 are dependent on wells for their water-supply. There is no fear of a total failure, provided wells are deepened, ziras dug, tagai liberally advanced, and use made of Norton's screw where practicable.	

Date.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Rice.	Gram.	Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.
1st October 1876	18	39	30	30	33
9th „	18	30	28½	24	30
17th „	18	30	24	24	28½
24th „	16½	31½	24	24	30
31st „	16½	26¾	22½	22½	27
8th November 1876	14½	24	20¼	21	24¾
16th „	13½	25½	21¼	21¾	24¾
24th „	13½	28½	22½	22½	25½
1st December 1876	15	30	27	27	27½
9th „	15¾	31½	27	27	27½
17th „	16½	32½	27	27	28½
24th „	16½	33	27¾	27¾	30
Average of six years	18 1/20	36 1/20	33 7/20	44/5	55 11/20

RÁHURI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif and the rabi yield will each be 2 or 3 annas. No further sowings are expected this season.	The revenue is Rs. 1,25,868; the remissions will probably be Rs. 35,000.	No unusual mortality among cattle has occurred, and no great loss is to be apprehended. Rs. 1,100 have been advanced for the purchase of fodder, and more will be given.	The water-supply is plentiful, most of the villages being on the banks of rivers.	

For the Fortnights ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Rice.	Dall Tur.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bájri.
15th October 1876	17 7/10	22⅔	27⅓	25⅓	28½	26½
31st „	17 7/10	16½	27⅓	22⅔	25⅔	26½
15th November 1876	13¼	16⅔	23⅔	21	24	21 9/10
30th „	16¼	19⅔	26⅓	23⅔	28½	26½
15th December 1876	17 7/10	21	27⅓	25½	28½	26⅓
Average of six years	20 3/10	23 9/10	65½	33½	36½	49⅕

—*continued*

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Reports, dated 30th December 1876 and 6th January 1877).					
The local stocks of grain are not large. Importations are made by private persons from the Nizam's territory.	The Mamlatdár reports a total population of 87,974, out of which the Assistant Collector thinks 60,000 are partly agriculture, and belong to the Kunbi caste. Sir Dinkar Rao is the only large landholder, and he will doubtless afford relief to his tenants if necessary.	No emigrations are reported, but considerable immigrations have taken place.	No relief works are considered necessary at present.	Rs. 300 have been assigned for charitable relief. Adults receive 1½ lbs. of grain or flour, and children 12 ozs. daily.	About 50 persons are supported by charity. The number of immigrants who may require support on relief works later on in the season is estimated at 7,000.
Mr. A. H. Spry's Report, dated 27th December 1876).					
Grain is plentiful and is imported from the Nizam's dominions; it is also exported from this taluka to less favoured localities. Prices have fallen. Private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is 75,000, consisting chiefly of kunbis and agriculturists. There are about 5,000 high-caste people and 4,500 artizans. There are a few jahagidars, who may eventually give relief to their tenants.	There is more fear of immigration than of emigration, though some instances of the latter are reported.	No relief works are required for the present. Later on, however, a demand will be made which can well be met by constructing the earthworks of the Dhond and Munmád Railway. There is no other large works which can be undertaken with advantage.	About 50 infirm people are being charitably supported. Their numbers are likely to increase.	On works 50, by charity 50; this number will probably swell to 1,000 by 1st May. The numbers requiring relief on 1st March will probably be about 8,000, 1st May 20,000, 1st July 8,000. The Revenue Commissioner thinks that at the worst the numbers will never exceed 8,000 people.
Mr. A. H. Spry's Report, dated 28th December 1876).					
There is a stock of 3,303 tons of grain in store; this, with the Dhond and Manmár stations at a distance of 47 and 100 miles respectively, whence supplies are drawn, will suffice. The prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	Out of a total population of 67,312, the majority of whom are agriculturists, 65,966 are poor, and 1,346 well-to-do. The proportion of artizans to the total number is about 6 per cent. In the city there are a few landholders likely to assist their tenants, but none in the taluka.	33,032 souls have emigrated, and this number will probably swell as the season advances; their condition cannot be ascertained, but none have yet returned.	There are six road-works and some minor works in progress, which are insufficient, and must be supplemented by further road-works, tank-clearances, and cutting prickly pear, unless the Dhond and Manmár Railway intersecting the taluka is commenced.	6,575 travellers have already been relieved, each receiving 1½ lbs. of jowári flour, 6 ozs. of gram flour, together with chillies, a little salt, and five cow-dung cakes a day. The aged, infirm, &c., to the number of 15,641, have also been relieved, each receiving 1½ lbs. of grain, with a little salt.	The number on relief works is 1,462, by charity 781. The probable number requiring support will be as follows:— 1st March - 22,000 1st May - - 39,000 1st July - - 19,000
Mr. H. P. Spry's Report, dated 26th December 1876).					
Grain is plentiful, and is imported from Jubbulpore *viâ* Dhond and Manmád stations. Prices have fallen and private enterprise will meet all demands.	The total population is about 59,000, consisting chiefly of Kunbis and other agriculturists. There are about 4,000 or 5,000 artizans. No aid can be expected from landholders.	No general emigration has taken or is likely to take place.	The only relief works started are road repairs and clearances, which have hitherto sufficed. But the demand for labour will shortly increase, and much more money spent on petty works will simply be wasted; the Dhond and Manmád Railway would afford ample relief.	Rs. 300 have been allotted for charitable support to the needy, but more will be required.	On works 7,000; by charity 300. By works on 1st March 15,000, on 1st May 25,000, on 1st July 10,000, according to the 1st Assistant; but the Collector and Revenue Commissioner hope the number will not be quite so large.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

AKOLA Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector

The kharif yield may be taken at 9 annas, and the rabi at 2. There is no prospect of further sowings.	The remissions will probably amount to Rs. 36,000.	No unusual mortality among the cattle has taken place, and none is anticipated, as there is plenty of grazing on the Western Ghats.	The water-supply seems likely to fail altogether; the Praora and Mula rivers still contain water, but a large outlay will have to be incurred on deepening wells.	For the Months of	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Rice.	Bájri.
				October 1876	18	24
					17¼	35½
					16½	26½
					15	27
				November 1876	15	25½
					15½	24
					16½	24
					16½	25½
				December 1876	16½	26½
					16½	27
				Average of six years	25½	61½

Of the 11 talukas, the crops in two seem to have been fair, in five bad, and in four very bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 5,77,943.

In six talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in two indifferent, and in three bad.

In four talukas the prospects of the water-supply seem satisfactory, but it is reported that in five considerable, and in two large expenditure on this account will have to be incurred; no calamity due to failure of water-supply is, however, anticipated by the Government.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain-supply.

The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorates is either agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.

128,553 people, out of a population of 773,958, appear to have emigrated, but some have returned.

A further migration of upwards of 5,000 people is anticipated. The migration appears to this Government to be due mainly, if not entirely, to the cattle movements, and to the movement of the people towards relief works.

24th January 1877.

—*continued.*

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. F. S. Hamilton's Report, dated 27th December 1876).					
There is no large stock of grain in the taluka; it is brought from Sangamner, and the prices will depend on the market rates ruling there.	Except about 500 artizans, the whole population is agricultural, and there are no large landholders among them.	About 1,800 people have emigrated, 300 of whom have gone to the Sinnar relief works adjoining Akola, and the rest probably to the Konkan.	Five road works are in progress; and as this is the only taluka in the zila where there are no roads, six more are proposed, as well as one or two tank-clearances.	About 50 persons are now being gratuitously supported at 1½ lbs. of flour for an adult and 12 ozs. for a child.	There are 650 people now on relief works. This number will rise to 900 in March, 1,20 in May, and fall to 500 in July The aged and infirm will hav to be supported to the exten of 150 in March, 300 in Ma and 500 in July.

OBSERVATIONS.

A considerable number of relief works is in progress, but the local officers are unable to suggest sufficient to meet th future demand for labour, unless the Dhond and Manmar Railway earthworks are undertaken.

The expenditure on charity has not been large.

The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is—

On March 1st - - - - - -	98,900
„ May 1st - - - - - -	1,48,200
„ July 1st - - - - - -	47,500

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept, as accurate or reliable, a the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering th intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in othe matters.

(Signed) C. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE

POONA DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR,

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875–76.
			Rs.
1. Jūnnar	600	106,876	1,58,586
2. Indápur	567	62,392	1,01,025
3. Khed	799	139,152	1,68,961
4. Sirur	558	76,984	1,40,392
5. Purandhar	442	75,732	83,934
6. Bhimthari	1,002	115,297	2,17,499
7. Haveli	766	155,082	1,89,197
8. Máwal	357	56,834	70,362
9. City of Poona	8	118,886	—
Total	5,099	907,235	11,29,956

POONA

a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*

BHIMTHARI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector

The kharif crop is estimated at 1 pie, and the rabi at 1½ pie. In the irrigated lands, where the water lasts, there may be sowings of different kinds of fodder crops. There will be no further sowings in dry-crop lands this season.

The First Assistant estimates the probable amount of remissions at about Rs. 2,15,000 on a revenue demand of Rs. 2,30,025. The Collector considers this estimate under the mark, and doubts whether any revenue can be collected at all.

Out of 71,000 head of cattle, about 47,000 have been taken to the Berars, the Nizam's Dominions, and the Western Ghats. The past mortality is estimated at 15,000, and the anticipated mortality at 7,000, besides such deaths as may take place among the cattle which have left the taluka. It is only the more worthless animals which have died. No further measures are practicable on the part of Government for cattle preservation than those already adopted.

The villages on the Bhima and Nira Rivers will have plenty of water. The remaining villages are not so well off, and obtain their supply from wells, many of which will require to be deepened and improved; and a large expenditure (Rs. 40,000) will be necessary for this purpose.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Rice.	Gram.
1st October 1876	22½	27	29½	18	27
8th „	22½	27	29½	18	27
15th „	18	18	22½	15½	18
23rd „	18	18	22½	15½	18
1st November 1876	18	18	22½	15½	18
8th „	18	18	22½	15½	18
15th „	18	18	20½	15½	18
23rd „	18	18	20½	13½	20½
1st December 1876	20½	20½	22½	15½	22½
8th „	20½	20½	22½	15½	24½
15th „	20½	20½	24½	18	24½
23rd „	20½	20½	24½	18	24½
Average of three years	25½	47½	51	18	26

INDÁPUR Taluka (Report of Assistant Superintendent, Revenue Survey

The kharif crop has utterly failed, and the rabi is estimated at about 2 pies.

The total land revenue (Rs. 1,15,254) will probably have to be remitted.

The number of cattle in the taluka was 44,216, of which 32,560 have emigrated, about 2,285 have died, and about 7,319 deaths are anticipated, unless special steps be taken to prevent them. No advantage has as yet been taken of the Government permission to graze cattle in the Konkan and Máwals, owing to a belief that those districts are fatal to cattle from the Deccan. The Assistant suggests that Government should send pressed hay to Disksál Station, and advance it as tagai to the cultivators. This plan the Revenue Commissioner considers too expensive, and thinks that it would be cheaper to let the cattle die, and then, if necessary, advance tagai for the purchase of others.

There is no fear of a water famine. 40 villages lie on the Bhima and Nira Rivers; the remaining 46 depend on wells, some of which will require deepening and improving.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Gram.	Rice.	Tur.
1st October 1876	25	32	31	30	21	44
8th „	24	32	30	28	19	39
15th „	20	27	27	23	19	35
22nd „	19	22	23	23	17	32
29th „	20	22	23	24	17	32
5th November 1876	17½	20	20	18	17	—
12th „	17½	20	20	18	17	—
19th „	17½	18	18	21	17	—
26th „	18½	19½	19	22	19	—
3rd December 1876	19½	20	19	23⅝	19	—
10th „	22½	23	21½	23¾	19	—
17th „	22½	23	20	23⅝	19	—
24th „	22½	23	20	23¾	19	—
Average of six years	35	76	56	33	22	43¾

COMMISSIONER—MR. E. P. ROBERTSON.

MR. G. NORMAN.

Rough Proportion of *Kharif* to *Rabi* Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.	
Kharif. Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	Inches.	
154,483	48,986	22·34	17·9	
233,156	26,642	21·76	4·82	
206,413	22,306	23·50	18·9	
115,501	116,538	17·3	10·94	
70,984	58,308	23·24	17·54	
43,872	300,389	20·73	5·97	
182,857	9,402	33·10	14·90	
52,555	9,108	—	76·79	
—	—	—	—	
1,059,821	591,679	—	—	

- - - - - - POONA

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*

Mr. A. Keyser's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

The Mámlatdár estimates the local stock of grain at about 1,714 tons, but the importations are large and regular by railways, there being three railway stations in the taluka, Khedgaon, Pátas, and Dhond, whence supplies are drawn, and these importations have lowered prices considerably; but the First Assistant Collector does not anticipate any further fall. There is no likelihood of the supply failing.	The population numbers about 116,274 souls, of whom 22,070 are of the agricultural class, 1,300 shepherds and cattle owners, 8,200 artizans, 7,270 traders, shop-keepers, and servants, &c., and the remaining 77,434 are pensioners, women, and children, and people of no particular occupation. The landholders are nearly all of the class of peasant proprietors, and the few who sublet their land are either traders who will do nothing for their tenants or Brahmins who are in debt. The Inámdárs are also quite dependent on their land for their livelihood, and are more likely to require assistance than to give it. The cultivators are of the Kunbi and Mali caste.	The people have emigrated in large numbers (upwards of 39,200) to the Berars, the Sátpura Hills, the Nizam's Dominions, and the Konkan, with their carts, families, and cattle; and are not likely to return before the next harvest. Most of those who have gone are reported to be doing fairly; of others no information has been received. No further emigration is probable.	The chief relief works in progress are the Mutha Canal, employing about 18,000, and the Mutakmal Tank, employing 5,000 persons, besides numerous minor works which will afford employment to 10,000 for two or three months. Works sanctioned and in progress under civil agency are: Clearing the irrigation tank at Wadhani, clearing 7 small tanks for village water supplies, repairing 18 miles of road, making 47 miles of new road, cutting prickly pear, and excavating and deepening wells. As the numbers seeking employment are increasing, the first assistant thinks that, in addition to the above, one large work is necessary, and names the Nira Canal as a work ripe for commencement and capable of relieving very large numbers. He gives also a list of minor works that might be undertaken.	But little money has as yet been expended on charitable relief to travellers. The aged and infirm poor are allowed 1½ lbs. of grain a day, besides some salt and chillies.	The number on relief works was about 21,804 at date of report. It will be on— 1st March - - 30,000 1st May, about - 20,000 1st July, from - 5,000 to 10,000

(Mr. W. M. Fletcher), on special duty, Indápur, dated 29th December 1876).

Of the original local stock of grain, there are about 1,029 tons still unconsumed, and a large quantity sufficient to remove all anxiety has also been imported by rail to Diksal and Pomulwári. Private enterprise is likely to meet all demands, and prices may yet fall to a slight extent when this season's harvest comes into the market.	Of the total population, numbering 67,164 souls, 3,943 are artizans, 11,712 landholders, and 46,737 persons existing by other means. The mass of the population is agricultural. The higher rank of landholders, such as Patels, Kulkarnis, Deshmukhs, Deshpandes, &c., number about 10,000, including women and children, but few can live without work, and most of them differ in no way from the ordinary Kunbi. There are no wealthy landlords.	Of the total population (67,164), about 34,289 have migrated, but some are returning. Only the first to leave their villages appear to have bettered themselves. No further emigration is probable so long as relief works continue sufficient for the population.	The Assistant Superintendent submits a statement of 22 relief works in progress, chiefly roads, tanks, and wells, and proposes similar works likely to cost Rs. 39,050, suggesting that wells should precede other works. He does not think that these works will be sufficient to provide employment for all who are likely to need it, but is of opinion that if one or two large works were undertaken, such as constructing dams at favourable sites in the villages of Bhadalwári, Shelgaon, and Kawtali, they would not only be sufficient to provide employment for all, but the prospective benefit, especially in a drought-stricken district like Indápur, would be very great.	Adults receive a daily allowance of 1 lb. of flour, with salt and chillies, and those under 15 years of age receive ½ lb. flour, with salt and chillies. Travellers in need of food receive the same allowance, but are forwarded at once to the head-quarters of the Mámlatdár, who provides them with work or suitable relief.	The number of persons on the hands of Government for relief by works at date of report was 9,600, and relieved by charity 500. The probable number will be as below:— *On Works.* *By Charity.* On 1st March 20,000 500 „ 1st May - 25,000 500 „ 1st June - 25,000 500 The number to be relieved by charity will not alter much, unless increased by strangers from other districts.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

POONA—

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

PURANDHAR Taluka (1st Assistant Collector

The kharif crop is estimated at about 5 annas, and the rabi at about 4 annas. There will be no further sowings this season, except in irrigated lands.

The probable amount of remissions is estimated at about Rs. 32,000.

No unusual mortality among cattle has occurred or is anticipated. Many cattle were removed from the district early in the season. Fodder is sufficient, and Government interference unnecessary.

There will be no absolute failure of the water supply, but as it has failed in some places, and is scanty in others, wells will have to be sunk, and people aided in securing a sufficient supply, which will entail an expenditure of about Rs. 12,000.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Rice.	Gram.	Túr.
3rd October 1876	31	43 5/10	51 3/4	22	32 1/2	52 1/2
10th „	31	43 2/10	51 3/4	22	32 1/2	29 17/19
17th „	31	42 3/4	52 4/10	22	32 1/2	29 17/19
24th „	32 1/10	44 7/10	52 1/2	22	33 3/10	29 17/19
31st „	30 3/4	26 7/10	57 1/10	22	36 9/10	—
7th November 1876	29 1/10	43 2/5	56 1/10	22	33 3/10	67 2/10
14th „	29 1/10	43 1/4	55 1/2	22 1/2	33 3/10	—
21st „	31	45 9/10	54 9/10	23 1/10	34 3/10	70 4/10
28th „	31	43 3/10	55 1/2	23 1/10	33 3/4	28 1/2
5th December 1876	32 1/10	44 1/10	55 1/2	22 1/2	33 1/10	70 4/10
12th „	33 1/10	45 9/10	53 7/10	25 7/10	33 3/4	45 1/2
19th „	28 1/10	44 1/2	52 1/2	24 3/10	36 9/10	42 1/2
Average of six years, 1870-71 to 1875-76	34	45	61	23	44	48

JUNNAR Taluka (District Deputy Collector Mr. Balaji

The kharif crop is 7 and the rabi 2 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.

Out of the total revenue demand of Rs. 1,40,000, about 25 per cent., or Rs. 35,000, will have to be remitted.

There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle and agricultural stock, but it is anticipated that from 10 to 15 per cent. of the total number (77,209) will die from starvation. As the forest reserves have already been thrown open for free grazing, the District Deputy can suggest no further remedy.

Partial failure of the water supply is anticipated later on in the season, and it will be necessary to deepen wells as they run dry.

For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Rice.	Jowári.	Gram.	Túr.
1st week, Oct. 1876	28 9/10	24	17	25 3/4	30	48
2nd „	22 4/10	24	15	25 3/4	28 1/2	34 6/10
3rd „	21 4/5	20	15	24	25 1/2	34 6/10
4th „	20	20	15	24	24	30
1st week, Nov. 1876	19 1/2	20	16 1/2	24	24	24
2nd „	19 1/2	20	16 1/2	24	24	21 3/4
3rd „	19 1/2	20	16 1/2	24	24	21 3/4
4th „	19 1/2	20	16 1/2	24	24	21 3/4
1st week, Dec. 1876	19 1/2	20	16 1/2	24	24	21 3/4
2nd „	19 1/2	20	16 1/2	24	24	21 1/2
Average of six years	23 3/4	30 1/2	28	79 1/10	43 7/8	46 1/10

MÁWAL Taluka (District Deputy Collector Mr. Balaji

The kharif crop is 5 and the rabi 2 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.

The remissions are estimated at about Rs. 10,100 out of a revenue demand of Rs. 59,000.

There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle nor is any anticipated. The measures already adopted by Government for the preservation of cattle are deemed sufficient.

There will be a scarcity of water during the hot weather, and wells must be deepened.

For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Rice.	Gram.	Túr.
1st week, Oct. 1876	25	25	26	25	27 1/2	25
2nd „	25	25	26	25	27 1/2	25
3rd „	25	25	26	25	27 1/2	22 1/2
4th „	20	20	25	18	26	20
1st week, Nov. 1876	21	20	25 1/2	17 1/2	26	13
2nd „	21	20	25 1/2	17 1/2	25 1/2	12
3rd „	20	20	24 1/2	17 1/2	25	13
4th „	20	21	24 1/2	17 1/2	25	12
1st week, Dec. 1876	20	21	24 1/2	17 1/2	25	14
2nd „	21	22 1/2	26 1/2	20	25	16
3rd „	21	22 1/2	26 1/2	20	25	18
4th „	22 1/2	23 1/2	28	20 1/2	27 1/2	20
Average of six years	72	44 1/2	49 2/5	30 1/10	38 1/10	29

KHED Taluka (District Deputy Collector Mr. Balaji

The kharif crop is 6, the rabi 1, and the bagayet 2 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.

Remissions will probably amount to about Rs. 14,000.

There has been no unusual mortality among cattle or agricultural stock, but about 5,500 deaths are anticipated. The Ghodi subdivision of the taluka is the principal pasture ground for all the cattle of Indápur and Bhimthari, and also for a portion of Sholapur, whence thousands of cattle have poured in, thus seriously affecting the pasturage at the disposal of the cattle of the taluka. The District Deputy thinks that Government has done all that is possible in the matter.

Water has failed to some extent, and further failure is anticipated. To counteract this, wells are being deepened.

For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Wheat.	Rice.	Jowári.	Gram.	Túr.
1st week, Oct. 1876	24	24	18 28/40	27	28 37/40	26 21/40
2nd „	24	22 28/40	18 28/40	27	28 37/40	26 21/40
3rd „	25 2/5	20 1/5	18 28/40	26	28 37/40	26 21/40
4th „	22 13/20	17 27/40	16	24 11/40	27 1/8	20 1/2
1st week, Nov. 1876	23 13/20	18 28/40	12 5/8	24 11/40	25	13 1/4
2nd „	20 1/10	15 9/10	13 3/8	22 13/40	22 7/26	12
3rd „	21 13/20	15 31/40	14	24 11/40	23	14 18/20
4th „	21 13/20	15 31/40	14	24 11/40	23	14 18/20
1st week, Dec. 1876	22 13/20	16 9/40	16	27	28 27/40	16 7/8
2nd „	20 9/10	17 27/40	16	24 11/40	28 27/40	19 9/10
Average of six years	40	27 1/2	20	50	32 1/2	24

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. A. Keyser's Report, dated 28th December 1876).					
There are no means of ascertaining the local stocks, which are probably not large, but importations are considerable, and no fear of grain proving insufficient is felt. The principal centres whence supplies are drawn are Poona, Sáswad, Jejuri, Walhi, and Kikwi.	The population are all of the ordinary Kunbi class, and small peasant proprietors. There are 10 inám villages among those suffering from distress, but the Inámdars are not in good circumstances, and do not assist their tenants.	Only a few have emigrated with their cattle to the Ghâts; the majority of those who have left their villages have gone to the relief works.	The relief works in progress are the Bárámatti-Jejuri Road, repairs to a small local road, excavating wells, and cutting prickly pear. Repairs to the main road connecting Jejuri with the railway, 15 miles, and a new road from Sáswad to Tásgaon have been sanctioned. A list is submitted by the First Assistant of other projects deemed necessary hereafter to provide employment and afford relief to the people. The First Assistant is of opinion that the Nira Canal and the Jejuri Tank will absorb all the distressed workpeople in the district. The present works are insufficient to provide relief, and some work on a large scale is urgently necessary.	Rs. 150 have been expended in relieving the aged and infirm poor, but travellers have not as yet required such assistance.	There are at present employed on relief works about 5,650 persons, and relieved by charity 71. The numbers will hereafter be on— *On Works.* *By Charity.* 1st March - 9,000 150 1st May - 6,000 150 1st July - 1,000 50
Gungadhur's Report, dated 27th December 1876).					
The local stocks of grain are considered sufficient to last for at least three months. The supplies are drawn chiefly from Poona, and to a small extent from Sangamner. Private enterprise will supply all demand. No great fall in prices is anticipated.	The population, numbering 106,876 souls, is of a mixed character; 6,294 are high caste, and 105,582 low caste; 99,876 are poor, and 7,000 well-to-do; 81,033 are purely, and 25,843 partly, agricultural; of artizans the number is 5,500. The landholders are mostly involved in debt, but the few who are well-to-do are likely to aid their tenants.	About 2,000 people have emigrated into the neighbouring districts and Bombay. About half the number annually go to Bombay during the fair season, and return before the monsoon. The increase this year is owing to the present searcity.	No relief work is in progress, but the Sirur-Narayangaon Road, estimated to cost Rs. 9,000, will shortly be commenced. Some other works have been sanctioned and some proposed, amounting in all to Rs. 1,48,000.	The charitable relief given has been trifling.	There are none on the hands of Government for relief either by works or by charity. The number requiring relief herein-after will be— *On Works.* *By Charity.* 1st March - 2,000 20 1st May - 10,000 30 1st July 2,000 50
Gungadhur's Report, dated 27th December 1876).					
The local stocks of grain, as far as ascertainable, are sufficient to last till March. Supplies are drawn from Lonauli, Khárkala, and Talegaon Railway Stations, and private enterprise will meet all demands. Prices are falling owing to large importations, and it is not thought likely that they will rise much.	The population is 56,834, and may be divided as follows: High caste 2,505, low caste 54,329, poor 55,034, and well-to-do 1,800, purely agricultural 51,634, and partly agricultural 5,200, artizans 1,000. The ryots are for the most part very poor and much involved. The few who are well-to-do will aid their tenants.	There has been no large emigration. Between 3,000 and 4,000 persons annually proceed to Bombay during the fair season, and return when their presence is required in the fields. It is anticipated that the increase this year will be about 50 per cent.	No relief works have been started yet, but some tanks have been sanctioned and will soon be commenced. Estimates are being prepared for two roads, one from Kharkala to Ambegaon, 11 miles, and the other from Induri to Kusur, 24 miles, which the Collector considers will be of great use in opening out two important valleys.	Charitable relief has been given, both in cash and in food, at the rate of 3 pies and 1 lb. of jowari per head per diem to 7 individuals.	Three persons have been fed on charity and four travellers relieved. Amongst the townsmen of Talegaon a subscription has been raised likely to amount to about Rs. 500 for charitable relief. The numbers of persons likely to be on the hands of Government will be as follows:— *On Works.* *By Charity.* 1st March - 500 25 1st May - 1,000 100 1st July - 800 150
Gungadhur's Report, dated 23rd December 1876).					
The local stocks (quantity not stated) are considered sufficient till April. Grain is imported from the Talegaon and Poona Railway Stations, and private enterprise will meet all demands, but prices are not likely to fall to any appreciable extent.	The population, numbering 139,100 souls, is of a mixed character, and may be divided as follows: high caste 6,100, low caste 133,000; of these 123,150 are poor, and 15,950 well-to-day. Purely agricultural number 119,800, and partly so 19,300. The total number of artizans is 10,000. Of landholders there are 13,463, but only 185 of these hold more than 100 acres. These will probably aid their tenants, but many of them are much involved.	Emigration has not taken place to any great extent. About 1,500 people annually go to Bombay during the fair season to seek employment, and return about the time the fields are being prepared for sowing. This year about 15 or 20 per cent. more have emigrated. Further emigration is not probable, especially as the people find employment on relief works.	The only relief work in progress in this taluka is the Khed-Pabal Road. As this is not sufficient, the District Deputy proposes other works, such as road-making and tank and well clearing.	There are four aged and infirm poor people, to whom relief is given in food at the rate of 1 lb. of bájri per head daily.	The number on relief works is 300, that relieved by charity 4. The number to be employed hereafter will be on the— 1st March - - 4,000 1st May - - 5,000 1st July - - 2,000

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

HAVELI Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector

The kharif and the rabi crops are each estimated at about 6 annas. There will be no further sowings this season.

The revenue is Rs. 1,54,289, out of which the 1st Assistant thinks Rs. 25,000 must be remitted.

The mortality among cattle has been very small, from 75 to 100, and the measures adopted of throwing open forest reserves for free grazing are considered sufficient to prevent further loss.

In the east the water supply will prove sufficient to last till near rains, but in the west there is always a scanty supply during the hot weather, and some expenditure will be necessary for clearing out wells, &c.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Wheat.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Rice.	Gram.	Túr.
1st October 1876	25	23	32 5/8	19 3/8	36 1/4	49 1/8
8th "	23	23	24	19 3/8	32 1/16	36
15th "	20 7/10	20 7/10	24	19 1/2	27 3/8	31
24th "	16	21 1/4	24	14 7/10	27 3/4	31
1st November 1876	16	21 1/4	24	14 7/8	27 3/4	31
8th "	16	18 2/5	19 23/40	14 7/8	20 7/10	31
15th "	18 1/2	20 7/10	19 23/40	14 7/8	20 7/10	31
24th "	18 1/2	20 7/10	19 23/40	14 7/8	20 7/10	31
8th December 1876	20 7/10	20 7/10	21 1/4	14 7/8	20 7/10	33 3/5
15th "	20 7/10	20 7/10	21 1/4	14 7/8	20 7/10	33 3/5
23rd "	20 7/10	20 7/10	21 1/4	14 7/8	27 3/4	33 3/5
Average of five years, 1871 to 1876.	24 13/20	36 7/10	44 2/5	18 11/16	28 1/8	36 2/5

SIRUR Taluka (Assistant Collector Mr. E. C.

The kharif crop is estimated at 4, and the rabi at 1½ annas. There will be no further sowings this season.

The remissions will probably amount to about Rs. 1,00,000, out of a revenue demand of Rs. 1,64,574.

Out of a total of 75,234 head of cattle, the village officers report that 2,093 have died from starvation, which the Assistant Collector thinks an exaggerated estimate. About 9,745 are reported to have been sold for nominal prices, but the Assistant Collector estimates the number so sold at about 5,000. About 19,751 have been sent out of the taluka for pasture. The cattle that are still left in the taluka will have to be fed with ordinary fodder or prickly pear. Cattle will eat prepared prickly-pear, but at present the ryots will not go to the cost of prepairng it.

The water supply will prove sufficient when the necessary improvements to wells, &c. have been made.

For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Túr.
1st week, Oct. 1876	24 1/4	26	22 1/4	14 3/8	34 1/8	39 1/2
2nd "	25	28 1/4	23 3/8	17 3/8	28 1/2	32 1/4
3rd "	24 1/2	27 1/2	22 1/4	18 1/2	25 1/2	19 1/2
4th "	23	25 1/2	19 1/4	14 1/2	25 1/2	28 1/4
1st week, Nov. 1876	20	22 1/2	16 3/8	14 1/2	22 1/2	24
2nd "	20	22 1/4	16 3/8	14 1/2	22 1/2	24
3rd "	20 1/4	22 1/4	16 3/8	14 1/2	22 1/2	25 1/4
4th "	20 1/4	19 1/2	16 3/8	14 1/2	22 1/2	25 1/4
1st week, Dec. 1876	20	19 1/2	16 1/2	14 1/2	24 1/2	27 1/2
2nd "	23	19 1/2	19 1/2	14 1/2	25 1/2	27 1/2
3rd "	23	24 1/4	21	14 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2
Average of six years	56 1/2	38 1/2	44 1/2	18 1/2	19 1/4	55 1/2

GENERAL

Of the eight talukas, the crops in three seem good, in three indifferent, and in two bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 5,46,354.

In five talukas the condition of the cattle appears satisfactory, and in three rather the reverse.

Some expenditure of money will render the water-supply throughout the Collectorate satisfactory.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorates is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.

101,989 people seem to have migrated. The movement has now stopped; it appears to be to a great extent caused by the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle. The people are expected to return before or during the monsoon.

The chief relief works now in progress are the Moota Canal, the Yewut Tank, the Shirshophul Tank, and the Poona-Pond Road.

The 30th January 1877.

continued.

Mr. A. Keyser's Report, dated 30th December 1876).

f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	k.
No statistics of local stocks are obtainable. Poona is the great centre of the grain trade, and large importations continue to be made, which have lowered prices considerably; but a slight rise may be anticipated before the hot weather.	Of the total population, numbering 216,885 souls, 46,299 are agriculturists. The landholders in the distressed part of the taluka are small and of the usual Kunbi or cultivating caste.	There has been little or no emigration; the Mutha Canal having given employment to those needing it directly the distress began to be felt.	The Mutha Canal and the Pimpri Ghât Road are the principal relief works in progress, and employ about 3,000 people of the taluka. The First Assistant states that these works, in conjunction with certain others he recommends, such as clearing wells and constructing tanks at Vagholi, Walti, and Bosri, will afford sufficient relief to the people of the taluka.	The infirm and the aged poor obtain relief at Poona from the Municipality and the relief funds. Funds are also placed at the disposal of Patels to relieve persons of this class in outlying villages, each person being allowed 1 lb. of grain a day and an anna a week for chillies, &c.	The number of persons on relief works is about 3,500, and that relieved by charity 47. The numbers likely to be on hereafter will probably be on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 5,000 / 60 1st May - 3,500 / 75 1st July - 500 / 75

Ozzanne's Report, dated 30th December 1876).

The local grain stocks are considerable. The chief supplies are drawn from Ahmednagar, and importations by private enterprise have lowered prices. Private enterprise will continue to supply the demands of the taluka.	Of the population, numbering 76,984 souls, 21,096 are peasant proprietors, 8,547 are artizans, 1,023 traders, and the remainder labourers. The people are much in debt, and are highly improvident. There are no large landholders who will aid their tenants. A few of the peasant proprietors are free from debt, and comparatively wealthy, and can bear a famine without ruin, but cannot help others. The Soukars have, to a large extent, become landholders, and the peasant proprietors, in many instances, their tenants. They can, but will not, aid their tenants, and are merciless landlords. Of the class of Inâmdars, the chief is the Jagirdar of Malthan, a Sirdar of the first class and wealthy. He declined to aid his tenants, and left the taluka for Dhar at the first symptoms of distress. No help can be expected from this class.	About 18,500 persons have left the taluka. Of these about 2,000 are at work in the neighbourhood. About 5,000 have gone to Bombay and to the Ghât districts, and about 3,500 to the Moglai; but they all went with the full intention of returning next rains or earlier. About 300 of those who went to Gangthari have returned with unfavourable accounts of the place. Further emigration is not probable.	There are sufficient useful works in progress in the taluka, such as tanks, roads, and prickly pear cutting to afford employment to the people till March; and for the future the Assistant Collector submits a list of works which require inspection by the Irrigation Department.	A village register of persons requiring charitable relief has been prepared, and relief is given through the agency of the village officers — $1\frac{1}{32}$ lbs. of grain to an adult, and 11 ozs. to a child. One day's supply is given to needy travellers; and clothing for sick and needy persons has been provided from funds allotted by Poona Famine Relief Fund.	The number employed on relief works at date of report was about 6,000, and that relieved by charity about 500. Future numbers are estimated at on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 10,000 / 500 1st May - 15,000 / 800 1st July - 4,000 / 800

OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is—

On March 1st - - - - - - - -	80,500
On May 1st - - - - - - - -	85,500
On July 1st - - - - - - - -	45,300

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE

SHOLAPUR DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR,

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875–76.
			Rs.
1. Sholapur - - -	841	180,587	2,58,357
2. Bársi - - -	605	130,853	2,01,863
3. Karmála - - -	762	105,291	1,70,615
4. Mádha - - -	612	103,981	1,51,797
5. Pandharpur - -	455	79,314	1,17,336
6. Sángola - - -	647	62,960	85,207
7. Málsaris - - -	574	55,048	88,730
Total - -	4,496	718,034	10,73,905

SHOLAPUR - - - - - -

a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*

SANGOLA Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector

The kharif yield will be 7, and the rabi 3 pies. There are no prospects of further sowings this season, except fodder in garden lands.

The total revenue is Rs. 85,120, and the probable remissions will be about Rs. 76,252.

Out of 125,140 cattle, 50,000 have left the taluka, many of which are reported to have died or been sold, 6,820 have already perished, and further mortality to the extent of 14,700 is anticipated. As a remedial measure it is proposed to advance tagai, and shortly before the rains to re-transport agricultural cattle by rail at Government expense.

The taluka is dependent on wells and "hels" for its water-supply, which is now very scanty and precarious; wells and "hels" are being deepened, and new "hels" opened in the beds of rivers and nullahs. In some villages it will be impossible to provide water, and they must be deserted.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Bájri.	Wheat.	Gram.	Rice.	Dall.
7th October 1876 -	21	17⅓	21	20⅓	17½	20⅔
14th „ -	21	17⅓	21	20⅓	17½	20⅔
21st „ -	21	17⅓	19½	19½	14	19½
31st „ -	21	17⅓	19½	19½	14	19½
7th November 1876 -	17⅓	15¾	15¾	15¾	15½	17⅓
14th „ -	17⅓	15¾	15¾	15¾	15½	17⅓
21st „ -	17⅓	15¾	17⅓	17⅓	15½	17⅓
30th „ -	17⅓	19½	17⅓	17⅓	15½	17⅓
7th December 1876 -	19½	19½	19½	19½	15¾	15½
14th „ -	19½	17⅓	19½	19½	15¾	15¾
21st „ -	17⅓	17½	17½	17⅓	14	17½
Average of six years	58⅝	50½	40⅛	31⅛	19⅓	25⅝

PANDHARPUR Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector

The kharif and rabi yield are each under one anna. There are no prospects of further sowings this season, except fodder in garden lands.

The revenue amounts to Rs. 1,17,210, and the probable remissions will be Rs. 1,11,226.

Of 72,700 cattle, the Mámlatdár estimates that 63,800 have been taken away, 4,000 have died, and 4,900 still remain in the taluka. The Revenue Commissioner suggests that Government should aid in re-transporting the cattle by rail, and should advance tagai.

This taluka is traversed by the river Bhima and its tributary, the Mann, and the water-supply is not a matter of much anxiety. In some villages, however, where water is very scarce, "hels" are being dug in the beds of nullahs and wells deepened, and where water entirely fails, the people will be removed.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Bájri.	Wheat.	Gram.	Rice.	Dall.
7th October 1876 -	28	28	24⅔	28	17½	28
14th „ -	24⅔	24⅔	21	24½	16	24½
21st „ -	24⅔	24⅔	21	21	16	24⅔
31st „ -	28	21	21	21	16	17½
7th November 1876 -	19½	16	16	19½	16	16
14th „ -	17½	16	17½	17½	16	16
21st „ -	17½	17	17½	19	16	18
30th „ -	20⅔	19½	19	21½	16	21
7th December 1876 -	21	21	21	22	16	23
14th „ -	21	21	21	23	16	23
21st „ -	19	19	19	21	16	19½
Average of six years	53⅓	45 7/12	31⅔	31 7/12	18⅔	29⅓

COMMISSIONER.—MR. E. P. ROBERTSON.

MR. J. H. GRANT.

Rough Proportion of *Kharif* to *Rabi* Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.
Kharif. Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	Inches.
63,121	343,593	28·35	8·68
79,848	198,596	29·4	11·14
31,235	364,325	22·37	8·41
36,436	266,412	25·32	6·45
28,489	194,826	24·64	6·8
162,704	111,738	21·76	4·29
43,258	169,734	—	11·78
445,091	1,649,224	—	—

SHOLAPUR.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
There are upwards of 518,000 lbs. of grain in the market; private stocks cannot be ascertained, but are small. The chief centres from which grain is imported are Sholapur and Pandharpur. No fall in prices can be expected, but private enterprise will supply the market.	The population amounts to 76,850, of these 65,380 are caste people, and 11,470 Mhárs and Mhangs; 6,800 are well-to-do, and 68,250 poor; there are about 65,000 agriculturists, and 5,000 weavers, &c. There are no large landholders capable of aiding their tenants.	35,000 persons have emigrated to the Berars, Central Provinces, Indore, and the Konkan, and some have bettered themselves. In a few cases cholera broke out and carried off some of the emigrants; a few of those who went into the Nizam's territory are returning; further emigration to the extent of 3,000 or 4,000 is expected.	The seven road works now in progress are insufficient, and must be supplemented by irrigation works in the taluka if found practicable, or by the Nira Canal and Dhond-Manmar Manmád Railway.	Charity at Government expense is given to the infirm at the rate of 1 anna for an adult and ½ anna for each child. Rs. 595 have been expended from Government resources.	At present there are 15,000 persons employed on the works. There will be on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 22,000 / 800 1st May - 25,000 / 1,000 1st July - 18,000 / 1,200

Mr. J. Davidson's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
There are 858,400 lbs. of grain in the market, the actual stores cannot be ascertained. It is imported from Sholapur and Barsi Road station; there will be no considerable fall in prices, but private enterprise will supply the market.	The population amounts to 79,314, of whom 63,740 are caste people, and 15,574 Mhárs and Mhangs; 17,722 are well-to-do and 61,592 poor. There are upwards of 60,000 agriculturists and a trifling per-centage of artizans. There are no landholders capable of aiding their tenants.	40,000 people have emigrated; those with cattle, as a rule, went to the Berars, the Central Provinces, or Indore, and a few to the Nizam's Ghâts; those in search of employment went to Bombay and the Konkan; 500 have returned, but it is anticipated that there will be some further emigration.	The relief works now in progress, and which will prove insufficient, are tank clearances; seven road works and other minor works. There are no large projects to be undertaken in the taluka itself; but if the works proposed in Sángola and Málsiras are sanctioned, the people can be transferred to them failing the Dhond and Manmár Railway and Nira Canal.	Government have spent Rs. 493 on charitable relief.	There are upwards of 10,824 persons on Government works at present. The Mámlatdár expects there will be on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 20,000 / 2,000 1st May - 30,000 / 4,000 1st July - 20,000 / 3,000 But the Assistant Collector considers the numbers on works over-estimated.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

SHOLAPUR—

a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*

SHOLAPUR Taluka (Deputy Collector's Report

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.		
The kharif yield will be 1 pie and the rabi *nil*. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The revenue is Rs. 2,74,000; the Mámlatdár estimates the remissions at Rs. 2,58,000, which the Revenue Commissioner considers too high.	Out of the total number of 71,000 cattle, 20,000 have been sent to Khandalla to graze, 30,000 have been killed by butchers, or have died of starvation, which statement, however, the Revenue Commissioner considers exaggerated, and 20,000 more are expected to perish. The Collector considers advancing tagai to holders of garden land the only practicable remedy.	In 87 villages the water-supply will be precarious, but the difficulty can in a measure be obviated by temporary wells. Some villages, however, must be abandoned in the hot weather.	For the Week ending	Jowári.	Bájri.	Dall.
				7th October 1876	30	—	26
				14th „	27	24	25
				21st „	24	22	19
				31st „	18	21	18
				7th November 1876	16	18	16
				15th „	16	18	17
				21st „	17	18	19
				30th „	17	19	19
				7th December 1876	20	22	24
				15th „	20	22	19
				21st „	20	23	19
				Average of six years	48	52	29

KARMALA Taluka (District Deputy Collector's Report

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.					
The kharif and rabi yield may each be taken at 1 anna. There are no prospects of further sowings this season, except fodder in garden lands.	The total revenue is Rs. 1,68,000, nearly the whole of which must be remitted.	There were about 130,000 cattle in the taluka, of which 85,000 have been taken away for grazing, 2,500 have perished, and further mortality to the extent of 5,000 is anticipated.	A failure in the water-supply of some of the villages distant from the rivers is apprehended; wells are being deepened and cleared.	For the Week ending	Jowári.	Wheat.	Rice.	Bájri.	Túr Dall.	Gram.
				7th October 1876	35	31½	17½	28	31⅓	35
				15th „	28	21	17⅔	21	28	29⅔
				22nd „	24½	19¾	15⅝	21	24⅔	26⅔
				31st „	21	20½	15⅔	21	21	22⅔
				7th November 1876	19⅓	17½	14	17⅔	19½	21
				15th „	18⅗	17⅓	14	17⅔	17½	17⅔
				22nd „	18⅗	17⅓	14	18⅗	19¼	21
				30th „	19¼	19¼	14	20⅝	21	21
				7th December 1876	21	21	14	21	21	21
				15th „	24⅓	22¾	14	21	22⅔	22⅔
				22nd „	23⅗	22¾	14⅔	22⅔	22⅔	22⅔
				Average of six years	54½	36⅘	19½	47	34⅔	38 1/10

MALSIRAS Taluka (District Deputy Collector's Report

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.	
The kharif yield may be taken at 3 annas, and the rabi at 7 pies. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The total revenue is Rs. 85,900, nearly the whole of which must be remitted.	Out of the total number of 117,420 cattle, 867 have died from starvation 2,300 more are expected to die, and 85,900 have been taken into other districts. Importing pressed grass is proposed as a remedial measure.	The water-supply will prove sufficient; 20 villages are watered by the Nira, and the rest are dependent on wells, which, when improved, will hold a sufficient supply.	For the Week ending	Bájri.	Jowári.
				7th October 1876	27	30
				15th „	20	25
				21st „	18	20
				30th „	15	15
				7th November 1876	15	15
				15th „	15	15
				21st „	17	17
				30th „	20	20
				7th December 1876	20	20
				15th „	20	20
				21st „	20	20
				Average of six years	44	51

MADHA Taluka (Second Assistant Collector

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.					
The crops have failed completely, and no further sowings are probable this season.	The total revenue is Rs. 1,51,681, and the probable remissions Rs. 1,51,019.	There were 102,221 cattle in the taluka, out of which 42,000 have left, 5,000 have perished, and it is expected that ½ or ⅔ of the remainder will succumb; exportation is the only means of saving them.	The taluka is well watered by rivers, and has numerous wells and tanks, and its water-supply is not a matter of anxiety.	For the Week ending	Jowári.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bájri.	Rice.	Dall.
				1st week in Oct. 1876	28⅛	21 3/20	25 7/20	21	19	17⅛
				2nd „	25 9/20	19⅛	23 7/20	17⅛	19	17⅛
				3rd „	21 3/20	18	21 3/20	17⅛	17 1/40	15 3/16
				4th „	21 3/20	18	21 3/20	17⅛	17 1/40	15 3/16
				1st week in Nov. 1876	18	16 1/20	18	17⅛	17	15 3/16
				2nd „	18	15 3/16	17 1/40	16	15	15 3/16
				3rd „	21 3/20	18	21 3/20	19	17	17⅛
				4th „	23 1/20	21 3/20	23 1/20	21	18	15⅝
				1st week in Dec. 1876	25 1/20	21 3/20	25 1/20	21½	19	21
				2nd „	25 1/20	21 3/20	26	21½	19	21
				3rd „	25 1/20	21 3/20	22⅛	21½	19	25 1/16
				Average of six years	71⅛	34⅛	36⅔	56¼	24½	29⅝

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
forwarded with Collector's remarks, dated 15th January 1877).					
The local stocks are estimated at 740,000 lbs. of jowári. The railway station at Sholapur is the chief centre from which supplies can be drawn. Prices have fallen and the Revenue Commissioner considers that private enterprise will do all that is required, though the local officers think that grain supplies will run short in the more distant villages of the taluka.	The total population is 170,600, of whom 128,700 are high caste, and 41,900 low caste, 166,600 poor and 4,000 well-to-do; 82,000 agricultural, and 88,600 non-agricultural, of whom 28,000 are artizans. There are no landholders likely to aid their tenants.	About 20,000 people have emigrated into the Nizam's territory, but failing to better themselves are returning. No further emigration is probable.	The present relief works are not sufficient; it is proposed to undertake tank clearances and two irrigation tanks if they prove practicable.	2,800 infirm people are being charitably supported.	At present 17,991 persons are supported on works, 2,800 by charity. There will be on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 30,000 / 3,000 1st May - 35,000 / 4,000 1st July - 40,000 / 5,000 If rain fall seasonably, the number on works in July will be reduced to about 25,000.
forwarded with Collector's remarks, dated 9th January 1877).					
There are upwards of 825 tons of grain in store; it is imported chiefly from Khardi and Jeur. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The total population is 101,187, of whom 82,243 are high caste, and 18,944 low caste; 100,687 poor, and 500 well-to-do; 8,300 agricultural and 92,887 non-agricultural, of whom 5,000 are artizans. There are no large landholders able to assist their tenants.	Nearly half of the people have emigrated, some to the Nizam's territory and the Berars, others to the Konkan. They do not appear to have bettered themselves, and 2,000 have already returned, and more are returning. No further emigration is anticipated.	The relief works in progress are not sufficient; many others will be required.	Charitable relief to the extent of Rs. 295 has been given by Government in the shape of food.	The number of people on the hands of Government is at present 6,074 labourers, and 518 people receiving charity; and the estimate is, on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 12,000 / 900 1st May - 15,000 / 1,050 1st July - 15,000 / 1,200 The Collector, however, thinks the numbers on works will be greater.
forwarded with Collector's remarks, dated 6th January 1877).					
There are upwards of 763 tons of grain in store; it is imported from Pomalwári, Decksal, and Bársi Road Stations. Private enterprise will supply the market, but it may be necessary for Government to keep up a small amount of carriage for the grain transport.	The total population amounts to 63,473, of whom 52,127 are Mahrattas and 11,346 low caste; 60,993 are poor, and 2,480 well-to-do; 48,000 are agriculturists, and 12 per cent. artizans. There are no landholders able to assist their tenants.	35,500 have emigrated to the Nizam's dominions, the Berars, Nagpur, and the Konkan; 1,000 have returned, and many more are following. No further emigration is probable.	16 relief works are now in progress; they will prove insufficient, and four tanks and two roads are proposed.	Destitute people receive flour and a few pice. Rs. 1,687 have been spent in this way up to date.	Government at present support 9,020 on works and 593 by charity. The number to be provided for will be on— *On Works.* / *By Charity.* 1st March - 11,000 / 800 1st May - 26,000 / 900 1st July - 14,000 / 1,100
Mr. H. A. Acworth's Report, dated 1st January 1877).					
There are about 117,600 lbs. of grain in the taluka; the chief trade centre is the village of Kurdowadi at Bársi Road Station; it forms a centre of export from Pandharpur and Bársi. In the interior of the taluka Shetphal has acquired importance as a local trade centre. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is 103,981, of whom 84,379 are high, and 19,608 low, caste; 17,894 are cultivators, 86,087 non-cultivators, and 1,777 artizans; the people are wretchedly poor, and there are no landholders capable of aiding their tenants.	31,800 have emigrated into the Nizam's territory, Dehrur, Bhir, Umrawati, &c., the majority of whom have not bettered themselves; more than 2,000 have returned, and others are following; further emigration is expected.	At present there are 8 roads, 22 tanks, and 20 wells in progress. In addition to these, the Ashti tank will be undertaken, and the Dhond and Munmád Railway would afford relief.	A comparatively small number of paupers are receiving gratuitous support.	At present Government support 12,500 on works and 1,355 by charity. The numbers requiring relief on works will be on— 1st March - 30,000 or 40,000 1st May - 40,000 1st July - 10,000 or 15,000 if rain falls early. The Revenue Commissioner and Collector think these numbers over-estimated.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

SHOLAPUR—

a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*

BARSI Taluka (Second Assistant Collector

The kharif yield may be taken at 1 anna 9 pies, and the rabi at 3 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The revenue is Rs. 2,05,180, and the probable remissions will be, according to the Assistant Collector, Rs. 1,51,672; but the Revenue Commissioner considers this amount too great.	The number of cattle, including sheep, is 102,164, about 18,000 of which have left the taluka. The Assistant Collector anticipates a mortality of half the remainder, but the Revenue Commissioner thinks the number exaggerated. The people do not take advantage of the means of transport to the Ghâts offered by Government, as they fear finding themselves in a helpless condition far from home.	A considerable sum of money must be spent in the taluka to improve the water-supply, but there is no reason for anxiety, except as regards the town of Bársi.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Bájri.	Wheat.	Gram.	Rice.	Dall.
1st week in Oct. 1876	29	29 1/16	36 1/2	29	16 1/2	29 1/16
2nd „	27	26 1/4	29 1/2	27	16 1/2	27
3rd „	26 1/2	25	22 3/4	25	15 1/4	29
4th „	24 1/2	24	22	24	15	24 1/2
1st week in Nov. 1876	23 1/4	22 3/4	20	22 1/2	13	24 1/2
2nd „	22	21 3/4	20	22	14	24 1/2
3rd „	21	20	19 1/2	21	13	24 1/2
4th „	21	21	21	22 3/4	14	24 1/2
1st week in Dec. 1876	21	21	21	24 1/2	14	24 1/2
2nd „	22 3/4	22 3/4	21	24 1/2	14	24 1/2
3rd „	21	21	21	24 1/2	14	25 1/4

The average prices for the last six years have not been given.

GENERAL

Of the seven talukas the crops in two seem bad, and in five very bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs, 10,01,169.

In one taluka the condition of the cattle appears indifferent, and in six bad.

In two talukas the prospects of the water-supply seems satisfactory, in three indifferent, and in two bad. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government.

No apprehensions regarding the grain supply are entertained.

The majority of the population of this, as of all other collectorates, is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture. The figures given by Mr. Acworth (and by the District Deputy as respects Karmála) regarding the cultivators and non-cultivators are obviously absurd. He apparently classes khatedars alone as cultivators.

212,300, out of a population of 718,034, seem to have migrated. More are expected to follow their example, but, on the other hand, some have returned. This migration is, to a great extent, a cattle movement.

31st January 1877.

continued.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. H. A. Acworth's Report, dated 1st January 1877).					
There are upwards of 3,071 tons of grain in store. Bársi Road Station, the chief centre of supply, is 21 miles from the kasba town. There are five large market towns well situated to supply the interior. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population amounts to 117,664, of whom 98,187 are high caste, and 19,447 low caste; 8,541 are cultivators, 109,123 non-cultivators, and 4,500 are artizans; about 15,000 are well-to-do and the rest poor. There are no landholders who will aid their tenants.	Many have emigrated, but have not bettered themselves thereby, and are returning; about 1,000 have already done so. Further emigration may be expected.	The relief works in progress are chiefly wells and tanks, and this class of works will be continued till the monsoon.	A number of persons are being fed daily in the kasba town, and all Patels have instructions to relieve and forward all travellers to the Mámlatdárs.	Government at present supports 810 on works and 2,450 by charity. On 1st March the Assistant Collector thinks there will be about 15,000 on works with an increase on 1st May. But the Revenue Commissioner is of opinion that the Assistent Collector's estimate of 15,000 will never be reached.

OBSERVATIONS.

The chief relief works are the Ashti tank and the Barsi-Yedsi and Pandharpur-Wangi roads.
The expenditure upon charity has been considerable.
The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is about—

On March 1st - - - - - - -	140,000
„ May 1st - - - - - - -	186,000
„ July 1st - - - - - - -	132,000

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept, as accurate or reliable, all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

SOUTHERN DIVISION.—REVENUE

SATARA DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76.
			Rs.
1. Karád - - -	391	133,122	2,46,531
2. Wálwa - - -	595	156,089	3,25,902
3. Satara - - -	330	115,113	1,33,659
4. Wai - - -	389	86,095	1,13,551
5. Jauli - - -	412	59,836	60,299
6. Khánápur - -	508	76,783	1,22,269
7. Koregaon - -	333	82,344	1,69,554
8. Mán - - -	640	62,198	72,260
9. Pátan - - -	510	115,491	92,433
10. Khatau - - -	530	81,950	1,03,047
11. Tasgaon - -	345	87,975	1,11,467
12. Mahableshwar - -	5	4,006	3,357
Total - - -	4,988	1,061,002	15,54,329

SATARA - - - - - -

a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*

WAI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. W. A

In 18 villages the crop is above the average, in 14 up to it; in 19 it is 10 annas, in 39 it varies from 6 to 8 annas, and in 5 it is *nil*. Kharif and rabi are not distinguished. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will be Rs. 12,053. The total amount of revenue is not given.	Five animals have died from starvation, and many have been taken to the Ghats.	There is no fear of the water-supply failing.	The course of weekly prices from 1st October to 25th December has not been given. The average rate for the last six years is—

Bájri.	Jowári.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Tur Dall.	Wari.	Nagli.
$33\frac{9}{10}$	$36\frac{3}{8}$	$24\frac{1}{8}$	$18\frac{1}{8}$	$26\frac{3}{8}$	$23\frac{3}{4}$	$36\frac{3}{8}$	$57\frac{1}{8}$

SATARA Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. W. A

The kharif and rabi yields (between which no distinction has been made) will be from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $10\frac{1}{2}$ annas. There is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions, according to the Mámlatdár, will be Rs. 23,373, but the Assistant Collector and the Revenue Commissioner consider the amount much over estimated. The amount of revenue is not given.	No unusual mortality amongst the cattle has taken place, nor is any probable.	No failure of water-supply is anticipated, except in the city and camp of Satara, where it will be severely, if not dangerously, felt.	The course of weekly prices from 1st October to 25th December is not given. The average for the last six years is—

Jowári.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bájri.	Rice.	Tur Dall.	Nachni.
$41\frac{3}{8}$	$26\frac{1}{8}$	$28\frac{5}{6}$	$35\frac{1}{8}$	$21\frac{5}{6}$	$28\frac{5}{6}$	$34\frac{1}{8}$

JAULI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. W. A.

The kharif yield will be $7\frac{1}{2}$ annas, and the rabi in some villages will be up to the average, in 18 from 3 to $7\frac{1}{2}$, and in one it will be *nil*. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will amount to Rs. 2,173. The total amount of revenue is not given.	No mortality amongst the cattle has occurred, or is likely to occur.	No failure of the water-supply is anticipated.	The course of weekly prices from 1st October to 25th December has not been given. The average rate for the last six years is—

Jowári.	Nachni.	Bájri.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Tur Dall.	Wari.
39	$38\frac{9}{10}$	$27\frac{3}{4}$	$31\frac{3}{10}$	$25\frac{3}{8}$	$29\frac{9}{10}$	$26\frac{3}{8}$	33

KOREGAON Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. W. A.

The kharif yield in some villages is up to the average; in 18 from 8 to 10, in 12 from 6 to 7, and in 17 from 4 to 5 annas. Beyond the fact that the rabi crop is reported to look well, no mention is made of the probable yield. No further sowings will take place this season.	The probable remissions will amount to Rs. 23,000.	No unusual mortality amongst the cattle has taken place, 2,339 have left for the ghats and Konkan. Some slight mortality may be expected before the rains among the weakly ones retained for field work.	There will be a scarcity of water in the hot weather in villages on the hill slopes. Takavi will be advanced, and grants from local funds made to improve the supply.	The course of weekly prices from 1st October to 25th December has not been given. The average rate for the last six years is—

Wheat.	Jowári.	Rice.	Bájri.	Tur Dall.	Gram.
$29\frac{2}{3}$	$43\frac{5}{8}$	$20\frac{3}{8}$	$45\frac{1}{3}$	$21\frac{3}{4}$	$30\frac{5}{8}$

COMMISSIONER.—Mr. C. P. ROBERTSON.

Mr. F. G. MOORE.

Rough Proportion of *Kharif* to *Rabi* Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.
Kharif. Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	Inches.
75,449	34,396	27·97	19·75
117,991	28,360	25·24	12·85
46,935	13,998	40·4	33·59
73,738	21,391	32·88	25·34
41,759	5,741	74·3	59·84
156,079	21,015	23·34	11·4
79,032	27,707	27·77	20·19
184,487	51,700	20·89	9·35
61,809	2,975	61·71	48·82
141,542	15,929	22·38	11·51
108,563	16,100	25·77	9·79
451	25	273·22	243·18
1,087,835	239,337	—	—

SATARA.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
East's Report, dated 22nd December 1876).					
The present stock of grain will probably last for three months. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The bulk of the population of 88,000 belong to the Mahratta caste; there is a small per-centage of Brahmins, Mussulmans, Mhárs, Mangs, &c.; 25,000 are wholly, and 53,000 partly agricultural; the rest are artizans, &c. There are a few wealthy Inámdars who will probably aid their tenants.	About 2,000 people have emigrated to Bombay and elsewhere, and have probably found employment.	No relief works are in progress. Failing the commencement of the Nira Canal, which will absorb all available labour, estimates for seven road-works are under preparation in case of necessity.	No gratuitous relief has yet been afforded except to one man.	As yet only one man is dependent on Government for charity, but about 3,000 labourers will have to be employed through the hot weather.
East's Report, dated 22nd December 1876).					
Grain is plentiful, and is imported from the coast and Poona. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is 33,000, consisting chiefly of Mahrattas; 5 per cent. are Brahmins, 10 per cent. outcastes, and 1 per cent. Mussulmans. About 25 per cent. are fairly off, and the remainder poor. 50,800 are purely, and 14,523 are partly agriculturists. There are about 40 Inámdars likely to assist their tenants.	The usual number. About 300 have left for Bombay in hopes of employment.	No relief works are in progress. None are deemed necessary.	No charitable relief is given by Government.	It is unlikely that Government will have any persons on their hands for relief either by charity or by employment.
East's Report, dated 22nd December 1876).					
The supply of grain has not failed, and it can easily be obtained from the Konkan and Satara.	The population of this Taluka is 58,585, of whom 1,500 are fairly off. Excluding Mahableshwar, only 2,000 are non-agricultural. The bulk of the people are Mahrattas, 2 per cent. are Brahmins, 4 per cent. outcastes, and 1½ Mussulmans. There are about 12 wealthy Inámdars.	About 500 people have left, as usual, for Bombay in search of employment.	No relief works are in progress, and none are likely to be required for the Taluka. Should it be deemed necessary to undertake any, the Kas water-supply scheme and five road-works would be suitable.	No charitable relief is required.	If relief works are undertaken, about 2,000 people will be on them on 1st March, 3,000 on 1st May, and 4,000 on 1st July, if rain does not fall seasonably.
East's Report, dated 22nd December 1876).					
Grain is plentiful, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The bulk of the people is Mahratta, 6 per cent. are Brahmins, 6 per cent. outcastes, and 1 per cent. Mussulmans. One-third of the population are fairly off, and the remainder poor. The proportion of the agricultural to the partly agricultural and the artizans is as 4 to 2 and 4 to 1, respectively. There are 22 Inámdars able to assist their tenants.	2,370 people have left for Bombay, Poona, and elsewhere, and others are likely to follow.	Two road-works have been undertaken for relief, and three others can be undertaken if the necessity for them arises.	No charitable relief seems necessary.	618 people are now on the works. No estimate of the future is given.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

WALWA Taluka (Extra 2nd Assistant Collector Mr. A. Shewan's

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield will be 10 annas, and the rabi 8 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season, except in irrigated lands.	The probable remissions will be Rs. 1,05,000 which the Revenue Commissioner considers high. The total amount of revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated.	There will be a general scarcity of water. Tagai must be advanced for deepening and digging wells.	

Date.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowari.	Bajri.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Tur Dall.	Wari.	Nachni.
1st Oct. 1876	21 3/8	21 1/8	21 3/10	13 1/4	21 3/8	24 3/10	—	—
8th „	13 1/2	13 1/2	10 2/8	10 2/8	13 1/4	13 1/4	—	—
15th „	21 2/8	21 2/8	16 1/10	16 1/10	16 1/10	18 2/10	—	—
22nd „	21 3/8	—	16 1/10	16 1/10	21 2/10	16 1/8	—	—
29th „	18 2/10	—	16 1/10	13 1/4	16 1/10	14 1/10	—	—
6th Nov. 1876	17 1/8	16 2/8	14	15 1/10	14 1/10	17 2/10	—	—
13th „	15 2/8	15 1/8	15 1/8	15 1/10	14 2/10	14 1/8	—	—
20th „	15 2/8	15 1/8	14	12 1/8	16 1/10	12 3/10	—	—
27th „	18 1/10	18	15 1/8	18 2/8	13 1/2	17 1/10	—	—
4th Dec. 1876	18 1/10	12	15 2/8	18 2/8	16 1/10	17 2/10	—	—
11th „	20 1/8	16 1/10	18 2/8	15 2/8	17 1/10	17 1/10	—	—
18th „	21 1/10	19 2/10	20 3/10	18 2/8	17 1/10	17 1/10	—	—
Average of six years	37 1/10	33 1/2	22 1/2	19 3/8	27 1/10	22 2/5	61 1/2	61 1/2

TASGAON Taluka (Extra 2nd Assistant Collector Mr. A. Shewan's

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield will be 8 annas, and the rabi nothing. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will be Rs. 50,000. The total amount of revenue is not given.	Out of 51,674 cattle, 3,952 have died from starvation, and about 10,742 have been sent to the Konkan to graze. Further mortality is anticipated, unless the experiment of feeding cattle on prickly pear proves a success.	There will be a general scarcity of water. Tagai advances must be made for digging and deepening wells.	

Date.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowari.	Bajri.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Dall Tur.
28th September 1876	24 2/4	22	22	16 1/4	22	22
5th October 1876	22	20 1/2	20 1/2	17 3/4	22	22
12th „	22	19 1/2	17 3/4	12 1/2	17 2/4	17 3/4
19th „	22	19 1/4	15	13 2/4	16 2/4	16 2/4
26th „	21 2/4	16 2/4	13	11 18/20	17 7/10	16 1/2
2nd November 1876	16 15/20	15 11/20	12 3/20	10 2/4	16 2/4	16 1/2
9th „	15 12/20	16 1/2	12 14/20	11 18/20	15 17/20	12 13/20
16th „	16 1/2	16 1/2	12 5/20	11 18/20	14 7/10	13 1/2
23rd „	16 1/2	13	13 1/2	10 2/4	19 1/4 •	12 2/4
30th „	16 1/2	16 1/2	14 17/20	12 2/20	17 11/20	13 1/2
7th December 1876	18 2/4	17 11/20	14 17/20	13 2/4	17 11/20	14 17/20
14th „	20 2/4	20 2/4	16 1/20	13 2/4	18 2/10	16 2/4
Average of six years	48	42 2/8	32 1/2	18	28 3/4	26 1/2

KHATAU Taluka (District Deputy Collector's Report

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The kharif yield is 3 annas, and the rabi 6 annas. No further sowings are probable this season.	The revenue is Rs. 1,01,851, and the probable remissions Rs. 50,925.	Five cattle have died from starvation, and 180 more are likely to succumb. The live stock, other than agricultural, has been removed to the west.	There will be no great distress for want of water. Arrangements have been made to deepen existing, and excavate new, wells in villages where distress is felt.	

For the Week ending	Price—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowari.	Bajri.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Tur Pulse.
1st October 1876	22 1/2	20	20	15	22 1/2	25
7th „	22 2/4	20	17 1/2	15	20	17 1/2
14th „	17 1/2	15	15	15	15	15
21st „	22 2/4	20	17 1/2	15	17 1/2	17 1/2
28th „	22 1/4	20	17 1/2	15	17 1/2	17 1/2
4th November 1876	22 1/2	20	17 1/2	15	17 1/2	17 1/2
11th „	20	17 1/2	15	12 1/2	17 1/2	12 1/2
18th „	15	12 1/4	12 1/4	10	12 1/4	12 1/4
25th „	17 2/4	15	15	12 1/2	17 1/2	15
2nd December 1876	17 1/2	15	15	12 1/2	17 1/2	15
9th „	18 2/8	15	15	12 1/2	16 2/8	15
16th „	20	17 1/2	17 2/4	12 1/2	15	17 1/4
Average of six years	43 1/3	40 1/2	33 2/3	18 2/3	36 1/3	24 1/6

PATAN Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector Mr. C. H.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
The yield of the kharif and rabi crops will each be at least 7 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions according to the Collector and his Assistant will be Rs. 50,170, but the Revenue Commissioner considers this amount capable of reduction. The total revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated.	The greater part of this Taluka will not suffer from want of water; in a few villages in the highland and to the north, it will be necessary to dig new wells and deepen old ones.	

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowari.	Bajri.	Wheat.	Rice.	Tur Pulse.	Gram.	Nachni.	Wari.
7th Oct. 1876	19 2/8	22	20 1/4	16 7/20	22 1/2	18 9/10	28 3/10	33 3/4
15th „	21 1/2	22	17 11/20	14 13/20	20	18 9/10	28 3/10	33 3/4
23rd „	21 1/2	20 2/8	16 1/2	16 7/10	17 1/2	18 9/10	28 3/10	33 3/4
31st „	18 2/4	18 2/4	16 2/4	15	17 1/2	16 1/2	26 3/10	31 1/2
7th Nov. 1876	16 2/4	16 1/2	13 2/4	13 3/10	16 2/4	16 1/2	26 3/10	27 1/2
15th „	15 2/8	16 1/2	15	13 3/10	15	16 1/2	25 1/2	27 1/2
23rd „	17 7/10	16 1/2	16 1/2	13 3/8	15	16 2/4	25 1/2	27 1/2
30th „	18 3/10	19 1/2	17 1/2	15	15	16 7/8	25 1/2	28 1/2
7th Dec. 1876	18 2/10	19 1/2	17 1/10	15	17 1/2	20 1/4	25 1/2	30
15th „	18 7/10	22	20 1/4	16 7/10	17 1/2	21 3/8	25 1/2	30
Average of six years	40 1/10	39 1/10	28 6/10	23 1/10	23	31 11/20	52 1/10	55

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Report forwarded with Collector's Letter, dated 27th December 1876).					
896 tons of grain are estimated to be in store, independent of the current year's harvest; the Collector considers this amount under-estimated, and the Revenue Commissioner considers it quite impossible to form an approximate estimate on this subject. Grain is imported from Bombay *vid* Chiplun and Poona. Private enterprise will supply the market; the Collector anticipates a rise in prices about two months hence.	The Collector's estimate of the population is 133,122; whereas the Mámlatdár fixes the number at 158,641, of whom 115,728 are high caste, and 42,913, low caste; 37,000 are purely, and 12,700 partly agricultural. The majority of the people are Mahrattas, among whom there are no large landholders willing to aid their tenants,	No emigration has yet taken place, but it may be expected about the end of February.	The present relief works are sufficient for the present. As regards the future, the Revenue Commissioner is of opinion that irrigation works should be selected in preference to all others.	About 60 persons are being supported by a Relief Committee at Ashta.	The number at present on relief works is 1,285. Government will have to afford gratuitous relief on 1st March to 200, on 1st May and 1st July to 500; the number likely to be employed on works will be 3,000 in March, 5,000 in May, and 2,000 in July, provided rain falls freely; if it does not, about 10,000
Report forwarded with Collector's Letter, dated 27th December 1876).					
There are upwards of 2,866 tons of grain in the Taluka; imports are chiefly from Chiplun and Poona *vid* Satara. The Collector anticipates a rise in prices two months hence; private enterprise will supply the market.	The Collector estimates the population at 115,491, the majority of whom are Mahrattas, poor and agricultural; whereas the Mámlatdár gives the following estimate:—3,797 high caste, 84,178 low caste, total 87,975, of whom 67,357 are purely, and 9,622 partly, agricultural. There are a few wealthy landholders from whom, however, no aid can be expected.	14,505 people have emigrated, some to the Konkan, and others to the Berars and Hyderabad. Those who left for the Konkan are returning, the others have remained, having presumably bettered themselves. The Collector anticipates further emigration in a month or two, though the Revenue Commissioner cannot well see where the people can go, as there is distress all around.	The present nine works consisting of tank clearances, road repairs, and cutting prickly pear, are sufficient for the present.	About 323 infirm people are being supported daily from private subscriptions.	Government have at present 2,748 labourers on their hands and none requiring charitable relief. The number of the former will swell to about 16,000 on 1st March, 24,500 on 1st May, but probably none will remain in July. The number requiring charitable relief on each of the above dates will be 700, 1,000, and 1,200 respectively.
forwarded with Collector's Memorandum, dated 6th January 1877).					
The present supply of grain is sufficient, and is imported from Poona, Satara, Chiplun, and Patan. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	There is a population of 83,427, divided as follows: 66,859 high caste, of whom 55,199 are poor, and 11,660 well-to-do; and 16,568 low caste, of whom 15,904 are poor, and 664 well-to-do. Of these, 60,552 are purely, and 22,875 partly, agricultural. There are no large landholders likely to assist their tenants.	About 4,000 people have emigrated to Bombay, Berar, and the Nizam's territory, and have bettered themselves.	The Nehr and Pingli tanks and road repairs are in progress, and are sufficient for the present. By-and-bye the Warug-Pusegaon Road, and planting roadside trees should be undertaken.	At present 118 incapables are being supported from private sources.	At present there are 7,681 labourers on relief works; in addition to this number, employment must be found for 10,000 on 1st March, 12,000 on 1st May, and 6,000 on 1st July.
Jopp's Report, dated 24th December 1876).					
There are stores of about 256,000 lbs. of grain in the taluka, besides which almost each family has sufficient for its own consumption for a month or two. Grain is imported chiefly from Bombay and Chiplun. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is 110,000; of this 107,844 are low caste, 1,000 being well-to-do, and 106,844 poor, and 2,000 are high caste, 500 being well-to-do, and 1,500 poor; 40,350 are purely, and 69,494 partly, agricultural. A few landholders of alienated villages will grant remissions to their tenants.	About 115 people have emigrated to Bombay and to the relief works at Karad. Further emigration is expected in the hot weather.	There are at present no relief works in progress, but when absolutely necessary six works can be undertaken.	No gratuitous support has been given.	No persons are at present dependent on Government either by charity or on works. The number likely to require relief on works on 1st March is 500, 1st May 1,500, and 1st July 2,000, and by charity on each of the above dates 50, 100, and 300.

Statistics relating to Distressed Districts in Bombay Presidency.

SATARA—

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

KARAD Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector Mr. C. H.

a.	b.	c.	d.
The kharif yield may be taken at 11 annas, and the rabi at 10 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The Assistant Collector estimates the remissions at Rs. 65,078, but the Collector sees no reason for any remissions save in exceptional cases. The total revenue is not given.	There has been no unusual mortality amongst the cattle, and none is anticipated.	There is no reason to dread a scarcity of water in any but a few hill villages, where wells will be deepened.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowari.	Bajri.	Rice.	Wheat.	Tur Dall.	Gram.	Nachni.	Wari.
1st Oct. 1876	23 1/20	23 3/10	15 1/10	18 3/4	19 1/4	20 3/5	21 1/10	26 7/10
8th „	23 1/20	23 3/10	13 7/10	16 1/20	17 7/8	19 3/10	21 1/10	26 7/10
15th „	23 1/20	23 3/10	13 7/10	16 1/20	17 7/8	19 3/10	21 1/10	26 7/10
22nd „	23 1/20	23 3/10	13 7/10	16 1/20	16 1/2	18 1/2	21 1/10	21 33/40
29th „	23 1/20	23 3/10	13 7/10	16 1/20	16 1/2	18 1/2	21 1/10	21 33/40
5th Nov. 1876	21 1/10	18 1/4	13 7/10	16 1/20	15 1/8	16 9/10	21 1/10	19 1/2
12th „	18 1/20	16 1/4	13 7/10	14 7/10	15 1/8	16 9/10	21 1/10	19 1/2
19th „	15 1/20	16 1/40	12 3/10	13 3/5	13 3/4	16 1/2	16 1/2	15 1/4
26th „	15 3/40	16 1/8	12 3/10	13 3/5	13 3/4	15 3/5	16 3/5	15 1/4
3rd Dec. 1876	17 3/10	16 1/8	13 7/10	14 7/10	15 1/10	18 1/2	18 7/10	15 1/4
10th „	17 3/10	16 1/2	13 7/10	14 7/10	15 1/8	20 1/4	18 7/10	16 1/10
17th „	17 3/10	19 3/8	13 7/16	17 1/4	16 1/2	20 3/8	21 1/20	19 3/5
Average of six years	42 1/2	39 3/4	21 1/8	28 3/5	26 3/4	31 1/6	52 1/4	50 1/4

KHANAPUR Taluka (2nd Assistant Collector Mr. C. H.

a.	b.	c.	d.
The kharif yield is 4 and the rabi 2 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will amount to Rs. 72,858. The total revenue is not given.	The total number of cattle amounts to 90,000. About 3,042 have left the taluka for the ghâts, and 251 have died from starvation, but these were chiefly useless animals, and 500 more of them are expected to perish within three months. Towards the end of March there will be a great scarcity both of fodder and water, and most of the cattle will have to be driven to the ghâts, where, should the grazing prove insufficient, as is probable, about 20,000 more may perish. People have been told to try the prickly pear, but as yet have not taken to it.	Villages on the Yerla have a plentiful supply of water, in other villages it is obtained from wells and holes dug in the beds of nullahs. Where the water supply entirely fails, the villages must be moved, and where it has partially failed wells must be constructed or deepened.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowari.	Bajri.	Rice.	Wheat.	Tur Pulse.	Gram.
7th October 1876	20 3/4	20 1/2	14 1/2	18 1/2	14 7/10	18 1/2
15th „	20 1/2	20 1/2	14 1/2	18 1/2	14 7/10	14 9/10
23rd „	20 1/2	20 1/2	14 1/2	18 1/2	14 7/10	14 9/10
31st „	20 1/2	20 1/2	14 1/2	18 1/2	14 7/10	14 9/10
7th November 1876	17 1/4	16 3/4	11 1/10	15 1/4	12 1/2	15 1/4
15th „	17 1/4	16 3/4	11 1/10	15 1/2	12 1/2	15 1/4
23rd „	17 1/4	12 1/4	9 1/2	13 1/4	12 1/2	17 1/10
30th „	17 1/4	12 1/4	9 1/2	13 1/4	9 9/10	18 1/2
7th December 1876	16 1/2	15 9/10	12 1/2	13 1/2	12 1/2	18 1/2
15th „	17 1/4	18 1/10	14 1/2	17 1/10	13 1/2	19 7/10
Average of six years	45 17/40	30 4/25	20 7/80	31 1/40	22 17/80	30 1/40

MÁN Taluka (District Deputy Collector's Report forwarded

a.	b.	c.	d.
The kharif yield is about 3 annas and the rabi nil. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	Out of the total revenue of Rs. 70,655, the probable remissions will amount to Rs. 52,991.	The total numbers of horned cattle is 42,063, of which 523 have died, and 9,844 more will probably succumb, in fact, the Deputy Collector thinks one third of the live stock will be lost. No mortality has occurred amongst the 96,217 sheep. Leaves of trees and sugarcane are being used as fodder. Preparing prickly-pear is found too expensive for the ryots to undertake.	Many villages will be short of water; wells are being deepened and excavated.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowari.	Bajri.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Pulse.
1st October 1876	17 1/4	20	21 3/8	17 3/10	—	20 7/10
7th „	17 1/4	20	21 3/8	17 3/10	—	20 7/10
21st „	19 1/5	17 1/2	19 1/2	14 2/10	—	16 7/10
28th „	16 2/5	17 1/2	16 2/5	14 2/10	—	16 7/10
4th November 1876	16 2/5	17 1/2	14 2/5	14 2/10	—	13 1/2
11th „	16 2/5	17 1/2	14 2/5	14 2/10	—	13 1/2
18th „	14 2/5	15	14 2/5	12 1/2	—	11 1/2
25th „	14 2/5	15	14 2/5	9 3/5	—	11 1/2
2nd December 1876	16 1/2	14 2/5	14 2/5	13 7/10	16 2/5	16 1/2
9th „	19 1/2	16 2/5	15 3/4	14 1/2	19 1/2	19 1/2
16th „	19 1/2	16 2/5	15 3/4	14 1/2	19 2/10	19 1/2
Average of six years	44 1/3	42 2/3	29 1/2	17 1/2	—	28 1/2

GENERAL

Of the 11 talukas the crops in seven seem to be fair, in two indifferent, and in two bad.

The proposed remissions amount, on what appears to be an outside estimate, to Rs. 507,621.

In eight talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in one indifferent, and in two bad.

In six talukas the prospects of the water supply appear satisfactory, and in five indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water supply is anticipated by Government.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this as of all other Collectorates is either agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture. 45,163 people out of a population of 1,064,002 seem to have emigrated, some have returned, but further emigration is expected. It appears to be partly a cattle movement, and partly the annual movement in search of labour intensified by the present scarcity.

The chief relief works are the Nehr and Pingli irrigation tanks.

continued.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Jopp's Report, dated 24th December 1876).					
The local stocks are estimated at 1,296,000 pounds. Grain is imported from Chiplun and Poona in large quantities, and prices have fallen; whether any further fall will take place is doubtful, Private enterprise will supply the market.	There are 13,337 high caste people, 11,670 being well-to-do, and 1,667 poor; 117,573 low caste, 29,394 being well-to-do, and 88,179 poor; 35,733 are purely, and 17,866 partly, agricultural; the rest are manufacturers, tradesmen, &c. There are no landholders who will assist their tenants.	The usual number, viz., about 1,000, have left for Bombay for employment, and more will follow.	The present relief work, the Karad-Tasgaon Road, is found sufficient. Later in the season four other road-works will be undertaken.	No charitable aid has been given.	At present there are 500 on Government works; these will increase on 1st March to 1,000, 1st May to 2,500, and 1st July 2,500; no infirm people are being supported at present, but on each of the above dates the numbers will be about 50, 150, 150.
Jopp's Report, dated 23rd December 1876).					
Local stocks of grain are estimated to amount to 3,360,000 lbs.; and weekly importations are made from Chiplun, Satara, and Poona. Prices have fallen, but the Collector anticipates a rise shortly. Private enterprise will supply the market.	The total population is 84,415, of whom 71,409 are high caste, 64,209 of them being poor, and 7,140 well-to-do; 13,006 low caste, 12,746 being poor, and 260 well-to-do. Of these again 33,000 are purely, and 35,000 partly, agricultural; one fourth are money lenders, and the rest manufacturers and artizans. A few landholders may grant remissions to their tenants.	4,098 people have emigrated, some to Bombay, others to the Nehr, Pingli, and Islampur works, and have not suffered in consequence. There will be further emigration to the Nehr Tank, and large numbers will accompany their cattle to the ghâts.	At present there are three road works, one tank, and digging pits for road-side trees in progress, but they should be supplemented by three more tanks.	No charitable expenditure has as yet been incurred.	At present there are 11,254 people on relief works. The number of people requiring relief on works will be 6,000 on 1st March, 7,000 on 1st May, and 2,000 on 1st July; and by charity on each of the above dates there will be 200, 400, and 500.
with Collector's remarks, dated 6th January 1877).					
The present stock of grain is estimated at 380,856 lbs. It is imported from Satara, Pandharpur, and Diksal *viâ* Phaltan and the Mogoolo ghât. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is 70,572, of whom 51,930 are high caste, 39,606 being poor, and 12,324 well-to-do; and 18,642 low caste, 17,286 being poor, and 1,356 well-to-do; of these, 81,580 are purely, and 29,206 partly, agricultural, and 9,816 urban. There are no landholders able to assist their tenants.	16,275 people have emigrated, 7,000 to relief works in the taluka, and the rest to Bombay, towards Berar and the Nizam's territory, and have bettered themselves. None have returned, and 5,000 are likely to follow.	The relief works in progress at present consist of two road works, three wells, and a tank, and miscellaneous projects for improving the water supply, but they are not sufficient and must be supplemented by five more road works and two tanks.	Persons are at present being charitably relieved.	At present there are 7,266 labourers on the works. Their numbers will increase on 1st March to 22,000, 1st May 27,000 and 1st July 17 900.

OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is about—

On March 1st - - - -	70,500
On May 1st - - - -	92,500
On July 1st - - - -	45,500

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

KANARESE DIVISION.—REVENUE.

KALADGI DISTRICT.—COLLECTOR.

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76.
			Rs.
1. Indi - - -	837	105,475	1,97,090
2. Muddebihál - -	552	83,848	1,25,681
3. Sindgi - - -	792	99,798	2,12,567
4. Bágewári - - -	757	93,738	1,84,134
5. Bágalkot - - -	684	110,185	1,30,839
6. Bádámi - - -	690	130,816	1,04,476
7. Hungund - - -	518	105,866	1,19,694
8. Bijápur - - -	865	86,311	1,33,635
Total - -	5,695	816,037	12,08,116

KALADGI - - - - - -

a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*

BAGALKOT (Acting First Assistant Collector

The kharif harvest will yield a half anna crop, and the rabi the same. There is now no prospect of further sowings this season.

The Assistant Collector estimates the probable amount of remissions at about one fifth (30,598) and the Collector at one fourth (38,223) of the total revenue (Rs. 1,52,892), but no correct estimate can be given before the jamábundi.

No mortality as yet among agricultural cattle. Among other cattle about 1,000 have died. This taluka is better off for fodder than other parts of the Kaládgi district; there is enough to last till the end of February. The experiment of prickly-pear as fodder has been tried, but not with much success as yet. All valuable animals have been taken to the Kanara jungles to graze. It is anticipated that about one-sixteenth (3,701) of the whole number in the taluka (59,215) may die hereafter. They will be the worst of the cattle, useless for agricultural purposes.

The water-supply is chiefly from the rivers and from shafts sunk in the larger nullahs; but as the water in the rivers is unusually low this year, it is feared that there will be a failure to a certain extent. Steps are being taken to clear out and deepen existing wells.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Dall (Tur).	Bájri.
1st October 1876 -	32	26	18	22	34	30
7th „ -	24	22	16	18	20	24
15th „ -	20	16	11	18	14	18
23rd „ -	20	17	12	16	16	22
31st „ -	16	14	12	17	14	15
7th November 1876 -	14	13	11½	15	14	14
15th „ -	12	12	11½	14	12	12
23rd „ -	12	12	11	14	13	15
30th „ -	13	13	11½	15	15	13
7th December 1876 -	15	14	12	16	13	15
15th „ -	15	14	12	16	16	16
19th „ -	17	15	12	17	16	16
Average for six years, 1870-75.	51	26	20	24	28	48

HUNGUND (Acting First Assistant Collector

The kharif harvest has yielded a 2-pie, and the rabi a 1-pie crop. The crops have been almost a complete failure. There is no prospect of further sowings this year.

The Assistant Collector considers that about Rs. 30,000 will have to be remitted, but the Collector thinks it probable that the amount will be greater; but the exact sum can be ascertained only at the jamábundi.

About 1,500 deaths have occurred among cattle; how many of these are among agricultural stock is not stated, and about 2,500 more have been sold to butchers at prices varying from 4 annas to Rs. 2. The Assistant Collector thinks it possible that some 25,000 may die before the rains, but this will include a large number of worthless animals. Most of the really valuable cattle were driven out of the district at the commencement of the scarcity. Feeding on prickly-pear is being tried, but without much success.

This taluka is — excepting the villages on the Krishna and the Malprabha, badly off for water, and great scarcity is apprehended in the hot weather. The only remedy will be to clear out and deepen the wells in the hope of thereby reaching more copious springs.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Dall (Tur).	Bájri.
7th October 1876 -	24	17	14	18	18	20
15th „ -	20	17	13	16	16	18
23rd „ -	20	17	12	16	16	20
31st „ -	18	16	11	14	15	16
7th November 1876 -	16	14	11	14	14	16
15th „ -	12	12	10	12	12	12
23rd „ -	13	12	10	13	12	14
30th „ -	11	10½	10	14	12	12
7th December 1876 -	13	13	12	14	13	13
15th „ -	14	14	12	16	14	16
23rd „ -	14	12	12	14	14	14
Average for sixlyears, 1870-75.	62	40	16	40	36	62

COMMISSIONER—Mr. A. E. D. GREY.

Mr. C. M. HOGG.

Rough Proportion of *Kharif* to *Rabi* Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.	
Kharif.	*Rabi.*			
Acres.	Acres.	Inches.	Inches.	
70,192	272,579	27·32	3·98	
102,846	100,123	24·46	5·14	
30,613	328,824	20·83	6·53	
99,003	194,701	23·98	6·18	
86,230	69,188	22·77	8·87	
84,600	37,940	22·0	7·17	
69,357	96,714	20·22	7·49	
227,845	84,602	17·90	3·71	
770,686	1,184,671			

KALADGI.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
The local stock is estimated at from 5,357 to 7,143 tons. Grain is imported in large quantities from Sholápur and Belgaum, and prices have in consequence declined to some extent and are likely to continue falling should importation be kept up; but some importers have lost by being undersold, and the local dealers have a great command over the market.	The people are generally poor; about 35 per cent. are of the labouring class, including a large number of ryots, with very small holdings, who eke out their means by working in the fields of others. The remaining proportion (about 65 per cent.) are ryots, traders, and artizans of fair means, and persons in Government employ. The landholders are rich and able to help their tenants and followers, and will, in the opinion of the Assistant Collector, do so by loans; but the Collector does not think the landholders, with the exception of a very few of the very wealthy ones, are likely to do much for their tenants.	According to the Assistant Collector's report, about 4,000 people have left the taluka and have bettered themselves by so doing; but the Collector thinks the number to be under-estimated, and that at least 10,000 people must have left, some with their cattle, and others in search of employment. The commencement of the relief works has, however, stopped further emigration. It is not probable that many will now leave; on the contrary, some who left are already returning.	The Sholapur-Hubli road is in progress, as also the Turchigeri and the Gangershivani tanks and several other relief works. The Belgaum-Hundgund road will be commenced as soon as sanctioned. This work and those already started will, the Collector thinks, suffice for the present.	The Mámlatdár Bilge has 450 and the Bilge Mahálkari Rs. 200 available for charitable relief to travellers and to the aged, infirm, &c.; but little has been spent on this account, as no such relief has been called for. A fund of Rs. 8,593 has also been raised by private subscription for this purpose.	The number of persons now employed on relief works is not stated, but the Assistant Collector reports that according to the Mámlatdár's estimate, the maximum, prior to 31st May next, will be about 41,000 persons on relief works, and about 6,000 to be supported by charity.

Mr. J. F. Fleet's Report, dated 21st December 1876).

Mr. J. F. Fleet's Report, dated 27th December 1876).

It is difficult to obtain accurate information regarding local stocks; the Assistant Collector estimates them at 813 and the Collector at 1,161 tons, which will not last longer than the end of March. There is very little probability of private importations to any large extent, as there are no merchants of wealth and enterprise in this taluka. Supplies come *viâ* Belgaum and Solápur, the former 120 and the latter 150 miles from Hungund.	The proportions of high and low castes are about three fourths and one fourth respectively. The agricultural class numbers about 50,000, artizans, traders, Government servants, &c. about 40,000, and the remainder about 10,000, are agricultural and other labourers. The only wealthy landholders are the Amrati and Hulginhal Desais, both of whom are likely to help their tenants and followers.	Emigration has been checked by relief works being opened and by the return of people who left the district early in the season for the Nizam's dominions and the Ghats, but failed to better themselves, and brought back reports of cholera.	The chief special relief work in progress is the Sholápur-Bellary road, which passes through Hungund. The Hungund, Amingad, and Yerankeri tanks are also in hand, as well as ordinary local projects, such as roads and tank clearances. It is proposed to take up similar works as occasion may require.	The amount spent in gratuitous relief is small. Subscription funds had been formed at some of the principal towns, but the subscriptions have not been liberal.	In the Assistant Collector's opinion, 38,320 will be the maximum number that the Government will have on their hands during the season, of which 34,597 can be employed on works, and 3,723 will have to be supported by charity. He puts down about 20,000 people on 1st March, 30,000 on 1st April, and the full number on the 1st May. The Collector considers these estimates somewhat high, and that about 25 per cent. of the population may require relief.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

KALADGI

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

SINDGI (Supernumerary Assistant

The kharif harvest has yielded a crop of 3, or at the utmost 4, annas. Rabi crop there is none. There is now no prospect of further sowings this season.

The Mámlatdár estimates that four fifths (Rs. 1,60,000) of the whole revenue (Rs. 2,00,000) will have to be remitted, and the Assistant Collector thinks this a fair estimate, but the Collector considers it a high one; but no correct estimate can be given before the jamábundi.

About 20,000 cattle have died or been sold to butchers, and an equal number have been conveyed to the Nizám's Dominions and the Ghâts in search of fodder. There is among the wealthy ryots sufficient fodder in this taluka for about 10,000 cattle for 3 or 4 months. The poorer classes are feeding their cattle on the leaves of trees. An attempt has been made to utilise prickly pear as fodder, but as yet with little success. The Assistant Collector offers two suggestions for preserving the cattle: First, that the best cattle be selected by Government Officers and conveyed to the Ghâts; and, secondly, that if prickly-pear can be used as food, Government undertake its preparation and feeding cattle thereon; the Collector thinks it would not be worth while to attempt conveying the cattle to the Ghâts, as many may not survive the journey.

The water-supply is very fair, the taluka being intersected in all directions by nullas, and water can always be had by digging holes in their beds. No scarcity of water is apprehended.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Bájri.	Wheat.	Gram.	Rice.	Dall.
2nd October 1876	40	38	32	28	16	27
9th „	32	32	26	26	16	24
16th „	24	22	20	22	16	20
23rd „	22	20	20	22	16	20
30th „	24	24	18	18	18	16
6th November 1876	23	23	18	18	16	16
13th „	16	16	16	16	14	16
20th „	15½	16	14	14	12	16
27th „	16	18	16	18	12	16
4th December 1876	18	18	16	20	14	18
11th „	18	18	17	20	14	18
Average for the last six years.	72	—	—	—	—	—

BADAMI (Acting 1st Assistant Collector

The Assistant Collector estimates the yield of the kharif harvest at 4 annas, and that of the rabi at 5 annas 4 pies, but the Collector considers these estimates incorrect, as only half of the kharif and one quarter of the rabi crop have been sown. The Assistant's estimates may represent, he thinks, the yield of the land actually sown. No prospect of further sowings this season.

The Assistant Collector estimates the remissions to be about Rs. 25,000, which the Collector believes to be under the mark. The exact amount can be determined only at the jamábundi.

5,000 deaths are stated to have occurred among agricultural stock, and 3,500 among other cattle; of these, about 1,000 deaths are attributed to want of fodder. It is estimated that the total numbers that may die this year will be, of agricultural stock about 11,000, and of other cattle about 7,000. Fodder is scarce, and numbers of cattle have been and are being sent off to the Ghâts and Kanara. The experiment of utilising prickly-pear as fodder may possibly be successful, but at present the owners do not care to undertake the trouble and expense of preparing the leaves on their own account.

The Assistant Collector does not apprehend the supply of water running short before the monsoon, as a year's supply was provided by the rains which fell late in the season. The Collector, however, anticipates a scarcity of water next hot season.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.	Tur Dall.	Bájri.
1st October 1876	32	28	20	22	20	32
8th „	32	26	18	18	18	32
15th „	22	18	16	14	16	22
22nd „	20	16	14	14	14	20
29th „	22	18	14	14	14	22
5th November 1876	18	16	13	14	14	18
12th „	13	13	12	13	12	13½
19th „	16	12	12½	14	13	18
26th „	13	11	13½	13	13	14
3rd December 1876	15	12	13	13	12	16
10th „	15	13	13	14	12	16
17th „	16	13	13	16	12	16
Average for six years, 1870-71 to 1875-76	52	26	24	26	30	52

BÁGEWÁRI Taluka (District Deputy Collector)

The kharif harvest will yield a crop of one pie, and the rabi ¼ of a pie. No further sowings this season.

The amount that will have to be remitted is estimated by the District Deputy Collector at three quarters (Rs. 155,440) of the whole assessment, Rs. 2,07,253. The Collector, however, considers this estimate too high.

Of cattle and agricultural stock numbering 53,875, exclusive of sheep, 8,400 are reported to have died from all causes, and 16,100 to have been taken to Kanara, the Nizam's dominions, &c. in search of fodder. The Mámlatdár anticipates the future mortality at about 14,700. The permission accorded for free grazing of cattle in Government forests have not been taken advantage of, owing to the length of the journey. A few who can afford it have imported and laid in a stock of kirby, but those who cannot afford to do this feed their cattle on leaves of trees. Experiments to utilise the prickly-pear as fodder have as yet succeeded only to a very slight extent.

The chief source of water-supply is the river Krishna, which, however, is immediately available only to the eleven villages situate on it. The remaining villages depend for their water-supply on wells and pools in beds of nullahs. These sources are likely to fail earlier this year than in ordinary seasons. The remedial measures proposed are the clearance of wells and the sinking of new ones.

For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Bájri.	Wheat.	Gram.	Rice.	Tur Dall.
2nd October 1876	34	32	30	24	16	24
9th „	32	30	26	20	16	18
16th „	28	24	18	16	12	16
23rd „	24	20	16	16	12	16
30th „	22	18	18	15	11	16
6th November 1876	20	18	18	13	11	16
13th „	14	12	14	12	11	15
20th „	12	12	12	12	10	14
27th „	12	12	12	12	11	11
4th December 1876	16	16	16	16	12	16
11th „	16	16	16	16	12	16
18th „	16	16	16	16	13	17
Average for six years	66	90	36	34	18	32

—*continued.*

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Collector Mr. H. Silcock's Report, dated 22nd December 1876).					
It is difficult to ascertain exactly what the local stocks are, but they are not large; and the importations from Sholápur are barely sufficient to keep down prices to a fair level. There are not many wealthy merchants in the taluka, and there is a want of enterprise. The condition of the food supply will be a cause of anxiety throughout the season.	The population is of a mixed character. Agriculture is their chief occupation, and the ryots are in general fairly comfortable. The Inamdars are not wealthy, being mostly in debt, and will be unable to help their tenants.	Emigration to the Nizam's dominions has taken place to a considerable extent, the number being between 25,000 and 30,000. As a rule, the people have bettered themselves; it still continues towards the Konkan but at a decreasing rate. Some who left are returning to obtain employment on the relief works.	The relief works already started appear sufficient for the present. The Assistant Collector specifies others which can be taken up as occasion requires. He also recommends the construction, when the works in progress are concluded, of a tank at Hippargi.	No relief has yet been given to travellers, as they have not been found to require it. Private charity has done much to assist the aged and the infirm, &c. The Mámlatdar has been advanced Rs. 450 for charitable relief, which sum seems sufficient for present wants.	The number of persons now employed on relief works is about 4,000; that relieved by charitable measures only 14, which is likely to increase as private charity ceases. The number on relief works on the 1st March will probably amount to 15,000 or 20,000, and that receiving charitable reliefs to about 500, which number is likely to remain the same up to 1st May. By 1st July, if rain should fall, the number will probably have decreased to 8,000, but the number requiring charitable relief will remain the same.
Mr. J. F. Fleet's Report, dated 2nd December 1876).					
The Assistant Collector estimates the local stocks of grain to be small (about 107 tons). The Collector thinks his Assistant is mistaken, and that the stocks amount to 1,714 tons. Small quantities have been coming in from Sholápur and from the Hubli and Coomta directions, and prices have in consequence gone down. There are not many traders of wealth and position likely to enter into extensive importations.	Three-fourths of the people (taking the total population at 125,000) are high-caste, the rest low-caste. About 75,000 are purely agricultural, the rest are traders, artizans, Government servants, &c., and ryots who trade as well as cultivate. The only large landholders are Ghorepade of Gajendragad and the Kérur Dessai. The former is much involved and unable to help his tenants; the latter, though well-to-do, is niggardly, and not likely to do anything in the way of help.	About 15,000 people have already emigrated; whether they have bettered themselves by so doing is not known. The Collector does not think that further emigration is probable, but that, on the contrary, many of those who have left their homes will return.	The great special relief work now in hand is the Sholápur-Hubli road, besides which several petty local projects are in progress. Estimates for several tanks are in course of preparation.	The Mámlatdár has Rs. 450 available for charitable relief, but does not state how much of this sum has been spent. Private subscription funds are being formed in the large towns, and the German missionaries have been asked to co-operate in administering the fund at Gulegud.	The number of persons Government has on their hands for relief at date of report is not stated. The Assistant Collector estimates that by March there will be 15,000 persons seeking employment, and that 3,000 will require charitable aid. The number is expected to diminish in April, if rain falls, or may increase if the drought continues. The Collector expects that he will have 25 per cent. of the people on his hands before the close of the hot weather.
Mr. Balkrishna Devrao's Report, dated 28th December 1876).					
There are no means of ascertaining with accuracy the local stocks, but the District Deputy Collector estimates the quantity as sufficient for about five months. Sholápur is the central railway station from which supplies are drawn. Private enterprise has imported grain largely, which has had the effect of slightly lowering prices, and of inducing private holders of stores to bring theirs to market. Private importation, if continued, will be sufficient to meet all wants, and another fall in prices may be expected; but it is apprehended that when the supply of fodder, which is not expected to last beyond a couple of months, is exhausted, the importations of grain will cease.	The population consists of all castes, but chiefly of Lingayets. The low castes also form a considerable portion. The population is purely agricultural. The general condition of the people is good. There are no wealthy persons in the taluka; but there are a few large landholders who assist their tenants.	About 6,400 people have emigrated to Kanara and the Nizam's dominions; but not faring well there some have returned and others are expected to return. There is no likelihood of further emigration.	Certain tank works are in progress, besides some minor works, such as clearing out wells, repairing roads, and cutting prickly-pear, giving employment to about 1,900 people. The Hubli and Sholápur road is also being metalled by the Public Works Department, and employs about 1,200 men. Certain new works (excavation of tanks in different localities) have been proposed by the District Deputy Collector as relief works, entailing an expenditure of Rs. 38,500. Also the completion of the tanks now in progress at Mulwar-Sahibal and Bagewári, at an outlay of Rs. 6,000. These works are considered sufficient to give employment to the able-bodied.	A fund of about Rs. 2,200 has been raised by private subscription. The number of travellers and aged and infirm people fed daily from this fund is 175 at Bágewári, and about 40 at Manogoli. The discretionary allowance made by Government will afford relief to some, and private charity will relieve others.	The number of persons on hand at date of report for relief by works is about 3,200, including those employed by Public Works Department. None are receiving charitable relief from Government, but some may soon be expected. The number which Government is likely to have on its hands hereafter is roughly estimated by the Deputy Collector as follows:— On 1st March. For relief on works 4,500 „ by charity 500 „ On 1st May. For relief on works 6,000 „ by charity 700 „ On 1st July. For relief on works 4,000 „ by charity 700 The Collector estimates the maximum number of labourers on hand in April and May at about 25 per cent. (22,922) of the entire population (91,688 souls), and the number in July will depend entirely on the time the monsoon sets in.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.
BIJÁPUR Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant				
The yield of the kharif and the rabi crops, where sown, is only 1 anna each.	The Assistant Collector estimates the probable amount of remissions at about Rs. 1,01,500, or about three-fourths of the revenue, Rs. 1,34,000, which estimate the Collector thinks rather high, but no reliable information can be obtained till the jamábundi.	About 12,000 head of cattle, mostly old and useless, have died, out of a total of 60,000. About 30,000 have been driven out of the district for grazing purposes, and 30,000 or 40,000 remain, for which forage is not obtainable. The Assistant has no other suggestions to offer regarding measures to be taken for their preservation than those proposed by him with reference to the Sindgi Taluka, viz., that the best cattle be selected by Government officers, and conveyed to the ghâts; and secondly, that Government undertake the preparation of, and feeding cattle on, prickly-pear or other suitable food. The prickly-pear experiment has already been tried in this district, and cattle will eat the leaves when prepared, but the owners do not care to undertake the trouble and incur the expense of preparing them on their own account.	The water-supply is fair, the source being wells and nullahs; and there is no apprehension of a scarcity.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. For the Week ending — Jawári. Bájri. Wheat. Dall. Rice. Grain. 1st October 1876 - 27½ — 26⅔ 22⅔ 13½ 24 8th „ - 24⅘ — 22⅔ 19½ 15½ 19 16th „ - 21 — 19 15 13⅔ 14½ 23rd „ - 21 — 19 18½ 15 18 30th „ - 17½ — 15 18½ 15½ 18 6th November 1876 - 17½ — 16 15 13⅔ 16½ 13th „ - 13⅘ — 14 15 12⅔ 15 20th „ - 13⅘ — 15 15 13½ 15½ 27th „ - 15½ 15½ 16⅖ 17 13½ 16½ 4th December 1876 - 18½ 17½ 18 17½ 13½ 17 11th „ - 16½ 17½ 17 17½ 15 17 18th „ - 16½ 17½ 17 17½ 13½ 17 Average of six years - 55½ 56 36 39½ 22 42
MUDDEBIHÁL Taluka (District Deputy Collector				
The kharif and rabi yield will each be less than one pie. There is no prospect of any further sowings this season.	Last year's revenue amounted to Rs. 1,57,875, and the probable remissions will be Rs. 39,468.	Out of 77,615 cattle, 7,000 have perished, and 13,000 have left the taluka; the rest are emaciated and weak, and only about 20 per cent. will be saved. Government have permitted free grazing in Kanara and other forest districts; but the distances from this taluka are great, and only the more valuable animals are sent.	The taluka is on the whole well off for water, but wells will be dug where required.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowari. Bájri. Wheat. Grain. Rice. Toor Dall. Average price per rupee from 1st October to 25th December 1876 - 20 16 18 17½ 13 16 Six years average - 72 72 32 30 24 23 The weekly statement of prices has not been given for this taluka.
INDI Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector				
The kharif yield will be nil, and the rabi 3 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season	The revenue is Rs. 1,95,742, out of which it is estimated that Rs. 1,45,742 must be remitted.	The total number of cattle is 89,000, out of which 15,847 have already died, and it is probable that 25,000 more will die. 40,000 have been taken to the Ghât districts. Prickly-pear fodder is not a success, but if Government would carry grass to Sholapur, it is thought that some of the Kaládgi ryots would buy it.	There is not much reason to dread a failure in the water supply.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Date. Rice. Wheat. Jowari. Bjari. Pulse. Grain. 7th October 1876 - 14 28 30 30 20 24 15th „ - 16 24 24 24 20 24 23rd „ - 16 20 20 20 16 22 31st „ - 16 22 22 20 18 20 7th November 1876 - 16 16 18 14 16 18 15th „ - 12 16 18 10 16 18 23rd „ - 12 16 16 16 16 16 30th „ - 12 16 16 16 16 16 7th December 1876 - 12 16 16 16 16 16 15th „ - 16 20 20 18 20 20 23rd „ - 16 18 18 18 18 20 31st „ - 14 18 18 18 18 18 6th January 1877 - 14 16 16 16 18 16 Average of six years - 21⅔ 38⅓ 53⅔ 56⅔ 29 35

GENERAL

Of the eight talukas the crops in three seem to have been bad, and in five very bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 6,95,373. In one taluka the condition of the cattle appears tolerably satisfactory, and in seven bad.

In five talukas the prospects of the water-supply seem satisfactory, and in three indifferent. No calamity, due to failure of water, is anticipated by Government.

The local officers appear slightly apprehensive regarding the grain supply of five talukas.

The majority of the population of this, as of all other collectorates, is either agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.

123,900, out of a population of 816,037 appear to have migrated. This movement seems now to have nearly stopped. It is to a great extent due to the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle.

The chief relief works are the Sholápur-Hubli and the Sholapur-Bellary roads.

—*continued.*

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. H. Silcock's Report, dated 28th December 1876).					
The Assistant, estimates the local stock of grain at about 1,696 tons, which, with the large importations from Sholápur by private enterprise, will probably suffice to meet the requirements of the taluka till next harvest. Owing to the large importations, prices have slightly fallen.	The inhabitants of this taluka are of the ordinary class, there being but a few high caste, chiefly Brahmins, priests, &c. not well-to-do. The Lingayets are rather numerous and well-to-do. Of these, a few are merchants, the rest are ryots, who have been supplying grain to the poorer cultivators of their own villages. The majority of the inhabitants are ordinary ryots, who in general live very comfortably in their villages, but are obliged to labour this year. There are very few tradesmen and artizans. There are a few wealthy inámdars, but, being in debt, they will be unable to help their tenants.	According to the Mámlatdár's report, about 20,000, out of a population of 85,000, have already emigrated to the Nizam's dominions and the ghats, and appeared to have bettered themselves. A number of agricultural labourers have also left in search of work, but are now returning, preferring to work near their own villages. Further emigration to any great extent is not thought probable.	The works in progress are repairs to the Hubli-Sholápur and Bijápur-Bágewári roads; filling in the moat round the Arkilla in Bijápur, and repairing the tanks at Torsal, Dasgal, and Kunmoonal. Work can be found in the moat for four or five months more if an increase is made to the estimate. The above works are sufficient to give employment for four or five months to the inhabitants of the taluka, but as numbers from other districts are flocking in, and are employed, the works will be finished sooner. The Assistant Collector proposes, as one of the most useful future relief works, the Bijápur Scheme, and station roads. Also repairing the Begum Talao, some hundred acres in extent, and once the principal source of the water supply of the city. He also proposes repairs to the large irrigation tanks at Mandepur, Koomatgi, and repairs to the Nagathan road.	A monthly subscription has been opened for the relief of the aged, infirm, and those unable to work. The amount not being large, will have to be supplemented by Government. Rs. 145 per mensem has been promised. There is a daily distribution of food to the poor. Travellers are very few, and no separate provision has been made for them.	The number of people on relief works is at present 7,000 men, supported by charity by Government; but grain is given for two or three days to those coming from a distance for employment, and without means of support. The probable number on relief works in future will be on 1st March - - 2,500; 1st May - - 2,500; 1st July - - 5,000.
Mr. Balkrishna Devrao's Report, dated 7th January 1877).					
The present supply of grain is ample, and is drawn chiefly from Sholápur. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The population, amounting to 81,638, is purely agricultural, consisting of Hindoos. Musulmans, Wadars, and Lewans, or wandering tribes. A few landholders have assisted their tenants.	7,500 people have emigrated to Kanara and the Nizam's territory, but are returning; there will probably be no further emigration, as those who have returned give unfavourable reports.	Six road works and two tanks are in progress, but as these will shortly be pleted, they will have to be supplemented by four more tank works.	Private subscriptions relieve about 220 infirm people a day.	On works 1,825, and none by charity. It is impossible to say how many will be dependent on Government hereafter.
Mr. H. Silcock's Report, dated 12th January 1877).					
There are upwards of 165 tons of grain in store, and it is being imported from Sholápur. Private enterprise will supply the market, provided Government will supply fodder along the Sholápur-Hubli and Sholapur-Bellary roads, so far as they pass through this district.	The majority of the population of 105,000 are agriculturists, and fairly off. There are 200 or 300 artizans and a fair sprinkling of Brahmins and Mussalmans. There are a few Jagirdars from whom no aid can be expected.	Forty thousand have emigrated, some of whom have bettered themselves, while others are returning. No further emigration is expected.	The two road-works at present in progress are sufficient. On their completion, four road-works and four tanks will be undertaken, when the necessity arises.	Rs. 500 have been given for charitable aid. Travellers receive a day's food and the infirm one pound of grain a day.	13,058 persons are at present on relief works, and about 70 are receiving gratuitous support. The numbers of the former will swell to 15,000 or 20,000 on 1st March and 1st May, and fall to 8,000 on 1st July, if it rains seasonably. The number requiring charitable relief on the above dates, including children unable to work, will be 1,000 to 1,500.

OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is about—

On March 1st - - - - - - - -	82,000
On May 1st - - - - - - - -	1,19,500
On July 1st - - - - - - - -	63,320

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all e information contained in these reports; the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering e intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in her matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

KANARESE DIVISION.—REVENUE

BELGAUM DISTRICT.—

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76.
			Rs.
1. Belgaum - - -	607	134,621	1,48,611
2. Sampgaon - - -	409	131,504	2,39,918
3. Bidi - - -	632	78,875	1,19,770
4. Chikori - -	848	248,685	2,64,841
5. Parasgad - - -	638	120,691	1,86,441
6. Gokák - - -	668	109,697	1,34,519
7. Athni - - -	789	114,677	1,59,817
Total - -	4,591	938,750	12,53,917

BELGAUM - - - - - -

a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*

BIDI Taluka (First Assistant Collector Mr.

The kharif yield may be taken at 5 annas, and the rabi *nil*. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.

The probable remissions will be between Rs. 6,000 and 7,000; the total amount of revenue is not given.

No unusual mortality has occurred or is anticipated among the cattle of the taluka. About 5,000 cattle have been brought from other districts, out of which 20 have already died; and it is expected that the rough style of living will kill about 500 more of them.

The water-supply of the taluka need cause no apprehension.

For each Week in October, November, and December.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Rági.	Rice.	Túr dhall.	Wheat.
7th October 1876 - -	24	32	18	26	26
15th „ - -	20	28	16	20	16
23rd „ - -	18	24	16	20	16
30th „ - -	16	22	16	16	14
6th November 1876 -	12	16	13	12	12
13th „ - -	14	18	16	12	14
20th „ - -	16	20	16	12	16
27th „ - -	16	18	16	12	16
7th December 1876 -	16	20	15	12	14
15th „ - -	16	20	15	12	16
19th „ - -	16	20	16	12	16
Average of six years -	39½	51½	28¾	23	26½

BELGAUM Taluka (First Assistant Collector Mr.

The kharif yield will be 6 annas, and the rabi *nil*. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.

The Mámlatdár estimates the remissions at Rs. 7,000, and proposes to defer the collection of a like sum till another year. The Assistant Collector and the Revenue Commissioner think the amounts ought to be less.

No unusual mortality has taken place amongst the taluka cattle, but about 300 of those brought from other districts have perished. There will be sufficient fodder for all the cattle worth preserving.

There is a fair supply of drinking water in the taluka, and very slight remedial measures are considered necessary.

Dates.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Rice.	Bájri.	Rági.	Túr dhall.
7th October 1876 - -	28	18	28	30	20
15th „ - -	22	14	24	30	20
22nd „ - -	18	14	22	26	18
31st „ - -	18	18	18	22	14
7th November 1876 -	14	12	12	14	12
14th „ - -	16	14	16	18	16
21st „ - -	18	14	16	22	14
28th „ - -	18	14	18	20	14
7th December 1876 -	18	14	18	20	14
15th „ - -	20	14	18	20	14
Average of six years -	36	24	38	38	22

COMMISSIONER—MR. A. E. D. GREY.

COLLECTOR—MR. T. BOSANQUET.

Rough Proportion of *Kharif* to *Rabi* Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.		
Kharif. Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	*Up to* 30*th October* 1876. Inches.		
72,194	3,959	41·88	35·78		
132,852	11,784	32·52	17·97		
66,245	1,778	59·44	50·64		
142,157	26,491	19·86	15·56		
106,047	51,535	21·38	15·77		
87,280	54,801	19·72	6·94		
76,100	143,041	18·57	6·74		
682,875	293,389	—	—		

BELGAUM.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
A. Steward's Report, dated 27th December 1876).					
There are 3,700,000 lbs. of grain in the taluka at present, and supplies are imported from Goa and from Bombay *viâ* Vingorla and Belgaum; there is no probability of the grain supplies brought by private enterprise failing.	The Shenvee Brahmins preponderate and are well off. These and the Lingayet Soucars at Nandgad form the wealthy portion of the population; the rest are poor. The richer cultivators may possibly aid their tenants.	Immigration, and not emigration, has taken place. Hard times may compel a few to go to Kanara and Goa for employment.	At present there is only one road-work in progress; this is insufficient, and others will have to be undertaken.	A relief-house has just been started at Khánápur, but the amount of charity dispensed is small.	The Mámlátdar estimates the following numbers will require relief, but the Assistant Collector considers the numbers requiring relief by charity to be under-estimated. *On Works.* *By Charity.* On 1st Jan. - 400 100 On 1st Mar. - 1,300 100 On 1st May - 1,300 100 On 1st July - 800 100
A. Steward's Report, dated 26th December 1876).					
The local stocks of grain are estimated at lbs. 10,165,380. There is no probability of the supply failing, as it is being largely imported from Bombay *viâ* the Coast. Private enterprise will continue to supply the market.	There is no marked preponderance of one caste over another; the total population is 129,292, one half of whom are engaged in agriculture; the rest are weavers and artizans. There are no landholders likely to assist their tenants.	There has been immigration, but no emigration.	At present labourers are employed on tank repairs and roads; other relief works will be started in January.	There is a relief-house at Belgaum, towards which Rs. 7,000 have been subscribed, and which has relieved 9,380 persons. When able-bodied men appear, they are given one cooked meal, and then sent to work on a neighbouring tank.	At present there are 1,000 people on the works; on 1st March there will be 3,000, on 1st May 5,000, and 1st July 5,000. The Assistant Collector considers the numbers over-estimated.

a.	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e.*

SAMPGAON Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector

The kharif crop may be taken at 8 annas, and the rabi at 8 annas. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The remissions will be slight.	No cattle have died of starvation, nor are any deaths anticipated from this cause.	The water-supply is not a matter of anxiety.	

For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.				
	Jowári.	Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Pulse.
1st week in October 1876	28	18	24	22	16
2nd „	22	12	18	16	16
3rd „	20	13	16	16	16
4th „	20	13	16	16	16
1st week, November 1876	12	12	14	16	16
2nd „	15	14	14	18	16
3rd „	14	13	14	16	12
4th „	16	14	14	18	12
1st week, December 1876	16	14	14	16	13
2nd „	16	14	14	18	13
3rd „	16	14	14	18	15
Average of six years	48	32	36	40	40

CHICKORI Taluka (Acting First Assistant Collector

The Mámlatdár estimates the kharif crop at 1 anna, and the rabi at nearly 2½ annas; but the First Assistant considers this estimate unreliable, and calculates that the average throughout the Collectorate is about 5 annas, the crop being almost entirely kharif, and consisting largely of rice. There will be no further sowings this season.	The First Assistant estimates the remissions at Rs. 40,000, and suggests that the collection of the revenue to the extent of Rs. 30,000 more may be deferred till next year.	Of the cattle and agricultural stock, numbering 187,734, about 20,000 have been driven to the Ghâts to graze, and about 4,000 worthless animals have already perished, and 1,000 more are likely to die from hunger. There are considerable stocks of kurbi in the taluka, and the ghâts are near, so there should be little difficulty in feeding all animals worth preserving. The ryots will not go to the trouble and expense of preparing prickly-pear for fodder.	Chickori is a well-watered taluka; 90 of its villages being upon the banks of rivers, and no serious inconvenience is likely to be experienced as regards the rest.	

Dates.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.						
	Jowári.	Bájri.	Rice.	Wheat.	Túr dhall.	Gram.	Nachni.
5th October 1876	22	24	18	20	22	18	23
12th „	22	20	11	11	14	17	22
19th „	16	16	13	16	16	16	17
26th „	16	16	12	14	16	18	18
2nd Nov. 1876	13	16	13	16	14	16	16
9th „	15	16	13	14	14	16	16
16th „	18	18	12	14	16	17	16
23rd „	16	18	13	14	15	18	19
30th „	16	18	13	14	15	18	19
7th Dec. 1876	17	18	14	15	15	18	20
14th „	19	18	14	16	15	18	21
Average of 6 years	44	48	25	22	25	26½	53

PARASGAD Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector

The kharif yield will be ⅔ and the rabi ¼ of an anna. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The total revenue is about Rs. 1,95,000; the remissions will amount to Rs. 65,000, and the outstanding collections to a like sum.	There is a large balance of fodder, and up to the present there has been no mortality amongst the cattle; but the people refuse to send their valuable cattle; to the distant Government grazing grounds, and will not use the prickly-pear. Probably, as the pressure increases, many animals will be sent to the ghâts.	The water-supply in many villages is indifferent, but the Assistant Collector does not anticipate such a failure as to cause serious inconvenience.	

For the Weeks of October, November, and December 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.							
	Jowári.	Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Dhall.	Mug.	Bájri.	Ragi.
1876.								
1st week, Oct.	24	16	22	20	16	16	26	20
2nd „	18	12	18	16	12	14	18	16
3rd „	17	14	18	18	12	14	18	16
4th „	11½	11	12	16	12	12	12	14
1st week, Nov.	12	10½	12	14	12	12	16	14
2nd „	14	13	13	16	13	13	16	14
3rd „	16	14	14	17½	13	14	16	16
4th „	15½	14	16	18	14	14	16	16
1st week, Dec.	16	14	16	17½	14	14	16	16
2nd „	17½	14	16½	18	14	16	18	18
3rd „	20	13	18	20	15	16	20	18
Average of six years	48	28	40	32	48	40	52	—

GOKAK Taluka (District Deputy Collector

The kharif yield will be 9 and the rabi 4 pies. There are no prospects of further sowings this season.	The probable remissions will amount to Rs. 72,273. The total revenue is not given.	Out of the total number of cattle, amounting to 36,466, 1,955 have died, 8,272 have been sold, and 3,474 sent to the ghâts. Of the rest 15,000 may perish. Attempts are being made to introduce prickly-pear as fodder.	Although this part of the district is watered by the River Ghatprabha, which will supply a number of villages, there will be a certain amount of inconvenience as regards water-supply in many villages distant from the Ghatprabha, as nullahs and wells are fast drying up. Wells and tanks are being deepened and cleared out on a large scale.	

Dates.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.					
	Jowári.	Bájri.	Rice.	Wheat.	Túr.	Gram.
5th October 1876	16½	24	18	16	16	17
12th „	18	20	12	15½	13	17
19th „	18	20	12	18	13	18
26th „	16½	18	12	18	14	18
2nd November 1876	10½	11	12	11	18	16
9th „	13	14	10	12	14	16
16th „	13	17	10	15	12	18
23rd „	14	16	12	14	14	16
30th „	14	14	11	15	13	16
7th December 1876	15	16	12	15	12	18
14th „	16	20	12	16	12	18
21st „	19	20	14	15½	14	17
25th „	18	—	13	18	—	20
Average of six years	45	47	23	25	25	25

—*continued.*

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. G. McCorkell's Report, dated 29th December 1876).					
There is a vast quantity of grain in store, and large importations continue from Vingorla and Belgaum; but the Assistant Collector thinks prices will not fall. Private enterprise will supply the market.	The population is almost purely agricultural; by far the larger number are Lingayets by caste. There are no landholders willing to aid their tenants.	Not more than 1,300 have emigrated, but many more will follow unless relief works are started at once.	No relief works, except one road, are in progress at present, but three road works can be commenced when necessary.	A relief-house has been opened, but up to the present no large demands for charity have been made.	At present there are no people on relief works, but the Assistant Collector expects that support will have to be provided for about— *On Works.* *By Charity.* On 1st Mar. - 9,000 3,000 On 1st May - 9,750 3,250 On 1st July - 6,000 2,000
Mr. A. Steward's Report, dated 4th January 1877).					
The present supply of grain, added to the vast quantities imported from Vingorla, Chiplun, and other places, is sufficient to last till the monsoon. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	There is no marked preponderance of any one caste over another. Weaving is the only trade carried on; the cultivators are exceedingly well-to-do, and the population is almost entirely agricultural, though the coolie class is a large one.	About 2,000 people have emigrated towards the Kanara jungles and relief works, and are supposed to have bettered themselves.	At present the eight road works in progress are sufficient; hereafter some large irrigational project in Hukeri Mahál may require to be undertaken.	Relief houses, under Government supervision, are established at four villages, where the wants of travellers and incapables are administered to.	There are at present 5,000 people on the works and 250 in the poor-houses; the numbers of the former will rise to about 14,000 or 15,000 throughout the dry season, and the latter to about 1,000.
Mr. G. McCorkell's Report, dated 30th December 1876).					
There are upwards of 3,202 tons of grain in store; importations are large, and there is no probability of the supply failing. Prices have fallen since the large importations, but will rise as soon as the rains close the Southern Mahratta ports. Private enterprise will supply the market.	The prevailing caste is that of the Lingayets; the majority of the population is agricultural, and in poor circumstances. There are no landholders capable of assisting their tenants.	About 5,000 people migrated with their cattle, but are returning. No further migration has taken place. There are a large number of immigrants from Dharwar, Kaládgi, and the neighbouring Jaghir States.	The greater number of the 13 relief works undertaken are completed. In addition to these the Assistant Collector proposes 14 tank-works and two roads.	A relief house has been established where the wants of incapables are attended to.	At present there are 8,200 on the works; it is expected that there will be:— *On Works.* *By Charity.* On 1st March 22,350 1,500 „ 1st May - 16,670 1,750 „ 1st July - 12,000 2,000
Mr. J. A. Guerin's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
There are upwards of 571 tons of grain in stores. Further supplies are being drawn from Vingorla, Chickori, Bidi, and Sampgaon talukas. So long as importations from Vingorla continue, private enterprise will supply the market.	The population amounts to 109,697, and is almost entirely of Hindus, 40,063 being high caste and 60,060 low caste. There is a small per-centage of Jains and Musalmans; about 27,424 purely and 3,428 partly agricultural; and the rest are urban, artizan, &c. The people, as a rule, are poor, and there are no landholders able to assist their tenants.	About 4,600 people have emigrated towards Mysore and the western ghâts; some have returned, and others have found employment. No further emigration is expected.	Eleven tank works, one well, and one road are at present in progress, but will not meet the demand for labour; and it is proposed to commence the Gokak Canal.	A relief house has been established at Gokak, and the infirm and children are fed daily; the sick are supplied with medicines; and able-bodied travellers are assisted to relief works, partly by Government and partly by private charity.	7,759 persons are now on the works, and 57 are being supported by charity; the number will probably increase to:— *On Works.* *By Charity.* On 1st March 20,000 400 „ 1st May - 27,000 700 „ 1st July - 22,000 900

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

BELGAUM

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

ATHNI Taluka (District Deputy Collector

The kharif yield may be taken at 4 pies and the rabi 1½ pies. No further sowings are expected this season.	The probable remissions will amount to Rs. 60,499; the total revenue is not given.	4,300 cattle are reported to have died and 5,000 to have been sold. A further mortality of 16,000 is anticipated.	27 villages of this district derive their water-supply from the Kistna river, which contains sufficient for the season; the other 77 villages, being dependent on wells and nalas, most of which are already dry, will suffer from scarcity. Wells are being deepened and cleared.	Dates.	Prices-Lbs. per Rupee.				
					Jowári.	Bájri.	Rice.	Wheat.	Túr.
				2nd October 1876	18	18	10	14	18
				16th „	16	16	11	14	16
				23rd „	15	16	12	13	16
				30th „	14½	16	12	13	16
				6th November 1876	15	16	11	15	14
				13th „	14	15	—	14	14
				20th „	14	15	—	14	14
				27th „	16	16	11	14	14
				4th December 1876	16	17	12	14	16
				11th „	18	20	13	13½	17
				18th „	18	20	13	13	17
				22nd „	17	—	13	16	17
				25th „	18	—	12	16	17
				Average of six years	51½	26½	24	27½	30½

GENERA

Of the seven talukas, the crop in four seem fair, and in three bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 2,50,772.

In five talukas the condition of the cattle appears satisfactory, and in two bad.

In five talukas the prospects of the water supply seem satisfactory, and in two indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this as of all other collectorates is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture; 22,900, out of a population of 938,750, appear to have migrated. This movement appears now to have nearly stopped. It is, to a great extent, due to the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle.

The chief relief works are roads.

29th January 1877.

—*continued.*

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. J. A. Guerin's Report, dated 10th January 1877).					
There are upwards of 1,697 tons of grain in store. Supplies are obtained from Sholapur, Shiplun, and in small quantities from Nipani and Belgaum. Prices have fallen, and private enterprise will supply the market.	The total population of Athni is 114,677, of whom 74,374 are high caste Hindus, and 16,487 low caste, 12,705 Jains, and 11,109 Musalmans. About 21,502 are purely agricultural and 78,840 combine agriculture with other trades; the remaining 14,335 are non-agricultural. The people, as a rule, are poor, and there are no large landholders capable of aiding their tenants.	About 10,000 people emigrated to the Nizam's territory and the Konkan, and a few to Amráoti, but many have returned.	Nine tank works and three roads are in progress at present, but are found insufficient. In the absence of Government sanction to the Gokak Canal, several smaller works must be undertaken.	A relief house has been established at Athni, and the infirm and children are fed daily with cooked food; the sick are supplied with medicines; and able-bodied travellers are assisted to relief works by Government and private charity.	At present there are 6,931 on works and 140 are supported by charity. The numbers will be:— On 1st March 18,000 / 300 „ 1st May - 25,000 / 600 „ 1st July - 20,000 / 800 (*On Works.* / *By Charity.*)

OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be upon the hands of Government is about—

On March 1st - - - - - - -	87,650
On May 1st - - - - - - -	98,720
On July 1st - - - - - - -	79,800

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

KANARESE DIVISION.—REVENUE

DHARWAR DISTRICT.—

Talukas.	Area in Square Miles.	Population.	Government realisable Revenue in 1875-76.
			Rs.
1. Dharwar - - -	460	128,730	2,12,351
2. Hubli - - -	310	101,238	2,19,355
3. Nawalgund - -	565	104,700	3,54,333
4. Gadag - - -	701	120,655	2,55,267
5. Bankápur - -	341	83,175	1,49,052
6. Hángal - - -	298	67,390	1,42,783
7. Karajgi - - -	439	95,217	1,49,830
8. Kánibennur - -	403	86,601	1,33,472
9. Kod - - -	399	79,099	1,53,384
10. Kalghatgi - -	279	52,729	1,01,844
11. Ron - - -	369	73,503	1,61,620
Total - -	4,564	988,037	20,33,291

DHARWAR - - - - - -

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

HUBLI Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. G.

The yield of the kharif and the rabi crop where sown is about 4 annas each, but nearly half the culturable area has been unsown. There will be no further sowings this season.

The total land revenue of the taluka is Rs. 2,25,000, and the remission to be given is estimated by the Mámlatdár at Rs. 25,000, which the First Assistant considers somewhat high, as the people are well-to-do.

No unusual mortality has occurred among the cattle, nor is any anticipated. Fodder plentiful. No special measures are required on this account.

The water supply is fair, the chief source being wells. No scarcity of water is apprehended.

For each Week of October, November, and December 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Rice.	Tur, dhall.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bájri.
1st week in October -	32	16	22	26	24	32
2nd „ -	26	16	18	20	22	24
3rd „ -	21	16	16	20	22	24
4th „ -	16	13	16	14	20	16
1st week in November	14	14	14	16	20	14
2nd „ -	16	14	14	16	18	16
3rd „ -	16	16	15	16	18	16
4th „ -	16	14	14	16	18	16
1st week in December	16	14	14	16	18	16
2nd „ -	16	14	14	16	18	16
Up to 22nd December	20	16	14	18	20	20
Average of six years -	52	28	20	30	24	50

GADAG Taluka (1st Assistant Collector Mr. G.

The yield of the kharif crop is estimated at 3 annas, and that of the rabi at 1 anna, but only a third of the culturable area has been sown. There will be no further sowings this season.

The Mámlatdár estimates the remissions at about Rs. 36,000, out of the total assessment of Rs. 2,46,522. The First Assistant Collector, however, thinks this estimate too low, and puts the amount at about Rs. 60,000.

No cattle have died from starvation, but some have been sent for grazing to the jungles. There are considerable stocks of fodder, and the people will be able to keep alive the best of their cattle, but difficulty in procuring fodder will be felt by the owners of carts coming into the taluka with grain supplies, &c.

In some villages there is already a great scarcity of water, and in seven others there is no supply at all, the villagers having to go two or three miles for it; these are black soil villages, and depend for their supply upon tanks, which are filled up by the rain. The only remedial measure that appears feasible to the First Assistant is the sinking of wells to a great depth (100 feet) where good water may be found, that found at a moderate depth being brackish.

For each Week of October, November, and December 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee. Jowári.	Rice.	Tur Dall.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bájri.
1st week in October -	32	20	32	20	32	—
2nd „ -	22	14	20	20	20	—
3rd „ -	22	16	20	20	20	—
4th „ -	13	12	16	14	16	—
1st week in November	13	12	14	14	14	—
2nd „ -	15	13	16	16	16	—
3rd „ -	14	12	16	16	16	—
4th „ -	14	12	15	15	16	—
1st week in December	14	14	15	15	16	—
2nd „ -	18	14	16	16	18	—
3rd „ -	19	15	16	16	18	—
Up to 26th December	19	15	16	16	18	—
Average of six years -	51	22	24	28	23	21

COMMISSIONER—Mr. A. E. D. GREY.

COLLECTOR, Mr. F. B. RICHEY.

Rough Proportion of *Kharif* to *Rabi* Cultivation.		Average Annual Rainfall.	Actual Rainfall this Season.
Kharif. Acres.	*Rabi.* Acres.	Inches.	Inches.
75,056	30,453	32·34	20·71
41,562	74,669	27·83	14·18
3,542	226,080	22·22	6·65
74,584	170,794	25·67	11·1
61,985	19,274	21·83	15·23
55,809	5,480	34·83	22·39
81,268	32,434	25·23	13·33
82,820	27,281	22·53	10·9
92,188	4,738	21·26	15·46
50,750	730	33·09	20·23
17,424	140,296	23·48	4·70
636,988	732,229	—	—

DHARWAR.

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
The Mámlatdár estimates the local stock of grain at about 694 tons, which the First Assistant considers absurdly low. He believes there are large stocks in the taluka. There, are many rich traders in the town of Hubli, who are importing largely, as also are Messrs. Nicol and Co., of the Karwar Company (Limited), and the effect of this importation is a considerable fall in prices. If it continue, there is no need of apprehension for the taluka.	Of the total population (101,238) of the taluka, 17,170 persons are purely agricultural, 24,410 are artizans, and 59,658 of no special employment. Out of the whole number, about 500 persons are computed to be of independent means, but of these those of the landholding class are heavily involved, and there is no probability of their assisting their tenants.	No emigration has taken place from this taluka, but about 2,500 have immigrated from Kaládgi and elsewhere, who now find employment on the road under construction between Hubli and Konur.	The only relief work now in progress here is the road from Hubli and Konur, upon which about 3,000 persons are employed. There are also minor local fund works sanctioned, which will afford relief. A list is appended of works which can, if necessary, be sanctioned for relief.	No charitable relief has been given as yet, and it is doubted if any such will be required in the town of Hubli itself, where many of the wealthy merchants already distribute food daily to large numbers, and will continue to do so during the scarcity. In the villages also little will be required, as Hubli is the grand centre to which all needing employment or charity naturally gravitate.	The number of persons employed on relief works is at present about 3,000, most of whom are immigrants. The Mámlatdár estimates the probable numbers in future as follows:— On 1st March - 5,000 „ 1st May - 5,000 „ 1st July - 5,000 supposing no rain to have fallen. The First Assistant considers this estimate to be a fair one.

Waddington's Report, dated 30th December 1876).

Waddington's Report, dated 30th December 1876).

The Mámlatdár estimates the local stock of grain at about 826 tons, which the First Assistant considers unreliable, but states he is himself unable to supply a more reliable estimate. Grain is largely imported from Bellary, Coompta, and Karwar, and the stock is sufficient for the wants of the usual inhabitants of the taluka, though, in the absence of importation, prices would be high. Importation, too, is requisite, not only to keep down prices, but to provide grain for the people employed on relief works, the majority of whom are immigrants from other districts. Later in the season difficulty will be experienced in procuring fodder for cart bullocks bringing grain into the district. The Revenue Commissioner, therefore, suggests the desirableness of storing, as a precautionary measure, a certain amount of fodder for sale to the public on the main lines of communication.	Of the total population, numbering 120,655 souls, 24,141 are purely agricultural, 1,026 artizans, and 95,488 of no special employment. The people are on the whole well-to-do. There are no large or wealthy landholders who are in a position to assist their tenants.	According to the Mámlatdár's report about 10,000 people emigrated to the forests, but in consequence of suffering from fever and want of employment, many are returning to their homes. The First Assistant Collector observes that annually considerable numbers of the poorer classes emigrate to the western talukas for employment in reaping the rice crops, and return after harvest, and thinks that these persons form a considerable portion of the number in the Mámlatdár's estimate. Further emigration is not considered probable, if employment on relief works can be found in the taluka.	The relief works in progress are improving the tank at Dambul and making a road between Hurtee and Mulagund, 1,250 persons being employed on the former and 1,500 on the latter work. A list of other relief works which can be undertaken is also submitted.	The amount of charitable relief has as yet been very small, nor is there any likelihood of its rising to anything very considerable.	At present only about 4,000 persons are employed on relief works. It is difficult to make a forecast of the numbers likely to be so employed in future, as it must entirely depend upon the seasonableness or otherwise of the rainfall. The Mámlatdár estimates the number that will require charitable relief at— On 1st March 60 per diem. „ 1st May - 80 „ „ 1st July - 100 „

KALGHATGI Taluka (First Assistant Collector

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.							
The taluka is entirely kharif, and the crop is 5 annas.	About Rs. 500	No unusual mortality among cattle, and fodder is abundant. A considerable number of cattle, belonging to immigrants from Kaládgi and elsewhere, have died on their way through this taluka to the forests. Many of them were poor, worthless creatures; their deaths are partly attributable to the scarcity of food and over-driving, and partly to the coarse fodder of this taluka not suiting them.	The water supply is fair, the source being nullahs and holes sunk in the beds of nullahs. Where the want of water is likely to be most felt will be along the road, by cartmen travelling with grain carts from Sangatikop to Hubli. Suggests the sinking of temporary wells at each of the halting places along the line.	For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.						
					Jowári.	Rice.	Túr Dhall.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bájri.	
				1st week in October	36	24	28	32	20	—	
				2nd „	24	18	20	16	20	—	
				3rd „	26	18	18	18	20	—	
				4th „	20	18	20	18	20	—	
				5th „	12	12	16	12	12	—	
				1st week in November	20	20	16	16	16	—	
				2nd „	16	16	16	14	16	—	
				3rd „	16	16	16	14	16	—	
				4th „	16	16	16	14	16	—	
				1st week in December	18	15	14	14	16	—	
				2nd „	17	15	14	14	16	—	
				3rd „	18	16	14	14	20	—	
				Up to 22nd December	20	18	16	16	20	—	
				Average of six years	46	26	18	20	18	—	

HANGAL Taluka (Acting Second Assistant Collector

The kharif crop is as follows: rági, 5 annas; rice, 4 annas; jowári, 3½ annas; and túr pulse, 1 anna. There has been no rábi crop at all. There will be no further sowings this season.	Rs. 1,000 will probably have to be remitted.	No unusual mortality has occurred or is anticipated. Fodder sufficient.	From February and March the water supply will fail in some villages, but no special distress from scarcity of water will be felt, as the ryots will, as usual, sink temporary wells in nullahs, tanks, &c.	For the Week ending	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.					
					Rági.	Jowári.	Túr Pulse.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.
				1st October 1876	48	32	28	28	24	16
				8th „	32	24	20	16	20	20
				15th „	32	24	22	16	20	16
				22nd „	32	22	20	16	20	18
				1st November 1876	14	14	16	16	14	16
				8th „	24	20	16	10	16	14
				15th „	32	20	16	10	16	16
				22nd „	24	18	14	12	16	16
				1st December 1876	24	20	16	11	16	16
				8th „	24	20	16	12	16	16
				15th „	32	22	16	12	20	16
				Average of six years	104	69⅓	28⅔	26	34	24

RÁNIBENNUR Taluka (Acting Second Assistant Collector

The Assistant Collector estimates the kharif crop at 1⅓, and the rabi at 0¼ annas. The Collector thinks the Assistant's estimate of the kharif crop is slightly too low. There will be no further sowings this season.	About Rs. 10,000 will probably have to be remitted out of a revenue demand of Rs. 1,33,734.	3,000 cattle have died, of which one half were valuable agricultural stock. About 33,500 valuable animals have been sent to Mysore and Kanara to graze; of these about 4,200 have died. It is anticipated that about 1,000 more will die, of which only 300 will be valuable animals. The Second Assistant has no other suggestions to offer for the preservation of cattle than those made with reference to Sindgi Taluka.	The tanks of 10 villages are dry, and those of 15 villages will also be dry in a fortnight, when, with the exception of three villages, the inhabitants of which will have to go three miles, all villagers will have to go from one to two miles for water.	Date.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.				
					Jowári.	Túr Pulse.	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.
				1876.					
				1st to 14th October	32	24	24	24	24
				15th October	24	22	24	24	22
				22nd „	22	18	16	18	20
				1st November	20	16	14	14	18
				8th to 21st November	18	16	14	14	18
				22nd November to 7th December	18	14	12	14	16
				8th December	17	12	12	14	14
				15th „	18	14	12	14	14
				22nd „	20	16	14	16	14
				28th „	21	16	16	16	16
				Average of six years	68⅓	23⅓	31	28⅓	24⅔

KARAJGI Taluka (Supernumerary Assistant Collector Mr. E.

The kharif crop is about 1 anna, and the rabi ½ an anna.	Remissions will probably amount to nearly Rs. 30,000 out of a revenue of Rs. 1,50,504, but no accurate estimate can be formed till the jamabandi.	No unusual mortality as yet among the cattle in the taluka, but it is anticipated. Of the cattle that have been sent to Malad to graze, about 1,000 have died from the effects of the climate, and some are returning thence. The Collector thinks the effect of the Malad climate exaggerated, and that the animals were weak when they arrived there. He considers that Government cannot do more for the cattle than is being done.	The rivers Warad and Tungabhadra run through the taluka, the former almost through the centre, and the latter bounds the greater part of the eastern side. But in villages where water is deficient measures are being taken to improve the supply.	WEEKS.	Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.				
					Jowári.	Togari.	Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.
				1st week in October	22	16	16	16	16
				2nd „	20	16	16	16	16
				3rd „	20	16	16	16	16
				4th „	18	12	12	12	14
				1st week in November	18	12	12	12	14
				2nd „	18	12	12	12	14
				3rd „	18	12	12	12	14
				4th „	18	12	12	12	14
				1st week in December	18	12	12	12	14
				2nd „	18	12	12	12	14
				3rd „	18	12	12	12	14
				4th „	20	14	16	12	14
				Average of six years	68⅕	24⅖	32⅖	28⅗	22⅖

—*continued.*

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. G. Waddington's Report, dated 30th December 1876).					
The local stock of grain is estimated at 3,117 tons. but the First Assistant does not consider this estimate very reliable. Large imports are being made from Karwar, and Messrs. Nicol and Co. have set up a grain store at Kalghatgi. Private enterprise is likely to provide the requisite supply, and prices, which have already fallen, are not likely to rise excessively.	About 10,000 persons, out of a total population of 52,729, are purely agricultural, the remainder are composed of labourers, traders, and artizans and manufacturers. There are no very wealthy persons or large landholders in the taluka, the few that may be considered as such being involved in debt, and there is no probability of their assisting their tenants, though a few are taking advantage of the cheap labour obtainable to improve their lands.	No emigration has taken, or is likely to take place, in this taluka; but about 5,000 persons have immigrated into it from Kaládgi and elsewhere, and the number is daily increasing.	No relief work has yet been started, nor is any at present needed, as there has been no demand for employment, except to a very limited extent. A list of works that may hereafter be necessary is submitted.	No expenditure has as yet been incurred on charitable relief, but hereafter it may be found necessary to grant such relief to immigrants returning home in April or May, after the first showers.	The number of persons now employed on relief works is only 260. The Mámlatdár estimates on the— 1st March - 2,000 1st May - 1,000 1st July - 1,000 This must depend entirely on the rainfall being early and plentiful or otherwise.
Mr. C. Wiltshire's Report, dated 23rd December 1876).					
The Second Assistant Collector estimates the local stocks of grain at 11,826 tons, but the Collector does not consider much weight is to be attached to this estimate. As Hángal is favourably situated as regards the ports of Karwar and Coompta, private enterprise is likely to meet all requirements.	Of the population numbering 67,390 souls, 28,422 are of high, and 35,083 of low caste; 332 men are rich, and of the remainder half are well-to-do and half are poor. There are 36,974 agriculturists, 5,551 artizans, and 500 professional mendicants. Of the balance, one half are petty shop-keepers, and the other labourers or private servants. There are six wealthy landholders, who are able and willing to aid their tenants. Of these, two at their own expense employ each from 400 to 500 immigrant labourers on works.	There has been and will be no emigration, but 1,000 beggars and 3,000 coolies have immigrated, who are now gradually returning to their homes.	The local fund works are very small. The sum of Rs. 4,331 for small works has been raised by local subscriptions, and will be expended in deepening 3 kalwas and 12 tanks. The Collector does not anticipate much demand for relief employment from the population of Hángal itself, but there is a prospect of considerable immigration. At present there is sufficient work for the immigrants. Should the necessity for extensive relief arise, tank digging is, in the opinion of the Collector, the proper object for expenditure.	No charitable relief has been given. The Second Assistant has on hand a reserve of Rs. 1,000 to be so spent.	The Second Assistant cannot give accurate information as to the number of persons on relief works. The number is likely to be on the— 1st March - 4,000 1st May - 5,000 1st July - 3,000 On each of these dates 50 persons unable to work will have to be supported by charity.
Mr. C. Wiltshire's Report, dated 29th December 1876).					
The local stocks of grain, as far as ascertainable, are not less than 595 tons. A large quantity is also imported from Coompta and from Mysore. In the opinion of both the Second Assistant and the Collector, private enterprise is likely to be sufficient to meet all demands, but the importations will not be sufficiently large to lower prices to any great extent.	Of the population 67,730 are high and 15,678 are low caste; 1,077 are rich, 21,312 are well-to-do, and the remainder poor. Of the population, 29,200 are agriculturists, 38,720 artizans, 1,908 merchants, 8,800 dealers in cattle, 600 carriers of goods, 3,300 are Government and other servants, 880 are priests, and 3,700 compose the moneyed gentry. There are no large wealthy landholders able to aid their tenants.	There has been no emigration except an exodus of 300 persons, who have taken their cattle to Mysore and Kanara, and who are not likely to return till the scarcity is over. No further emigration is anticipated.	The metalling of the Poona-Hurryhur Road is in progress; also the Medleri Tank, the former employing 334, and the latter 150 labourers. The ryots have subscribed Rs. 6,440 for famine works. With this sum a well, houd, and dharmsala will be built, and several houds, tanks, and wells will be repaired. A list is submitted of other works, chiefly roads, which are suitable relief works.	No charitable relief has as yet been given.	Government have on their hands about 484 labourers. The number likely to require relief hereafter is, on the 1st March 4,000 on works and 160 by charity; 1st May, 4,000 on works and 200 by charity; and on 1st July, 3,000 on works and 200 by charity.
McCallum's Report, dated 30th December 1876).					
The Assistant Collector estimates the local stock at about 8,759 tons, but the Collector cannot place any reliance on the estimate. The centres from which further supplies can be drawn are Bellary, distant 14 miles; Coompta, distant 100; and Karwar, distant 112 miles. A good deal or grain is being imported by private enterprise; there has already been a fall in prices and a further decline is probable. No dearth of food is anticipated.	Of the population about 25,000 are well-to-do, the remainder 64,262 are poor. The cultivators number about 23,574, and the artizans 20,384. There are no large landholders likely to help their tenants.	About 3,000 people have emigrated and have bettered themselves by so doing, but owing to sickness some have returned. Further emigration is not anticipated.	Relief works, such as clearing tanks and cutting prickly-pear are being carried on out of voluntary subscription at seven different places. Relief works are also in progress under the Public Works Department, such as clearing out the Gutal houd and metalling the Harrihar Road, and making a new line of road near Tahihulli. A road from Gutal to Ranibennur is also in progress. Other relief work recommended is enlarging a tank between the villages of Timapur, Hattimatur, and Neiglur.	Infirm people, unable to work, are at present supported by voluntary subscriptions, 2 lbs. of jowári per day being given to them. In Háveri and Devihosur there are one or two sowcars who give relief gratuitously.	The number of people whom Government had on their hands on the 23rd December for relief by works was 2,000, and by charity 500. Government will probably have on their hands for relief on the— 1st March - 5,000 1st May - 3,000 1st July - 1,500 The Collector supposes that the average number between 1st of March and 1st of June will be 5,000; and that if rain be seasonable an dcopious, little or no relief will be required in July.

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

RON Taluka (District Deputy Collector Mr. J. C. Anding's

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.					
The kharif crop was ½ an anna; rabi crop nil. There will be no further sowings this season.	The District Deputy estimates the amount of remissions at about one third (Rs. 54,000) of the total assessment, Rs. 1,62,679. The Collector thinks it may be brought below this.	About 7,000 cattle and agricultural stock have died from want of fodder, and about as many more deaths are anticipated. Permission to graze cattle in the forests has eagerly been taken advantage of. Some who could afford it have laid in a stock of fodder sufficient to last for two months or more. The attention of the people has been drawn to the advantage of utilising the leaves of the prickly-pear as fodder.	Of the 58 villages, 53 have a supply of water sufficient till next rains, the remaining five have tanks, which are now dry; but temporary wells have been sunk in the beds of nalas, one or two miles distant, to supply their need; these wells will have to be made deeper as the dry season advances.	For the Week ending	Jowári.	Túr, pulse.	Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bájri.
				5th October -	36	20	22	28	20	36
				12th „ -	22	18	18	20	20	—
				19th „ -	20	18	16	20	16	20
				26th „ -	20	18	16	20	—	20
				2nd November -	14	13	12	12	13	14
				9th „ -	17	14	13	12	14	16
				16th „ -	14	13	13	16	14	14
				23rd „ -	16	14	14	14	14	14
				30th „ -	16	14	14	14	18	14
				7th December -	16	14	14	14	18	16
				14th „ -	18	14	16	14	18	16
				21st „ -	22	16	16	16	20	—
				Average of six years -	76	22	27	28	22½	61½

DHARWAR Taluka (District Deputy Collector

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.					
The kharif crop will yield as follows:—jowári 6 annas, bájri 1 anna, rice 2 annas, túr 2 annas, rági, &c. 3 annas; areas of each not stated. There will be no rabi crop. There is no prospect of further sowings this season.	The District Deputy estimates the remissions at about Rs. 36,268, or one-fourth of the total assessment (Rs. 1,45,072), which both the Collector and the Revenue Commissioner consider excessive, and they are of opinion that the remissions should not exceed Rs. 2,000.	No unusual mortality among cattle, and none is anticipated.	The water-supply is sufficent to last till the commencement of the hot weather in March, after which temporary wells in beds of nalas and in rice-lands will have to be sunk and resorted to, as is usually done. The District Deputy recommends the sum of Rs. 400 to be placed in the Mámlatdár's hands to enable him to assist the people in the digging of temporary wells.	For the Week ending	Rice.	Jowári.	Túr (pulse).	Gram.	Wheat.	Bájri.
				7th October 1876 -	18	32	23	23	28	32
				15th „ -	17	24	18	20	20	24
				23rd „ -	16	22	18	21	20	22
				31st „ -	14	15	16	20	15	16
				7th November 1876 -	15	16	16	19	16	16
				15th „ -	15	16	16	19	16	17
				23rd „ -	15	15	13	17	15	17
				30th „ -	15	16	14	19	16	18
				7th December 1876 -	15	16	15	19	16	19
				15th „ -	16	18	16	19	16	20
				23rd „ -	16	20	16	20	16	22
				Average of six years	$26\frac{7}{11}$	$45\frac{9}{11}$	$22\frac{7}{11}$	$22\frac{4}{11}$	$26\frac{8}{11}$	$45\frac{3}{11}$

KOD Taluka (Second Assistant Collector

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.				
The yield of the kharif crop is 5 annas, that of the rabi 2 annas; as only seven villages grow rabi, its failure is not serious. There will be no further sowings this season.	Remissions will probably amount to Rs. 1,000.	No unusual mortality among cattle or agricultural stock, nor is any anticipated.	The water-supply is good.	For the Week ending	Jowári.	Túr (pulse).	Wheat.	Rice.	Gram.
				1st October 1876 -	32	24	20	26	22
				8th „ -	23	20	20	23	22
				15th „ -	26	16	14	19	16
				22nd „ -	24	14	14	15	16
				1st November 1876 -	22	16	14	15	16
				8th „ -	22	12	14	15	16
				15th „ -	22	12	12	15	16
				22nd „ -	20	14	14	15	16
				1st December 1876 -	18	12	12	15	14
				8th „ -	18	16	12	15	16
				15th „ -	18	16	12	16	16
				22nd „ -	22	14	14	18	16
				1st January 1877 -	20	18	12	14	16
				Average of six years	66	30	28	30	28

BANKÁPUR Taluka (First Assistant Collector

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.					
The kharif and joyári is 6, the rice 5, and the cotton crop 4 annas; relative areas not given. There is no rabi crop in this taluka. There will be no further sowings this season.	Rs. 1,500 will probably have to be remitted, out of a revenue demand of Rs. 1,77,836.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle in the taluka, nor is any anticipated. Fodder is tolerably abundant. The Mámlatdár reports that of the cattle that were sent to the jungles to graze, about 1,000 have died.	The water-supply of this taluka is fair, except in two or three black-soil villages in the north-east extremity.	For each Week in October, November, and December 1876.	Jowári.	Túr (dhall).	Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bájri.
				1st week in October -	72	48	52	56	44	—
				2nd „ -	44	32	32	26	32	—
				3rd „ -	56	32	40	44	32	—
				4th „ -	40	32	32	32	32	—
				1st week in November	28	32	28	28	32	—
				2nd „ -	40	27	32	29	32	—
				3rd „ -	40	32	32	28	32	—
				4th „ -	36	32	28	24	32	—
				5th „ -	36	32	28	24	32	—
				1st week in December	36	30	28	24	32	—
				2nd „ -	42	32	32	28	32	—
				3rd „ -	48	32	40	30	32	—
				4th „ -	48	32	34	30	32	—
				Average of six years -	120	84	64	56	44	24

—*continued.*

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Report, dated 5th January 1877).					
The local stock of grain is estimated at about 231 tons, besides which there have been large importations from the coast *viâ* Hubli, which is the centre depôt for grain, and from which other markets are supplied. The effect of these importations has been to lower prices, but there is no likelihood of any further considerable fall. Private enterprise is considered sufficient to meet all requirements.	Of the total population, numbering 73,606 souls, 9,200 are high caste and well-to-do, the remaining 64,406 are low caste and poor. Of the whole 55,200 are cultivators, 6,900 artizans, and 11,506 urban. The landholders are not very wealthy, and are not known to have aided their tenants.	About 8,000 persons are estimated to have migrated towards Kanara to assist in harvest operations. Of these some have returned owing to the breaking out of cholera and the prevalence of fever. It is expected that in February about 5,000 or 6,000 people will move into North Kanara to gather the seed of the bamboo, which is in full blossom now.	The only relief work in progress is the new Ron-Nawalgund Road, on which about 5,000 persons are employed. On its completion the District Deputy suggests the following works: The collecting of moorum for the Palla-Badami Road, and improving the tanks at Naregal, Howjgerry, Belwanki, Yavgal, and Halkeri. The Collector and the Revenue Commissioner are of opinion that, where possible, relief works should take the form of tanks, instead of new roads, which over a black soil country are useless, unless metalled, and which must in future years be a permanent charge on the local fund of the district.	About Rs. 451 have been spent in minor relief works, such as improving tanks, and Rs. 71 in giving purely charitable relief to travellers, and to the aged and infirm poor.	The number employed on relief works is about 5,064, and that receiving charity about 51. The number in future is estimated by the District Deputy as follow: On the 1st March, 6,000 on works and 100 by charitable measures; 1st May, 8,000 on works and 200 by charitable measures; and on 1st July, 6,000 on works and 300 by charitable measures. The Collector assumes that the number seeking employment between 1st February and 1st May will average 7,000, after which date, if rain fall seasonably and copiously, the number will rapidly diminish.
Mr. J. C. Anding's Report, dated 3rd January 1877).					
The District Deputy estimates the local stock of grain at about 925 tons, besides which there have been large importations from the coast *viâ* Hubli, the effect of which has been to lower prices considerably. The Collector has no confidence in the above estimate, but agrees with the District Deputy that there is little danger of a failure of food, as private importations will suffice to meet all requirements. He thinks, however, that there is no prospect of a material fall in prices; the imported grain is considered inferior to the local grain and is selling cheaper.	The population is mixed, but the high caste greatly predominates over the low caste. Of the total number 15,532 are cultivators, 23,771 artizans, and 83,427 urban. There are not any very large landholders, and though some are to a certain extent wealthy, they are not likely to assist their tenants.	About 5,000 people have emigrated towards Kanara to assist in harvesting operations. Of these some have returned, owing to cholera breaking out there. It is expected that in February about 10,000 will emigrate thither to gather the seed of the bamboo, which is now in blossom.	The Collector states that at present there is no urgent demand for employment in *this* taluka; the only work in progress is the improvement of the Mavunkope tank, on the Dharwar and Hullial road. There are other tank projects which will be taken up as relief works as occasion may require.	The expenditure on account of charitable relief has as yet been trifling, amounting to Rs. 5.	At date of report on relief on works 200. The District Deputy estimates the number likely to be on Government hands hereafter for relief as follows: *On Works.* *By Charity.* On 1st Mar. 10,000 100 „ 1st May 5,000 100 „ 1st July 1,000 100 The Collector thinks the District Deputy wrong in estimating the larger demand in March, but is of opinion that there may be an average of from 5,000 to 10,000 persons, more or less, during February, March, and April, and until rain falls.
C. Wiltshire's Report, dated 1st January 1877).					
The local stocks are estimated at from 10,906 to 15,000 tons. Importations are still going on from Karwar and Coompta.	Of the population, 40,000 are high and 38,425 of low caste; 200 men are rich; 40,000 are well-to-do, and the remainder are poor; 41,141 are agriculturists, 50 dealers in cattle, 18,642 are artizans, 500 carriers of goods, 2,000 traders, 1,450 Government servants and their families, 2,000 compose the monied gentry, 50 are private schoolmasters, and the residue private servants There is no fear of distress among the people. There are no wealthy landholders to aid their tenants.	There has been no emigration, and none is anticipated; about 200 beggars and 1,300 labourers have emigrated.	The Hirekerur tank, on which immigrants are chiefly employed, is being repaired by the Irrigational Department. The ryots have subscribed Rs. 3,795 for famine works, with which amount seven roads, two tanks or houds, and one well will be repaired, and three tanks deepened. The Second Assistant submits a list of roads as relief works on which people might hereafter be employed, but the Collector shows that the capabilities of the taluka for irrigational reproductive works are very great, and is strongly of opinion that future relief works should be of this nature rather than roads.	No charitable relief has been given, but the Second Assistant has a reserve of Rs. 1,000 to be so spent.	The Government are likely to have on their hands on the— *On Works.* *By charitable Measures.* 1st March 2,000 100 1st May 1,500 75 1st July 1,000 50
Mr. G. Waddington's Report, dated 6th January 1877).					
The local stock of grain is estimated at about 7,143 tons. Large imports are being made from Karwar and elsewhere, and there is no likelihood of supplies for this taluka failing. Prices have considerably fallen, and the Mámlatdár anticipates a further considerable fall, but the First Assistant thinks it probable that prices will remain much as they are for some months to come.	The population of the taluka is 83,175, of whom 52,000 are of the agricultural class and 5,000 are artizans; the remainder 26,175 are traders, including 550 men of some means. There are several landed proprietors of the class of district hereditary officers, who, being involved in debt, are not likely to assist their tenants.	No unusual emigration has taken or is likely to take place. Some labourers who had gone to the jungles to seek employment in the rice harvest have returned.	There has as yet been no great demand for employment. Certain minor works are in progress, such as metal-collecting for the Poona-Harihar road and improving the irrigational tank at Yalwagi. The First Assistant submits a list of projects which, if necessary, can be carried out hereafter as relief works.	There has been no demand as yet for charitable relief, and it is anticipated that in future it will be inconsiderable.	Only about 1,500 persons are at present employed on relief works, but this number will probably increase considerably. The Mámlatdár estimates the numbers likely to be employed hereafter as follows:— On 1st March - 4,000 „ 1st May - 2,000 „ 1st July - 2,000 if the usual rain should fall in April and May. About 200 may require to be supported by charity.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

DHARWAR

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.

NAWALGUND Taluka (District Deputy Collector

					Prices—Lbs. per Rupee.					
The yield of the kharif crop is estimated at 1 pie, and that of the rabi at 2 annas.	The remissions are estimated at about Rs. 85,000, or nearly one-fourth of the revenue demand, Rs. 3,55,816.	About 550 cattle have died from want of fodder, and about 1,180 more deaths are anticipated from the same cause. The people are taking advantage of the permission accorded by Government to graze their cattle free in the forests. The attention of the people has also been drawn by the local officers to the advantage of utilising the prickly-pear leaves as fodder.	The water-supply is very scanty, except in the very few villages situated on the river Malprabha. Temporary wells will have to be sunk in the beds of nalas to meet the difficulty.	For the Week ending	Jowári.	Tûr (pulse).	Rice.	Wheat.	Gram.	Bájri.
				7th October 1876 -	38	32	26	36	32	40
				15th „ -	32	32	18	30	32	30
				23rd „ -	24	32	16	20	32	24
				31st „ -	24	32	16	24	32	24
				7th November 1876 -	17	13	14	17	17	17
				15th „ -	16	14	12	16	16	16
				23rd „ -	17	14	14	16	16	16
				30th „ -	17	13	14	16	17	16
				7th December 1876 -	18	14	14	16	18	18
				15th „ -	19	15	17	17	20	18
				23rd „ -	24	16	17	18	20	24
				31st „ -	24	18	18	20	22	24
				Average of six years	51	24	24	32	24	47

GENERAL

Of the 11 talukas, the crops in five seem to have been tolerable, in two bad, and in four very bad.

The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 2,70,000.

In seven talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in three indifferent, and in one bad.

In eight talukas the prospects of the water supply seem satisfactory, but in one considerable, and in two large expenditure seems to be considered necessary. Government do not anticipate any calamity due to failure of water.

No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply.

The majority of the population of this as of all other collectorates is either agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.

36,600 out of a population of 988,037, appear to have emigrated, but many have returned owing to outbreaks of sickness.

Upwards of 15,000 are shortly expected to go into the Kanara jungles to gather bamboo seeds.

The Poona-Harihar, Ron-Nawalgund, and Hubli-Kaládgi roads and some irrigation tanks are the chief relief works in progress.

25th January 1877.

SUMMARY OF THE GENERAL OBSERVATIONS APPENDED BY THE GOVERN-

SUMMARY of GENERAL OBSERVATIONS on the ANSWERS to the QUESTIONS asked by the Government Ahmednagar, Poona, Sholapur, Satara,

Collectorates.	a.	b.	c.	d.	e and f.
KHANDESH -	Of the 15 talukas and 3 pethas, the crops in 10 seem fair, and in 8 indifferent.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 4,66,000.	The condition of the cattle, except in 4 talukas, appears satisfactory.	The recent heavy rain in Khandesh has probably dissipated all fears regarding the water-supply.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876: Jowári - 35½, Bájri - 28½. For Six previous Years: Jowári 50⅔, Bájri 44⅔.
NASIK - - -	Of the 11 talukas, the crops in 8 seem fair, and in 3 indifferent.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 3,69,500.	The condition of the cattle throughout the Collectorates appears satisfactory.	In 5 talukas the prospects of the water-supply seem satisfactory, and in 6 indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876: Jowári - 25½, Bájri - 10¼. For Six previous Years: Jowári 48, Bájri 40⅔.
AHMEDNAGAR -	Of the 11 talukas, the crops in 2 seem to have been fair, in 5 bad, and in 4 very bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 5,77,943.	In 6 talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in 2 indifferent, and in 3 bad.	In 4 talukas the prospects of the water-supply seem satisfactory; but it is reported that in 5 considerable and in 2 large expenditure on this account will have to be incurred; no calamity due to failure of water-supply is, however, anticipated by the Government.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876: Jowári - 26, Bájri - 25½. For Six previous Years: Jowári 59½, Bájri 53½.

—*continued.*

f.	*g.*	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
Mr. J. C. Anding's Report, dated 11th January 1877).					
The local stocks of grain are estimated by the District Deputy at about 5,457 tons. The Collector, however, has not much reliance on these figures, but agrees with the District Deputy in thinking that the large imports which are being made from the coast *viâ* Hubli by private enterprise will meet all demands, and there will be no serious rise in prices.	Of the population numbering 101,042 souls, 77,200 are high caste and well-to-do, and 23,842 low caste and poor. There are 53,285 cultivators, 4,889 artizans, and 42,868 urban population. The landholders, though wealthy to a certain extent, are not known to have aided their tenants in any way.	About 10,600 people have emigrated to Kanara, to assist in harvesting operations; but owing to the breaking out of cholera, and the prevalence of fever, some have returned; but in February large numbers are expected to go there to gather the bamboo seed, which is freely eaten by the poor.	The only large relief work in progress in the taluka is the new road from Kunur to Nawalgund (the Hubli - Sholapur road) under the Public Works Department, on which about 10,000 persons are now employed, besides which some minor works are in progress. As these will not last long, the District Deputy recommends for future execution, the Ron-Nawalgund road, and improving the tanks at Tirlapur, Halikeri, Bhigranbathi, Jagapur, Nargund, Arekurhatti, Dattanball, Ballarwar, and Nalwadi.	Rs. 115-0-9 have been expended on charitable minor works, and Rs. 36-8-3 in relieving travellers and the aged and infirm poor unable to work.	The number of persons Government have on their hands at present is 10,213 on relief works and 20 relieved by charity. The number they are likely to have hereafter will be as follows. On the— 1st March: 12,000 on works, 100 by charitable measures 1st May: 13,000 on works, 150 by charitable measures 1st July: 16,000 on works, 250 by charitable measures

OBSERVATIONS.

The expenditure on charity has been trifling.

The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of the Government is—

On March 1st	58,000
On May 1st	51,500
On July 1st	43,000

This Government must guard themselves against the supposition of being held to accept as accurate or reliable all the information contained in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers have been so fully engaged in other matters.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

MENT OF BOMBAY TO THE FOREGOING DISTRICT STATEMENTS.

of India in their Letter, No. 459, of 30th November 1876, as regards the Districts of Khandesh, Násik, Kaládgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar.

g.	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.	There has been hardly any migration from the district.	The chief relief works are the Dhulia - Pimpalner and Songir-Nandurbár roads.	The expenditure upon charity has been very trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is on— 1st March: 16,950; 1st May: 28,200; 1st July: 16,650
The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.	There has been very little emigration.	The chief relief works are the Bhawarbari-Vinchur, Kapralla-Ghát, Vinchur-Niphád, and Niphád-Deopur roads.	The expenditure upon charity has been very trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is about on— 1st March: 43,000; 1st May: 53,100; 1st July: 36,300
The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.	128,553 people out of a population of 773,958 appear to have migrated, but some have returned. A further migration of upwards of 5,000 people is anticipated. The migration appears to this Government to be due mainly, if not entirely, to the cattle movements, and to the movement of the people towards relief works.	A considerable number of relief works is in progress, but the local officers are unable to suggest sufficient to meet the future demand for labour, unless the Dhond and Manmár Railway earthworks are undertaken.	The expenditure on charity has not been large.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is on— 1st March: 98,900; 1st May: 148,200; 1st July: 47,500

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

STATEMENT A.

Collectorate.	*a.*	*b.*	*c.*	*d.*	*e* and *f.*
POONA - - -	Of the 8 talukas, the crops in 3 seem good, in 3 indifferent, and in 2 bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 5,46,354.	In 5 talukas the condition of the cattle appears satisfactory, and in 3 rather the reverse.	Some expenditure of money will render the water-supply throughout the Collectorate satisfactory.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876. / For Six previous Years. Jowári - 27½ / 53¾ Bájri - - 24½ / 47
SHOLAPUR - -	Of the 7 talukas, the crops in 2 seem bad and in 5 very bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 10,01,169.	In 1 taluka the condition of the cattle appears indifferent, and in 6 bad.	In 2 talukas the prospects of the water supply seem satisfactory, in 3 indifferent, and in 2 bad. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876. / For Six previous Years. Jowári - 19¾ / 56¼ Bájri - - 21½ / 49½
SATARA - -	Of the 11 talukas, the crops in 7 seem to be fair, in 2 indifferent, and in 2 bad.	The proposed remissions amount on what appears to be an outside estimate to Rs. 5,07,621.	In 8 talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in 1 indifferent, and in 2 bad.	In 6 talukas the prospects of the water supply appear satisfactory, and in 5 indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water supply is anticipated by Government.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876. / For Six previous Years. Jowári - 26¾ / 41¾ Bájri - - 24¼ / 37½
KALADGI - -	Of the 8 talukas, the crops in 3 seem to have been bad, and in 5 very bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 6,95,373.	In 1 taluka the condition of the cattle appears tolerably satisfactory, and in 7 bad.	In 5 talukas the prospects of the water supply seem satisfactory, and in 3 indifferent. No calamity due to failure of water is anticipated by Government.	The local officers appear slightly apprehensive regarding the grain supply of 5 talukas. For October, November, and December 1876. / For Six previous Years. Jowári - 19 / 60½ Bájri - - 17¼ / 62½
BELGAUM - -	Of the 7 talukas, the crops in 4 seem fair, and in 3 bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 2,50,772.	In 5 talukas the condition of the cattle appears satisfactory, and in 2 bad.	In 5 talukas the prospects of the water supply seems satisfactory, and in 2 indifferent. No calamity due to the failure of water is anticipated by Government.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876. / For Six previous Years. Jowári - 17 / 44¼ Bájri - - 17¾ / 41½
DHARWAR - -	Of the 11 talukas, the crops in 5 seem to have been tolerable, in 2 bad, and in 4 very bad.	The proposed remissions amount to Rs. 2,70,000.	In 7 talukas the condition of the cattle seems satisfactory, in 3 indifferent, and in 1 bad.	In 8 talukas the prospects of the water supply seems satisfactory; but in 1 considerable, and in 2 large, expenditure seems to be considered necessary. Government do not anticipate any calamity due to the failure of water.	No apprehensions are entertained regarding the grain supply. For October, November, and December 1876. / For Six previous Years. Jowári - 22½ / 64¾ Bájri - - 19 / 41¼
Total - -	—	Rs. 46,84,732	—	—	—

(*a.*) Out of the 89 talukas forming the collectorates of Khandesh, *Násik, Ahmednagar, Poona, Sholapur, Satara, Kaládgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar, the crops of 39 would appear to be fair, of 13 indifferent, and of 37 bad. It must however, be observed that, as the respective areas of kharif and rabi are not always given, it is occasionally difficult to judge of the position of a taluka from the answer.

(*b.*) The estimate by the local officers of revenue to be remitted is Rs. 46,84,732. This would seem to be for the year 1876–77; but the question may have been interpreted in various ways.

(*c.*) The condition of the cattle in 54 talukas appears to be satisfactory, in 14 indifferent, and in 21 bad. This Government are inclined to hope that, except in Sholapur and Kaládgi, the mortality among cattle will be confined almost entirely to the old and worthless animals.

(*d.*) The water supply of 58 talukas seems satisfactory, while in 31 considerable expense may have to be incurred. Government, however, do not anticipate any calamity due to failure of water supply.

(*e* & *f.*) Private enterprise appears quite able to supply the demand for grain, and there are large stocks in the Bombay markets, and on their way from Central India, the North-West Provinces, and elsewhere; but prices seem unlikely to fall materially, as they now appear to be close upon the margin of profit on importation. The average prices throughout the nine districts for October, November, and December are shown to be—

Jowári, 26¼ lbs. per rupee.
Bájri, 21¾ lbs. per rupee.

* No return of the Jámner Taluka, which is reported to be unaffected by scarcity, has been received.

Bombay, 10th February 1877.

—*continued.*

g.	*h.*	*i.*	*j.*	*k.*
The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either purely agricultural or very intimately connected with agriculture.	101,989 people seem to have migrated. The movement has now stopped. It appears to be to a great extent caused by the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle. The people are expected to return before or during the monsoon.	The chief relief works now in progress are the Mutha Canal, the Yewút Tank, the Shirshopal Tank, and the Poona-Poud road.	The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is on— 1st March. 80,500 | 1st May. 85,000 | 1st July 45,300
The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either purely agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture. The figures given by Mr. Ackworth (and by the District Deputy as respects Karmála), regarding the cultivators and non-cultivators, are obviously absurd. He apparently classes Khatidars alone as cultivators.	212,300 out of a population of 718,034 seem to have migrated. More are expected to follow their example, but on the other hand, some have returned. This migration is to a great extent a cattle movement.	The chief relief works are the Ashti Tank, and the Bársi-Yedsi and Pandharpur-Wangi Roads.	The expenditure upon charity has been considerable.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands o Government is about on— 1st March. 140,000 | 1st May. 186,000 | 1st July. 132,000
The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.	45,163 people out of a population of 1,064,002 seem to have emigrated; some have returned, but further emigration is expected. It appears to be partly a cattle movement, and partly the annual movement in search of labour intensified by the present scarcity.	The chief relief works are the Nehr and Pingli irrigation tanks.	The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.	The number of labourers anti cipated to be on the hands of Government is about on— 1st March. 70,500 | 1st May. 92,500 | 1st July. 45,500
The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.	123,900 out of a population of 816,037 appear to have migrated. This movement seems now to have nearly stopped. It is to a great extent due to the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle.	The chief relief works are the Sholapur-Hubli and the Sholapur - Bellary Roads.	The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is about on— 1st March. 82,000 | 1st May. 119,500 | 1st July. 63,320
The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either purely agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.	22,900 out of a population of 938,750 appear to have migrated. This movement appears now to have nearly stopped. It is to a great extent due to the necessity of obtaining pasture for the cattle.	The chief relief works are roads.	The expenditure upon charity has been trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is about on— 1st March. 87,650 | 1st May. 98,720 | 1st July. 79,800
The majority of the population of this, as of all other Collectorates, is either agricultural, or very intimately connected with agriculture.	36,600 people out of a population of 988,037 appear to have migrated, but many have returned owing to outbreaks of sickness; upwards of 15,000 are shortly expected to go into the Kanara jungles to gather bamboo-seeds.	The Poona-Hurrihar, Ron-Nawalgund, and Hubli-Kaládgi Roads, and some irrigation tanks, are the chief relief works in progress.	The expenditure on charity has been trifling.	The number of labourers anticipated to be on the hands of Government is on— 1st March. 58,000 | 1st May. 51,500 | 1st July. 43,000
—	No. 671,405	—	—	677,500 | 863,220 | 509,370

And the average for the previous six years—

Jowári, 56 lbs. per rupee.
Bájri, 47 lbs. per rupee.

It must, however, be remembered that the great general rise of prices did not occur early in October. The average is now about 23¾ lbs. per rupee.

(*g.*) This question has been variously understood. In some talukas Brahmins alone would appear to be entered as high caste; in others all, save Mhars, &c., are so entered. The population of the affected area may be said to be almost entirely agricultural.

(*h.*) The migration is stated to amount to 671,405, and is chiefly from Ahmednagar, Poona, Sholapur, and Kaládgi. It is probable that most of these people have simply moved from one part of British territory to another, either in search of work or pasture, and the majority will, no doubt, return to their villages next monsoon.

(*i.*) The expenditure of Government money upon charity has not been large.

(*k.*) The estimate of the number of people upon relief works is as follows:—

1st March.	1st May.	1st July.
677,500	863,220	509,370

The estimate made by this Government in November was an average of 750,000, 800,000, and 300,000 respectively for the above three months.

(Signed) C. G. W. MACPHERSON,
Under Secretary to Government.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

STATEMENT B.

ABSTRACT OF STATEMENT A. AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATING

N.B.—This Abstract is compiled from Statement A., the Weekly Progress Statements issued Collectors, and

STATEMENT B.—Abstract of the Review and Forecast

	District.	Area in Square Miles.		Population.		Prices of Staple Grain in lbs. per Rupee.								Rainfall.	
						Ordinary Prices, Six Years' Average.		Average Prices on							
								November 29th 1876.		January 5th 1877.		February 9th 1877.		Five Years' Average.	Up to February 9th 1877.
		Total.	Affected.	Total.	Affected.	Jowári.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Bájri.	Jowári.	Bájri.		
1	Khandesh	10,162	5,500	1,028,842	646,944	56	54	31	26	31	28½	34⅓	28½	24·94	14·4
2	Násik	8,113	2,000	729,252	250,000	54	47	29	26	33	28	32	29	35·29	27·55
3	Ahmednagar	6,647	5,340	773,938	640,000	76	66	22¾	20¼	28	28	26	24	24·3	10·65
4	Poona	5,099	2,500	907,235	318,601	65	51	18¾	18½	20¼	20	25½	23½	30·6	20·76
5	Sholapur	4,496	4,496	718,034	718,034	66	66	17	—	20	—	20	—	25·21	8·11
6	Satara	4,988	2,682	1,061,002	461,000	39	35	16	17	19	19½	20	20	54·60	25·43
7	Kaládgi	5,695	5,695	616,037	816,037	56	76	12	—	16	—	17½	17½	22·43	6·13
8	Belgaum	4,591	2,660	938,750	501,000	43	54	16	—	18	20	19	19	30·48	21·34
9	Dhárwar	4,584	3,000	988,037	630,000	43	—	13	—	17½	—	18	—	26·39	13·81
	Total	54,355	33,873	7,963,927	4,981,616	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

A careful estimate of the amount (if any) of the crop which has been saved, calculated in annas, on the assumption of an average yield being represented by 12 annas; *kharif* and *rabi* should be shown separately. If there be any prospect of further sowings, it should be mentioned.	An estimate, as close as may at the time be practicable, of the amount of revenue to be remitted.	Information as to the mortality, past and anticipated, among cattle and agricultural stock; the measures already adopted by Government and the people, their result, and suggestions for the future.	The nature of the water-supply, extent of its failure, further anticipated failure up to next rains, and remedial measures possible, if any.	The course of prices weekly of each of the principal food-grains from October 1st up to the date of report in each case, and six years' averages.
KHANDESH: After making allowance for the proportions of *kharif* and *rabi* cultivation, the amount of crop saved is approximately as under:— Full average in 4 subdivisions. Three-fourths „ 3 „ Two-thirds „ 2 „ One-half „ 4 „ One-third „ 6 „ 19 Of these subdivisions, 16 are talukas, and 3 are pethas, or portions of a taluka separately administered and reported on.	The reduction in the estimate of remissions, resulting from further scrutiny of the effects of the drought, is very remarkable. The original estimate was Rs. 7,56,000. In paragraph 12 of Sir R. Temple's minute of January 12th, however, the amount is put down, on the statement of the local authorities, at 5 lakhs, and we now learn that Rs. 4,66,000 is probably a maximum estimate.	There has been no unusual mortality among the cattle, and none is anticipated, excepting in a group of four talukas bordering on the Taptee, where want of fodder and water are expected to be severely felt. The throwing open of the Government Forest reserves appears to have had an excellent effect.	No anxiety regarding the water-supply, except in one taluka, where the failure has been serious, and in the group of four already mentioned, where it may be considerable. In other parts scarcity will be felt in individual villages or groups of villages only. The deepening, clearing, or repair of existing wells, and in some cases the sinking of new ones, are recommended for several talukas. The recent heavy rain may have improved matters somewhat.	Famine prices do not exist in any part of Khandesh. In the taluka of Erandole, where they are higher than in any other part, the number of lbs. of the four principal grains which could be purchased for one rupee was as follows: bájri or wheat, 24 lbs.; jowári, 28 lbs.; and túr dal, 16 lbs. The average prices during six years were 32, 38, 48, and 22 lbs. respectively.
NÁSIK: The crop saved is estimated as— Three-fourths in 1 taluka. Two-thirds „ 3 talukas. One-half „ 4 „ One-third „ 2 „ One-fourth „ 1 taluka. 11 talukas.	The remissions are put at Rs. 3,69,000, but the Collector informed Sir R. Temple that they would probably not exceed 3 lakhs.	This district possesses the Ghát mountainous country to the westward, besides the Chandore range of hills and other advantages, of which the people have freely availed themselves; so the condition of the cattle is generally satisfactory.	In all except three or four talukas the scarcity of water will be considerable, and in parts of some it will be severe. The habilitation of all existing wells, the digging of holes in beds of tanks and streams, and even temporary desertion of villages will be resorted to.	This district was rather pinched by a rise of prices about the middle of November, but they rapidly recovered, and have since further improved; though perhaps, on the whole, they are not quite so low as in Khandesh.
AHMEDNAGAR: The crop saved is estimated as:— Two-thirds in 3 talukas. One-half „ 2 „ One-third „ 3 „ One-fourth „ 1 taluka. One-sixth „ 1 „ *Nil* „ 1 „ 11 talukas.	The remissions are stated by the local officers to be likely to reach Rs. 5,77,000, but the Revenue Commissioner appears to consider this estimate too high, as the assessment is very light, and people fairly well off ought to pay up.	The condition of the cattle seems satisfactory in six talukas, indifferent in two, and bad in three. One of the latter, which has suffered severely, is expected to lose one-half of its stock of 60,000 head.	There will be a serious deficiency of the water-supply in five out of nine talukas, and considerable expenditure must be incurred in well-deepening and other expedients, especially in two talukas, but the Government do not anticipate any calamity.	Prices appear to be on the whole somewhat easier than in the Násik district.

STATEMENT B.

Statistics relating to distressed districts in Bombay Presidency.

TO THE DISTRESSED DISTRICTS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

by the Bombay Government, and the original Reports of the Assistant and Deputy Collectors, Revenue Commissioners.

of the CONDITION and PROSPECTS of the BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

Cultivation, Proportions of				Land Revenue.		Number of Persons to be relieved.									
						By Charity.					On Works.				
Kharif.		Rabi.		Approximate Demand.	Estimated Remissions.	Christmas 1876.	Actual on February 9th, 1877.	March 1st, 1877.	May 1st, 1877.	July 1st, 1877.	Christmas 1876.	Actual on February 9th, 1877.	March 1st, 1877.	May 1st, 1877.	July 1st, 1877.
Acres.	Percentage.	Acres.	Percentage.	Rs.	Rs.										
1,842,822	84·81	279,896	15·19	30,26,127	4,66,000	201	532	920	1,540	1,740	4,598	3,480	16,950	23,200	16,650
974,918	58·02	409,250	41·98	12,48,993	3,69,500	1,782	7,859	250	300	500	14,926	17,000	43,000	53,100	36,300
988,215	16·35	1,181,343	83·65	18,22,040	5,77,943	2,215	3,953	650	1,300	500	37,703	25,716	98,900	148,200	47,500
1,059,821	55·83	591,679	44·17	11,29,956	5,46,354	1,129	20,704	1,255	1,655	1,625	46,854	49,700	80,500	85,500	45,300
445,091	26·99	1,649,224	73·01	10,73,905	10,01,169	7,716	4,288	7,500	10,950	11,500	72,219	49,415	140,000	186,000	132,000
1,087,835	78·00	239,337	22·00	15,54,329	5,07,621	1	4,351	1,200	2,150	2,650	20,734	14,391	70,500	92,500	45,500
770,686	34·95	1,184,671	65·05	12,08,116	6,95,373	84	122	14,723	14,923	14,923	29,083	50,835	82,000	119,500	63,320
682,875	57·04	293,380	42·96	12,53,917	2,50,772	547	491	6,300	2,000	6,800	28,890	12,034	87,650	98,720	79,800
636,988	13·01	732,229	86·99	20,33,291	2,70,000	571	Return not received.	810	1,055	1,050	26,722	26,587	68,000	51,500	43,000
8,489,251	77·29	6,561,018	22·71	1,38,50,676	46,84,732	14,246	42,300	33,608	35,873	41,288	281,728	249,158	677,500	863,220	509,370

The local stocks, as far as ascertainable; the centres, railway stations or otherwise, whence further supplies are being or may be drawn, and the probability of private enterprise being sufficient to maintain them, as also of a fall in prices owing to ample importation.	The character of the population, whether high or low caste, poor or well-to-do, purely or only partly agricultural, and if the latter, in what proportions urban or artizan; also the character of the landholders, whether large, wealthy, able to aid their tenants and likely to do so, or the reverse.	The movements of the people; how far emigration has taken place, and with what result (have the people bettered themselves, or merely gone elsewhere to starve, or are they returning), and whether further emigration is probable.	The relief works already started, their sufficiency or otherwise, and the further works which are considered practicable, arranged in the order of their necessity.	The nature and amount of charitable relief given to travellers, and to the aged, infirm, &c. who are unable to work.
The local stocks are considerable in some talukas, and importations by railway and from the Nizam's dominions are equal to all demands.	The population is chiefly agricultural, and in some parts decidedly well-to-do. The western talukas, which contain a large proportion of Bhils, who are poor and of unsettled habits, have fortunately escaped the drought almost entirely. There is no large landholder class, but in three talukas a few individuals will help their tenants, and in six more the money-lenders are said to be likely to make advances freely.	There has been no noticeable emigration, except from one taluka, Bhosawul, and there further emigration is said to be probable.	There is no complete list of works, but it appears from the weekly report that on 31st December 23 had been completed, and 53, nearly all small, except one tank at Mhasawad, were in hand. Of the Pimpalneir locality it is said that "no relief works are in progress, nor will any be needed."	Scarcely any charitable relief has been given, though the public have raised subscriptions in seven talukas; portions of these have been applied with questionable prudence and success, though with the most beneficent motives, in purchasing grain for resale to the poor.
The local stocks in nearly all talukas are believed to be small, but the railway being everywhere within easy reach, no apprehensions are entertained, and private enterprise will keep up adequate supplies.	There may be said to be no landholders, except the Chief of Vinchur, who are in a position to aid their tenantry.	Many people of this district are in the habit of going to Bombay and elsewhere every year, during the fair season, in search of a livelihood. This emigration and that of the people in charge of cattle sent away to graze may be rather more extensive than usual, and will tend to relieve local pressure.	Three roads have been completed, and three more, of which two employ from 5,000 to 10,000 persons, are in progress.	No charitable relief has yet been found necessary in eight out of the eleven talukas, and in the others the expenditure has been small.
Considerable stocks exist in some talukas, and importation is going on briskly from both the railway and the Nizam's territory.	There are a few large landholders, but a fair proportion of the population are tolerably well-to-do.	From eight of the talukas there has been a considerable emigration, estimated at one-sixth of the entire population of the district; some few have returned, but others are going and likely to go.	Fifty-one works have been completed, and 42 more are in progress.	Charitable relief is being dispensed in eight talukas, but on a small scale.

STATEMENT B.

A careful estimate of the amount (if any) of the crop which has been saved, calculated in annas on the assumption of an average yield been represented by 12 annas; *kharif* and *rabi* should be shown separately. If there be any prospect of further sowings, it should be mentioned.	An estimate, as close as may at the time be practicable, of the amount of revenue to be remitted.	Information as to the mortality, past and anticipated, among cattle and agricultural stock; the measures already adopted by Government and the people, their result, and suggestions for the future.	The nature of the water supply, extent of its failure, further anticipated failure up to next rains, and remedial measures possible, if any.	The course of prices weekly of each of the principal food-grains from October 1st up to the date of report in each case, and six years' averages.
POONA: The crop saved is believed to be:— One-half in 3 talukas. One-third „ 2 „ One-fourth „ 1 taluka. *Nil* „ 2 talukas. 8 talukas.	The proposed remissions are Rs. 5,46,000 according to these reports, but 6 lakhs are mentioned by Sir R. Temple. The Revenue Commissioner, however, considers that much of the revenue proposed for remission can be collected either this year or next.	The cattle in Bhimthari and Indapur talukas have suffered considerably, and in three other talukas there has been some mortality. But the bulk of the cattle have been taken off to pastures out of the district.	Considerable expenditure on deepening wells, &c. is contemplated in order to supplement the water-supply, which is failing partially in most talukas.	There are some singular differences of price in different talukas, but on the whole the rates are scarcely as favourable as the average.
SHOLAPUR: In one taluka one-fourth of the crop has been saved, but in the remaining six nothing whatever.	The proposed remissions amount to 10 lakhs, or nearly the whole realisable revenue of the year, and it would appear that this estimate is not likely to be much improved upon.	Out of 720,646 animals, 344,700 have been sent to other districts for pasture, and 49,000 are believed to have died. Further large mortality is expected in at least four talukas.	The water-supply in three talukas is indifferent, and in two bad. Considerable expense will have to be incurred.	Prices are generally higher than in the Collectorates above-mentioned, and especially so in the Sangola taluka.
SATARA: The crop saved is estimated at:— Full average in 2 talukas. Three-fourths „ 3 „ Two-thirds „ 2 „ One-half „ 1 „ One-third „ 1 „ One-fourth „ 1 „ One-sixth „ 1 „ 11	The remissions are estimated by the local officers at Rs. 5,07,621, but this sum, amounting to half the entire land revenue, is higher in proportion than the estimate for other districts which have suffered more severely, and is considered by both the Collector and the Revenue Commissioner to be capable of reduction.	The condition of the cattle is on the whole satisfactory, and the vicinity of the ghâts prevents any serious apprehension, but in three talukas there has been some mortality, and more is anticipated.	Five talukas will be somewhat short of water, and some expenditure will be necessary in deepening and clearing wells, &c.	There was a sudden and severe rise of prices in November, occasioned chiefly by panic, but the recovery was rapid, as grain was poured in both from the port of Chiploon and Poona and prices are now fair, though still below Poona and what they might be expected to be. The Collector anticipates a second rise before the rains on exhaustion of existing supplies.
KALÂDGI: The crop saved is estimated at:— One-fourth in 1 taluka. One-sixth „ 1 „ *Nil* „ 6 „ 8	The remissions are put at Rs. 6,95,373, and the local officers do not hold out much prospect of reduction in this amount. Its lowness in proportion to the estimate for Sholapur is probably attributable to the people generally being more thrifty and well-to-do, and less in debt, as also to Kalâdgi having had a better harvest in 1875-76.	The loss of cattle has been very severe in two talukas, and serious in the others except one. A certain number have been taken to the Ghâts and the Nizam's dominions to graze, but further heavy loss is expected.	The water-supply is sufficient in five talukas, and indifferent in three, but no calamity is anticipated.	Prices have been and continue still to be to a certain extent, lower than in any other district.
BELGAUM: The crop saved is estimated at:— Two thirds in 1 taluka. One half „ 2 „ One third „ 1 „ *Nil* „ 3 „ 7	Remissions to the extent of Rs. 2,50,772, or about one fifth of the revenue, are proposed, and this amount seems not likely to be exceeded, according to the remarks of the Revenue Commissioner, who has passed some years in the district as Collector.	In two taluks the cattle have suffered a good deal, and further mortality is apprehended. In the rest they are doing fairly.	There will be some difficulty and consequent expense in two talukas only.	Prices are still comparatively high, though much improved, and better than in the adjoining districts of Kalâdgi and Dharwar.
DHARWAR: The crop saved is as under: One half in 1 taluka. One third „ 3 „ One fourth „ 2 „ One sixth „ 2 „ *Nil* „ 3 „ 11	The proposed remissions are Rs. 2,70,000, but this amount appears, from the remarks of the District Officers, to be an outside estimate. On the other hand, 4 lakhs was the figure given to Sir Richard Temple by the late Collector, Mr. Robertson.	Four talukas have suffered as regards cattle, but not very severely compared with other districts.	The Government of Bombay anticipate considerable expenditure in one taluka, and large outlay in two more, in consequence of the failure of the water-supply.	Prices are somewhat higher than in the adjacent district of Belgaum.

—*continued.*

The local stocks, as far as ascertainable; the centres, railway stations or otherwise, whence further supplies are being or may be drawn, and the probability of private enterprise being sufficient to maintain them, as also of a fall in prices owing to ample importation.	The character of the population, whether high or low caste, poor or well-to-do, purely or only partly agricultural, and if the latter, in what proportions, urban or artizans; also the character of the landholders, whether large, wealthy, able to aid their tenants, and likely to do so, or the reverse.	The movements of the people; how far emigration has taken place, and with what result (have the people bettered themselves, or merely gone elsewhere to starve, or are they returning), and whether further emigration is probable.	The relief works already started, their sufficiency or otherwise, and the further works which are considered practicable, arranged in the order of their necessity.	The nature and amount of charitable relief given to travellers and to the aged, infirm, &c., who are unable to work.
The local stocks of grain in at least half the district are considerable, and the railway will supply all that may be needed.	There are no wealthy landlords in the districts to help their tenantry, and the ryots are for the most part deeply in debt.	The emigration from three taluks has been unusually large, and, in all, the district has been relieved of above one-eighth of its population. The care of cattle has been one chief cause, but others have gone for employment. All who survive are expected to return.	Fifty-six relief works have been completed, and 99 more are in progress, including the Moota canal, two large tanks, and a considerable road work. Many small works are also proposed for execution if required.	The demand for charitable relief has been considerable, chiefly for children under seven years old whose parents are on relief works, and for women taking care of them.
The stocks do not seem to be anywhere large, but the importation by rail will be ample.	The people generally are very poor, and there are no large landholders.	About one-third of the population of the district have emigrated, and on the whole are understood not to have bettered their condition. Some have returned, and all who survive may be expected to return by the cultivating season.	Thirty-four works have been completed, and 192 are in progress. Some others are proposed, especially irrigation works which are considered to be most likely to be beneficial. The Dhond-Manmar Railway will be some help, but it is at a considerable distance from most parts of the district.	Considerable charitable relief has been given both by Government and the Sholapur Relief Committee, who have influential support from Bombay, and have been most conspicuous for their public-spirited exertions.
Grain is plentiful, local stocks are believed to be considerable, and importation goes on freely from Poona and the port of Chiploon.	Four or five talukas contain a few wealthy Inámdars who may be expected to aid their tenants.	The emigration is reported to have been 45,163 out of a population of 1,084,002. The emigration during the fair season in search of labour is always considerable in this district, and has been intensified by the scarcity.	The Pingli and Nehr tanks, to cost about 3½ lakhs, were in progress, and the Mhaswar tank, to cost about 18 lakhs, was about to be commenced at the close of the year. Thirty-six other works, mostly small, were also in hand.	No charitable relief has been required, except in four talukas, where it is given to a trifling extent.
The local stocks are believed to be generally small, and the importations labour under some difficulties, so that apprehensions of their cessation and of consequent high prices are entertained regarding five talukas.	There is a certain sprinkling of large landholders, some of whom will help their tenants.	Fully one-sixth of the population have emigrated, drawn especially from the Indi, Sindgi, Bejapur, and Badami talukas, but the movement has stopped.	The chief works are two main roads. Sixty-five works had been completed at the close of the year and 70 more were in hand, of which one employed above 5,000 and the other above 10,000 labourers.	The expenditure by Government on charitable relief has been trifling, but considerable sums have been subscribed in some places by private parties.
Prices have been greatly improved by large supplies from the sea-ports of Goa and Vingorla, and no rise is anticipated, at least till the monsoon closes the coast. The local stocks in some parts are considerable.	There is a fair proportion of well-to-do people, but no body of large landholders able to help their tenants.	The emigration has been comparatively trifling, and chiefly connected with the cattle. Three talukas have an influx of persons from other parts.	Sixteen works were completed, and 64 others, mostly small, in progress at the close of the year. The Golkak canal is about to be commenced.	Relief houses have been established, but little relief has actually been given as yet. Private persons have subscribed liberally.
The local stocks of grain are fair in some few talukas, and importation is going on freely from the port of Carwar.	The people generally are well-to-do, and there are some large landholders, but they are not expected generally to aid their tenants.	The emigration has been comparatively small, and it is not likely to extend, with the exception of a body of 15,000 expected to go to Kanara to gather bamboo seeds.	Nineteen relief works had been completed, and 43 were in progress at the end of the year. Others had been proposed. One work employed over 4,000 and another over 10,000 labourers.	The charitable relief has been trifling.

No. 107.

No. 115.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated Calcutta, the 21st February 1877.

Review of statistics regarding the distress in the Bombay Presidency.

As soon as the Government of India became aware, from the official reports of the Government of Bombay, and other sources, that the scarcity showing itself in that presidency was not unlikely to assume formidable proportions, the submission was requested of statements, containing elementary statistical information and a rough estimate of the probable failure of crops, regarding each taluka of the affected districts.

2. This information was supplied by the Government of Bombay with the utmost promptitude, and has since proved extremely valuable. It was, however, necessarily defective and temporary as regards the failure of crops, inasmuch as the careful field inspections which take place annually in the Bombay Presidency had at that date barely commenced, and the period during which local or general rain might have materially altered the aspect of affairs had not altogether passed away. At the same time the particulars which it comprised revealed the very serious nature of the calamity then imminent, and the necessity for full and searching inquiry upon various points not included in the previous returns, with the view of avoiding, on the one hand, expenditure in excess of the requirements of any locality, and on the other, the occurrence of disaster owing to the deficiency of grain supplies, the failure of water, or the need for further relief, whether by works or charitable measures, having been anywhere overlooked. The Government of Bombay were therefore requested to supplement their previous returns by a complete review and forecast of the situation, and, in accordance with the precedents of the famine of 1874, and the West Behar scarcity of 1875, to forward the original opinions of the mass of local officers, to which, when given deliberately, fully, unreservedly, and promptly, considerable value has always been justly attached. Such a review and forecast, it may be added, is of inestimable service, not only to the high authorities by whom it is eventually considered, but to the local officers themselves, by directing the attention of every one of them to all the points which it is advisable to keep in view, and leading them to endeavour to form regarding each an opinion in the case of their individual charge.

3. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has now to express his warm acknowledgments of the punctuality, care, and ability with which this somewhat onerous requisition has been responded to. The reports of the Assistant and Deputy Collectors in charge of talukas now submitted, contain ample evidence both of acquaintance with and attention to their charges on the part of the several mamlatdars subordinate to them, and of energetic, watchful, and intelligent supervision on the part of the reporting officers themselves, while the remarks and criticisms of the Collectors and Revenue Commissioners show that they have fully grasped the situation and the serious responsibilities which it imposes upon them, and will not fail to afford all necessary relief to the suffering multitudes dependent on their care, while not losing sight of the vigilant economy which the financial necessities of the State render indispensable. The Government of Bombay have very properly expressed a desire to "guard themselves against the sup- "position of being held to accept, as accurate or reliable, all the information contained "in these reports, the time allowed for their preparation having been so short, considering "the intricacy and difficulty of the inquiry, especially at a time when the district officers "have been so fully engaged in other matters." The Government of India fully acknowledge the difficulties pointed out, and will be careful not to attribute to the Government of Bombay the responsibility thus deprecated. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council would have been glad to have fixed a more distant date for the submission of the reports if such a course would not have made them too late for the practical purposes for which they were intended; but, considering the advantages possessed by the Bombay Presidency in a complete system of village agricultural statistics, in a strong staff of officials in each taluka, and in the custom of Assistant and Deputy Collectors travelling about their charges for a large portion of the year, no less than the general evidences of care and acquaintance with the subject afforded by the reports received, his Excellency in Council believes that the information now laid before the Government of India is as complete and trustworthy as it was possible to obtain in time to be of service. His Excellency in Council has much pleasure in making public his general commendation of these reports, leaving it to the Local Government, if they think fit, to express their own approval of individual complete and thoughtful documents comprised in the collection.

4. The review now submitted comprised 90 talukas and 3 pettas, or separately administered portions of talukas, making a total of 93 subdivisions of nine districts, all

of which are situated above the Ghâts, and extend from the Satpura range of mountains, north of the Taptee River, to the southern extremity of the Bombay Presidency. Some failure of crops has occurred in portions of two districts, Colaba and Ratnagiri, on the sea coast, but their condition is not such as to cause any anxiety, or to call for extensive relief operations. The area and population, both total and affected, of the nine districts, are given by the Bombay Government in their weekly statements at the figures quoted in the margin. These figures of the affected tracts nearly correspond on the whole, though not always in the case of individual districts, with the area and population of the talukas in which, according to the present review, the crop saved is estimated at less than one-half. If talukas in which the crop saved amounts to one-half be also considered as famine-stricken, then the affected area and population will be raised to 41,254 and 6,180,209 respectively.

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—	Total.	Affected.
Area in square miles - -	54,355	33,873
Population - - -	7,963,927	4,981,616

5. The rain-fall during the past season, as reported in the returns of November, since which date no fall of any importance has occurred, is shown in the margin for 86 talukas, for which the information is complete. This summary, however, has an unduly favourable appearance, inasmuch as the rain was in many places not only scanty, but unseasonable, as, for instance, in Satara and Dharwar, where 23 inches out of 30, and 9 out of 15, respectively, fell in the month of July. These inequalities are apparent in the Bombay Government's published statement for the period ending October 31st, and in a useful return published by the Bombay Chief Engineer for Irrigation on the 19th of that month.

Population.	Number of Talukas.
Full rain-fall - - - -	4
Three-fourths - - - -	14
Two-thirds - - - -	12
One-half - - - -	26
One-third - - - -	21
One-quarter - - - -	8
One-seventh - - - -	1
Total - -	86

6. The proportions of *kharif* and *rabi* crops which have been saved have been stated separately in the several taluka reports with such accuracy as was under the circumstances practicable. Reducing these to one figure for the taluka, by the aid of the proportions of *kharif* and *rabi* cultivation in the preceding year 1875–76, as given in the returns of November, the proportions of crop saved were, in round numbers, as shown in the margin. Contrasting these results with those obtained from the November estimates of failure, which were, as already observed, too early in date to be more than a very rough forecast, it is highly satisfactory to find that they show a more favourable condition of affairs. Whereas, by the returns of November, as summarized in the fifth paragraph of the Despatch from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, No. 2, dated 12th January, the crop saved was above half in 11 districts only, it is now found to be above that proportion in 24. The districts in which there has been total, or almost total, failure, remain 21 in both cases, and the intermediate number (comprising from one-half to one-sixth of crop saved) is consequently reduced from 59 to 48, out of which 17 have got a half crop.*

Districts.	Number of Talukas in which the Crop was—							
	Full average.	Three-fourths.	Two-thirds.	One-half.	One-third.	One-fourth.	One-sixth.	*Nil.*
Khandeish - -	4	3	2	4	6	—	—	—
Násik - -	—	1	3	4	2	1	—	—
Ahmednagar -	—	—	3	2	3	1	1	1
Poona - -	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	2
Sholapur - -	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
Satara - -	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	—
Kaládgi - -	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	6
Belgaum - -	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	3
Dharwar - -	—	—	—	1	3	2	2	3
Tota -	6	7	11	17	18	8	5	21

8. The information now received on the important subject of remissions is equally satisfactory. The loss of revenue was reported in the 10th paragraph of the Despatch above quoted as likely to reach 66 lakhs of rupees, of which 46 lakhs were to fall in the current *financial* year and 20 lakhs in 1877–78. Later on, the estimate of the Bombay Government for the two years was about 76½ lakhs, and Sir Richard Temple, somewhat later still, gave 50 lakhs as the amount suggested to him by those local authorities with whom he had had an opportunity of conferring. The estimate under the present returns which seems, like that of Sir Richard Temple, to be for the *revenue* year which ends on July 31st, is Rs. 46,84,732, and there is reason to hope, from the language used by

* The discrepancy of two is owing to the addition of three *pettas* to, and the omission of Mahabaleshwar from, the present returns.

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many of the local officers, that this may prove to be an outside estimate. As regards the principles upon which remissions should be granted, the Government of India were in November last in correspondence with the Government of Bombay, and authorised them to abstain from selling the occupancy right of ryots for arrears of land revenue which were attributable to the unfavourableness of the season, and also to extend, by executive order, to the case of any sales of movable property which might be indispensable, the exemptions which had been proposed in section 266 of the Civil Procedure Code Bill. Subsequently, Sir Richard Temple's suggestion for suspending arrears till the following year, instead of remitting them at once, was communicated to the Local Government for guidance; but on their pointing out objections to the measure arising from the Bombay revenue system, the matter has been left entirely to their discretion, with the request that the local authorities may be again warned against too free remissions, and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appears probable that the landholder will, without undue pressure, be able to pay up next season—a course, it may be observed, which is recommended by several officers in the reports now under consideration. The amount of loss of revenue which may occur in the financial and revenue years 1877–78, in consequence of less land being cultivated through the impoverishment of the ryots and their loss of agricultural stock, cannot at present be estimated, and none of the local officers have attempted to do so. Taking all the above circumstances into consideration, however, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council sees reason to hope that the entire loss of revenue in the two financial years may not be so great as was at first apprehended.

9. The question of the condition of the cattle and stock, at all times a highly important one, is especially so in the case of the Bombay affected districts, owing to their wealth in this respect, the proportion of animals to population being, it may be observed, 34 per cent. greater than in the affected districts of Madras. In some talukas the mortality has been most severe, the districts of Ahmednagar, Sholapur, and Kaládgi having apparently been the greatest sufferers. The cattle have, however, been driven away in masses, in the case of Sholapur to the extent of one half their entire number, to the Ghauts or other accessible pastures, and the early steps taken by the Government of Bombay to throw open the forest reserves, and to facilitate the passage of cattle both by road and rail, have had a highly beneficial result. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council concurs with that Government in the hope that the mortality will, except in certain cases, be found to have been confined to the more old and worthless animals, and trusts that its per-centage will be found not to be high on the total number, and that the grant of takávi advances for the purchase of fresh cattle, when the ploughing season approaches, for which the Government of India have already given free sanction, may prevent any great falling off in cultivation during the coming year.

Horses, ponies, and mules - -	100,997
Oxen, cows, bulls, and buffaloes -	4,589,971
Sheep and goats - - -	2,549,027
	7,239,995

10. The condition of the water supply is intimately connected with that of the cattle. The Government of Bombay consider it to be satisfactory in 58 talukas, while in 31 others considerable expense may have to be incurred in clearing out or deepening existing wells, in sinking new ones, and in other remedial measures. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has every confidence that such relief as may be possible will be afforded, and is glad to learn that the Local Government anticipate no calamity from this source.

11. The course of prices during the critical period from the end of October to the close of the year is very clearly shown in the summary of the taluka reports, statement A., column (*e*), and is remarkable for the sudden rise which in most cases occurred near the middle of November, and the almost equally rapid fall which followed as soon as the scarcity became known, and private enterprise came forward to supply the deficiency. Severe and extensive, however, as the failure of crops has been, the prices have at no time been generally so high as what are ordinarily understood to be famine prices, and they have become now so favourable that according to the latest accounts there are probably only two or at most three districts where they are on an average higher than 10 seers per rupee, which is the rate long since fixed by the Government of India as that on prices rising beyond which grain batta may be allowed to public servants drawing Rs. 16 per mensem and under. The famine is not so much one of food as of money to buy it with, and it must not be overlooked that wherever failure of crops has been only partial, the crop saved will produce an amount far in excess of what it would have been worth in ordinary years. The activity and sufficiency of

private trade in the Bombay Presidency have been so fully established, chiefly in consequence of the policy from the first pursued, that his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has every confidence that, even if, as anticipated by the Bombay Government, no further material fall should take place, no interference on the part of Government will be required, even in the Southern Mahratta Country, where difficulty of access and local combinations occasioned some anxiety before the close of last year. Review of statistics regarding the distress in the Bombay Presidency.

12. The character of the population, which in some parts of India is a very important feature in the formation of an estimate of the State relief likely to be required in times of scarcity, would appear to be in Bombay tolerably uniform and little likely to affect the issue. The people are mostly agricultural, the number of peasant proprietors is very great, and there are few large and wealthy landholders who are able to assist their tenantry.

13. The emigration has amounted to 671,405, or about 13·5 per cent. on the affected population, and has been to a large extent induced by the necessity for driving the cattle to distant pastures. One body has passed to the north-east into the Nizam's Dominions, Berar, and even the Central Provinces, while another, probably the larger of the two, has resorted to the Western Ghâts along their whole line. From certain talukas, which annually during the fair season send forth bands of labourers to Bombay, Gujerat, and other parts, larger numbers than usual have gone in search of a livelihood. The condition of those who have thus left their homes it is not easy to ascertain, but for the most part they appear to have been fairly successful in their sojourn. Of all who survive, it may be safely predicted that they will return on the approach of the monsoon.

14. Upon the subject of relief works it is sufficient to observe that at the close of the year 270 works, of which 89 were roads and 36 were tanks, had been completed, while 618 were in progress, of which 33 gave employment to 2,000 labourers and upwards.

15. The Government grants for charitable relief have been large, but the demands on them up to the 9th instant have only amounted to Rs. 38,288, of which two thirds have been spent in the Poona and Sholapur districts. The relief is given to the aged and infirm poor, and, in two out of the three divisions, to the young children of labourers employed on the works. As the total number of persons relieved on the above date was 42,300, there would appear some grounds for the belief that the estimates under this head, which are within that number, are likely to be considerably exceeded. Any notice of this subject would be incomplete without a reference to the action of private charity. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is glad to embrace this opportunity of again recognising with sympathy and appreciation the remarkable public spirit which has been displayed throughout the presidency in raising subscriptions for various humane objects, and especially the conspicuous zeal and self-sacrifice displayed by the Sholapur Relief Committee and their coadjutors of the Deccan Famine Relief Fund in Bombay.

16. The Government of India is now in possession of three independent estimates of the number of persons likely to be on the relief works on the 1st of March, 1st of May, and 1st of July. The first is an estimate submitted by the Bombay Government on the 30th of November last. It is in a monthly form, and, commencing with 200,000 as the average for December, gives 450,000 as the average of February, 750,000 as that of March, one million for April, and only 300,000 for July. These figures included charitable relief at 10 per cent. The second estimate is that of Sir Richard Temple in his minute of January 11th, and allows 540,000 for March 1st, 870,000 for the 1st of May, and 340,000 for the 1st of July. The last is that of the local officers throughout the country, which was made almost simultaneously with Sir Richard Temple's, and amounts to 677,500 for March 1st, 863,220 for May 1st, and 509,370 for July 1st. Sir Richard Temple is thus in accord with the local officers as regards May 1st, but anticipates lower numbers both before and after that date than they do. These startling discrepancies at once show the extreme difficulty of dealing with the subject, and* of being prepared, by a reserve of works to be started when indispensable but not otherwise, for any sudden access of distressed persons whom the exhaustion of private stocks or the failure of employment abroad may throw suddenly upon the hands of Government. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is, however, glad to note that the number on the works on the latest date (February 9th) was only 249,158, and to augur from it that possibly all the estimates may alike be falsified in a manner equally relieving to public suffering and the public purse.

* sic orig.

17. In conclusion, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has great satisfaction in recording that the reports now under consideration fully bear out and confirm the

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testimony already borne by Sir Richard Temple to "the zeal and ability with which "the famine is being combated by the local officers," and in "congratulating the Local "Government on the manner in which the substantial safety of some five millions of "people is being secured under circumstances of much danger."

Ordered, that copies of this Resolution be communicated to the Secretary of State for India, the Governments of Madras and Bombay, the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, and Sir Richard Temple, and that it be published in the "Gazette of India." In the event of any part of British India being at any future time threatened with scarcity, the Local Government should take measures for obtaining, at the earliest practicable date, information under the several heads comprised in statement A., with the addition of an account of the nature of the two next preceding seasons and harvests.

No. 108.

No. 115.

No. 222, dated 21st February 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department.

Sanction given to commencement of earthwork of Bellary-Hubli Railway.

With reference to my telegram of yesterday,* and to paragraph 5 of my letter No. 124 of the 5th instant,† I have the honour to state that, after consulting the Government of Madras and Sir Richard Temple, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has sanctioned the employment of famine relief labour in forming earth-works between Bellary and Hubli on the line of the proposed railway. These earth-works will be useful whenever circumstances may permit the railway to be constructed, but it is to be distinctly understood that the present permission in no way pledges the Imperial Government to the ultimate completion of the line.

*Nos. 104. 105.

†No. 53.

2. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers that, for various reasons, the commencement of earth-work on the section between Hubli and Kirwuttee is at present undesirable.

3. Regarding the debit of the charge for compensation for land a further communication will be addressed to you hereafter.

4. Any communication which may be necessary in connexion with the carrying into effect of the permission now given should be addressed to the Government of India in the Public Works Department.

(Similar letter to Government of Madras, No. 223, dated 21st February 1877.)

No. 109.

No. 115.

No. 219, dated 21st February 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

The circumstances of Sir R. Temple's mission to Madras explained.

It was not thought necessary at the time when they were issued to address any special communication to the Government of Madras, in regard to the instructions whereby Sir Richard Temple was authorised, on the 16th ultimo, to inquire into the circumstances of the famine in the presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and to confer with the Governments of those two presidencies on the results of his inquiries.

2. The circumstances which induced the Government of India to depute Sir Richard Temple on his present mission were, in fact, well known to his Grace the Governor of Madras, with whom the Governor-General in Council had the great advantage of personally discussing the whole subject at Delhi on the occasion of the Imperial Assemblage. Sir Richard Temple's appointment was made in the hope that it would strengthen the hands of both Governments, that it would serve to clear up some points of importance in regard to which doubts had been felt, and that, by diminishing the necessity of frequent references to the Government of India, and preventing delay in the treatment of matters demanding immediate decision, it would confirm that accord and harmony of feeling

which it will always be the anxious desire of his Excellency in Council to maintain between the Supreme and the Local Governments.

Sir R. Temple's mission to Madras explained.

3. Although the mission of Sir Richard Temple is still uncompleted, the Governor-General in Council thinks it right to delay no longer in expressing to the Government of Madras the satisfaction felt by his Excellency in the fulfilment of the hopes with which that mission was undertaken.

4. In conducting operations of so much difficulty and on so vast a scale for the relief of famine, differences of opinion will necessarily arise, and methods of action adopted with much consideration may sometimes prove mistaken. The Government of India not only claims for itself no exemption from error, but is conscious that, acting, as it must often do, with imperfect knowledge, it may be more liable to err in its appreciation of local circumstances than the officers who are acting on the spot.

5. The mission of Sir R. Temple, however, has already had this satisfactory result, that if any difference formerly existed between the views of the two Governments, none, so far as his Excellency in Council is aware, now remains. Sir R. Temple, in reporting to the Government of India the results of his observation, has expressed his opinion that throughout the Madras Presidency famine is successfully combated and starvation prevented, that the physical condition of the people is generally good, that relief works are everywhere open, that charitable arrangements are well organised, and that the operations of private traders for the supply of grain to the distressed districts are everywhere active and successful. Measures are at the same time being taken (and his Excelleny in Council feels sure they will be persevered in), not only to encourage the efforts by confirming the confidence of private trade, but also to prevent needless expenditure of money, and restrict as closely as possible the grant of relief to those who actually require it.

6. The Governor-General in Council wishes to take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the zeal and humanity with which the Government of Madras and its officers are contending against famine, and furthermore of thanking them for the wise and conciliatory spirit in which all the suggestions of the Government of India and of Sir R. Temple have been received by them. The measures approved by the Government of Madras in consultation with Sir R. Temple are being carried into effect with highly satisfactory results; and his Excellency in Council trusts that the officers of the two Governments will always continue thus loyally and efficiently to co-operate with each other in the performance of the great and difficult duty that lies before them.

No. 110.

XLII.—Memorandum by Dr. R. Harvey, on special duty, on the Condition and Prospects of the Pattikonda Taluk of Kurnool, as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple on 20th February 1877

No. 147.

Adoni, 21st February 1877.

Sir Richard Temple arrived at Pattikonda from Auspri on the morning of 20th February, and was received by Mr. B. Subba Rao, tehsildar of the taluk, in the absence of Captain Browne, who was away in camp.

Pattikonda Taluk (Kurnool).

2. The Pattikonda taluk has an area of 1,071 square miles and a population of 173,118. It is situated in the south-west of the Kurnool district, and the soil is pretty evenly divided between red laterite and black cotton soil. The Hindri river, which rises near Maddikera and falls into the Tungabadra near Kurnool, flows through it and is fed by numerous small watercourses from hilly parts of the district. The population is almost wholly agricultural, but there are a good many weavers in some of the larger villages, the chief of which are Kodomuru (population 6,064), Maddikera (8,586), Piapali (5,076), and Pattikonda (4,383).

3. The chief product of the taluk is cholum (jowar), of which one crop is sown in the red soil in April and reaped in September; the other and later crop sown in the black soil in August is harvested in December and January. On the banks of the Hindri a certain amount of irrigation is effected by raising water from the river bed, but there are no regular irrigation channels from that river. A good many tanks are scattered over the taluk, but are now for the most part dry.

4. Both crops failed almost entirely last year, though some part of the early crop and

Taluk (Kurnool).

a good deal of fodder was saved, and fair crops were secured here and there from the irrigated land above mentioned and near wells. The tehsildar estimates that the average out-turn did not exceed one-sixteenth of an average crop. The rains of the previous year, 1875, were unseasonable, a good many of the tanks did not properly fill, and the harvest yielded only about five-eighths of an ordinary crop.

5. Stocks of grain are believed to be low in consequence, but it is difficult to estimate their amount. Trade is very active, and all villages are reported to be fairly well supplied with imported grain, chiefly from the north. Considerable stocks are lying at Auspri ten miles distant, and Sir Richard noticed a long string of carts carrying grain to Pattikonda. The tehsildar believes that private trade will amply provide for all needs. Some 15,000 bags of Government grain are in store at Piapali, and it is intended to establish depôts at Pattikonda and Devnakonda. The average price of cholum, which is the common food of the people, is nine seers of 84 tolahs per rupee. Second sort rice is now seven seers per rupee, but is little eaten.

6. Relief works were started early and all comers were admitted. In the beginning of January the numbers were 36,000, but since the introduction of task work and the process of discharging those who appeared able to support themselves for a time, they have gradually come down to 23,000. Wages are paid in cash at the rate of 2 annas for a man, 1 anna 4 pies for a woman, and 10 pies for a child; and the nominal task exacted is the breaking and stacking of five cubic yards of road metal per day by each gang of 50 persons. The Madras Government orders of 31st January have not yet been received, and the tehsildar is acting on local orders.

The works now in hand are as follows:—

1. A road from Pattikonda to Devnakonda, 12 miles, occupying 7,105 labourers.
2. A road from Yenigamari to Kurmoor, 30 miles, 6,209 labourers.
3. A road from Kurmoor to Venkatagiri, 15 miles, 6,766 labourers.
4. A road from Rampoor to Garladini, 10 miles, 2,612 labourers.
5. Repairs to the Bondimadugula tank, 50 labourers.
6. Repairs to Pendakallu tank, 24 labourers.

The numbers on No. 1 were 8,000 last week, but the tehsildar himself visited the gangs, and discharged nearly a thousand persons whom he considered on inquiry did not at present need Government aid.

All the gangs on this road (about 7,000 persons in all) were paraded for the inspection of Sir Richard, who spent almost the whole day in inquiring into the condition of the labourers, with a view to showing the tehsildar the principle on which the process of eliminating undeserving cases should be conducted. The great majority appeared to be really poor, and therefore deserving recipients of State charity, but there were some exceptions found in every gang. Several hundred cases were picked out and investigated, many persons were proved to be in a position to maintain themselves, many were set aside for further inquiry, and others were found to be really dependent on relief labour for subsistence. Some few cases were flagrant abuses of Government charity, some few were clear fraud, as the case of a ryot paying Rs. 200 of land revenue, who had been put on the lists by his son, who was the gang maistri.

7. There has been a considerable mortality among the cattle; the tehsildar gave it as his opinion that nearly 50 per cent. of the total number in the taluk had perished, but that the deaths have been chiefly confined to old and worn out beasts, who are left to pick up what scanty pasture they can from the burnt-up fields. Stored fodder is too valuable to be given to them, and is reserved for the better class of draught and plough cattle, which are still abundant and in fair condition, although a good many have died in some villages. Much jowar straw was saved from the early harvest, and it is expected that there will be sufficient fodder to supply the draught cattle.

8. Drinking water is still everywhere procurable. Some wells are dry, and the water in others is of bad quality, but wells are generally abundant, a good many new ones have been sunk, and water is near the surface in most parts of the taluk. No apprehensions of future failure are entertained.

9. The public health has on the whole been good since the beginning of the scarcity. There were a good many scattered cases of cholera in January, but no serious epidemic, and the disease has now subsided. Small-pox is prevalent in some villages but is not severe, and no cases were seen among the gangs examined by Sir Richard.

10. Crime has increased. Petty thefts are numerous, and 12 dacoities, chiefly grain robberies, have occurred since the beginning of the year.

11. On the whole, Sir Richard was of opinion— Pattikonda Taluk Kurnool

That the great majority of the people were of the poorer classes and really in need of State aid.

That their physical condition was satisfactory.

But that about 10 per cent. were clearly and palpably in a position to maintain themselves for some time to come, without the assistance of Government; and that if task work could be fully enforced, or the gangs thoroughly examined by persons of sufficient local and personal knowledge of the people, a still further per-centage would be found in a similar position.

Further, that the tehsildar is a competent Native officer who has already done much in the direction of system and economy, and who, if judiciously instructed, may do still more to assist in carrying out the orders of Government.

No. 111.

No. 224, dated 22nd February 1877. No. 115.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to Sir R. Temple.

I have the honour to request that you will be so good as to inform Sir Richard Temple that in accordance with the suggestion contained in his telegram of the 12th instant, as explained in yours of the 17th instant, the Madras and Bombay Governments have been authorised to construct the earth-works of the proposed railway between Hubli and Bellary, on the understanding that the Imperial Government is not thereby in any way pledged to the ultimate construction of the railway itself. Hubli-Bellary Railway.

2. I am, however, to request the favour of further explanation of the exact meaning of the suggestion that the land taken up for the purpose should be charged to the Local Governments.

No. 112.

XLIII.—Memorandum by Dr. Robert Harvey, on special duty, on the Condition and Prospects of the Adoni Taluk of Bellary as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple on the 14th and 21st February 1877. No. 147.

22nd February 1877.

Sir Richard Temple visited Adoni on the 14th and again on the 21st February. He met there Mr. Glenny, C.S., Sub-Collector of Gooty, Captain Hamilton, 4th Bengal Cavalry, Taluk Relief Officer, Mr. Oldham, Executive Officer in charge of relief works, and Mr. Pampabatti Rao, Tehsildar. On his first visit he found that the numbers had been very rapidly increasing, and that the orders for the new arrangements, confining relief to those actually in need, had just been received and were on the point of being carried out. He therefore contented himself with inspecting about 15,000 relief labourers on the works near Adoni and explaining to the local officers the views of Government, reserving full inspection and report till he could re-visit the taluk after the new system had been organised. Adoni Taluk (Bellary).

2. The taluk of Adoni is the most northerly taluk of the Bellary district, and has an area of 805 square miles. The population numbers 179,448, 12 per cent. of whom are Mahomedans. The rural population is chiefly agricultural, but there are a number of comparatively large towns in the taluk, and the urban population is largely made up of weavers, artizans of various classes, leather dresses, and other non-agricultural classes of low castes. The population of Mahomedans is very large in some of the towns (Adoni has 40 per cent.), and they are described as for the most poor and thriftless and badly off even in good years. The chief towns are Adoni (population 22,429), Yemigamir (6,243), Koshgi (5,463), Kavutal (3,650), Nagladini (2,134).

3. The taluk is bounded on the north by the Tungabadra river, from which the Rampur irrigation channel runs through the taluk for 10 miles and waters 965 acres of rice and ragi. This is the only irrigation work with the exception of a few small tanks, all of which failed to fill last year. A few fields near villages are irrigated from wells, and Mr. Glenny is of opinion that wells exist wherever there is room for them, and that cultivation from well irrigation (small though it is) has reached its limit. Black cotton soil prevails almost universally, but there is some red laterite here and there.

Adoni Taluk (Bellary).

4. Considerable quantities of cotton are grown. It is sown in June and picked in February, but the staple product of the taluk is cholum, of which there is an early crop dependent on south-east and a late crop dependent on the north-west monsoon.

5. Both monsoons failed last year, and, except from the irrigated lands, almost no crop was secured. Many villages had absolutely nothing, and the total out-turn is estimated by Mr. Glenny at less than a one-anna crop. The harvest of 1875 yielded a 10 or 12-anna crop or from five-eighths to three-fourths of a good crop.

6. From personal inquiries, from inspection of the store pits, and the evidence of disinterested persons, Mr. Glenny thinks there are considerable stocks of grain still in the country, probably amounting to several months' supply; but these will not be produced until the holders see that next season's crops are safe and that danger is at an end. Private trade is most active and is expected to be quite adequate to meet all demands. Large quantities of grain are lying at Adoni and carts are going everywhere. The people live on cholum to the almost complete exclusion of rice. Prices were at one time as high as seven per rupee. On Sir Richard's first visit (14th February) cholum was $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $9\frac{1}{2}$, and several sort rice $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 seers, per rupee; but a considerable fall has occurred in the last few days, and the rates are now $11\frac{1}{2}$ and 8 or 9 seers, respectively. The Bellary seer weighs 2 lbs. 2 oz., so that $11\frac{1}{2}$ seers is about $23\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per rupee or $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. for an anna.

7. Relief works were opened about the middle of October. No applicant was refused, and the numbers gradually swelled to 88,000 or more than half the population of the taluk, which was the number on the lists at Sir Richard's first visit. Great exertions have been made by the local officers since that time; it has been discovered that extensive frauds have been practised by the gang-men; that about 5 per cent. of the numbers were men of straw, while many children had been classed as men. Numerous well-to-do people were discovered and turned off. The gangs have been sent to work some distance from their homes, and task work is being introduced. These measures have resulted in a reduction already estimated at 13,000 persons, some of whom were turned off; the remainder, probably the majority themselves, left the work as soon as task work and discipline were enforced. Very many of the gangs remain to be examined, as the process of inquiry, if conducted with sufficient care to avoid mistakes, is necessarily slow. The scale of task work to be exacted—it has as yet been little more than nominal—is 16 to 20 cubic yards of earth-work, or 12 to 16 of gravel, according to stiffness of soil and height of lift per day, from a gang of 50 persons. Some gangs are employed in metal breaking, and five cubic yards per gaug is the tale demanded. No hammers have as yet been provided and stones are used instead. The Madras Government orders of 31st January were received last week, and No. 2 standard has been adopted, wages being now $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna, 1 anna, and 9 pies for men, women, and children, respectively.

8. The principal works in hand are,—

1. Railway feeder road from Nagladini to Adoni, 30 miles, in two divisions, employing 1,3228 and 19,517 labourers (on 10th February). This work is under the taluk officer with the tehsildar of Adoni and the deputy tehsildar of Yemigamir to assist him.
2. Madveram road, 27 miles, 13,776 labourers.
3. Alur road, 7 miles, 20,052 labourers.
4. Gooty road, 5 miles, 17,381 labourers.
5. Sirgapa road, 8 miles, 3,003 labourers.
6. Rampur Channel embankment, 1,766 labourers.

The figures are taken from the last return; but, as stated above, a total reduction, estimated at about 13,000, has since been effected chiefly from the gangs on the Alur and Gooty roads.

9. On the occasion of his first visit (February 14th) Sir Richard carefully inspected an aggregate of nearly 15,000 labourers collected from Adoni and the villages around. Many of them were poor people dependent for subsistence on their earnings at the works, but many belonged to a better class of people, who were presumably able to maintain themselves. A large per-centage were Mussulmans, many were weavers and artizans, and there were few persons of low caste. Their general physical condition was good, and very few showed any signs of being insufficiently nourished. On his second visit he saw about 10,000 persons belonging to gangs from the Yemigamir road. The great majority were of extremely low castes, madigars (chamars) and others, ranking even below pariahs, and regarded as so low and degraded that their better-born countrymen speak of them as persons "who cannot come in our mouths," whose very caste name cannot be mentioned. These are poor people chiefly leather dressers, and live to a considerable extent on the flesh of the cattle whose skins they dress. They

are extremely poor, always inured to hardship, and it is believed that very many of them have hitherto abstained from applying for relief under the mistaken notion that there could be no aid for such as they, and that even if Government would give it them the prejudices of their countrymen would prevent it reaching them. The contrast between these gangs and all those previously seen elsewhere was very great. Very many persons were considerably emaciated, and had evidently been insufficiently nourished all their lives; and a few only among them had the fine physique and blooming condition so frequently found in other gangs among the better castes. Sir Richard considers that they were by many degrees the worst he has yet seen, and he carefully explained to the native officials that no prejudices of race or caste, no amount of contempt, and no fear of contamination could justify them in neglecting any person however degraded; that they were expected to do their duty irrespective of persons, and that no such excuse or neglect of it would be accepted by Government, which would visit with exemplary punishment any person guilty of inhumanity to such people. The headmen of villages were warned that they must be specially careful in watching for and immediately relieving them, as it is among them that cases of starvation are most likely to occur. Adoni Taluk (Bellary).

10. The cattle have so far suffered comparatively little. A good many old ones have died, because the people will not feed such, but the draught cattle are in good case. There are considerable stores of fodder. Many valuable beasts have been sent away to the Nallamalli hills in the Eastern Ghâts, and there is still some pasture on the banks of the Tungabhadra. The brisk demand for carriage keeps the draught cattle constantly employed, and high prices enable their owners to buy fodder, so that no great loss is apprehended.

11. Water is still fairly abundant everywhere, and will not fail.

12. The public health has been and still is bad; cholera is extensively prevalent though not in a very fatal form, and bowel complaints and fevers are common. A severe epidemic of small-pox is raging in Adoni and some of the large villages; and Sir Richard observed very many cases among the Adoni gangs during his first visit. Arrangements are in train to isolate the cases in special sheds where the children may not be dangerous to their neighbours, and where gratuitous ration will be issued to the mothers who will stay to nurse them.

13. Crime increased remarkably during the earlier weeks of scarcity; dacoities of grain and thefts in standing crops were numerous, but since the few fields which yielded anything have been harvested, and it has become evident to the people that grain will not fail, it has remarkably diminished.

14. Sir Richard's impressions on the condition of the taluk were as follows:—

That the numbers are still abnormally high, but that, while such is the case and many people are being relieved who are not in need of it, there is reason to fear that others who do need are not found out and taken on the work soon enough. This, however, is now being remedied.

That the great majority of the labourers are in good case, but that some low-caste persons are in bad condition.

That special attention must be given to village inspection, with a view of picking up any such persons as have not yet been relieved.

That the various native officials will have to be carefully instructed to look after persons of low caste and not suffer them to drift into danger, and that the various European officers must see that they do this.

That the superior relief officers in the taluk are making most praiseworthy efforts to give effect loyally and fully to the orders of the Madras Government in the direction of system and economy.

That considerable success seems to have already attended their efforts, and that still further improvement is to be looked for.

No. 113.

XLIV.—Memorandum by Dr. Harvey, on special duty, on the Condition of Relief Gangs at Goondakul in the Gooty Taluk of Bellary as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple on 22nd February 1877. No. 147.

22nd February 1877.

Sir Richard Temple left Adoni by the morning train on the 22nd February, accompanied by Mr. Glenny, C.S., Sub-Collector of Gooty, and reached Goondakul at 9 A.M. All the relief labourers employed on the works within easy distance had been Condition of relief gangs in Gooty Taluk (Bellary).

collected near the railway station, and he spent the greater part of the day in inspecting them, first going carefully down the lines of persons drawn out for inspection, pointing out those who seemed able to support themselves, and afterwards investigating the circumstances. About 4,500 persons were paraded. They were for the most part ryots and subordinate cultivators, weavers, and working men of the better caste and classes in admirable condition, and bearing no signs of ever having missed a meal. Here and there a few poor-looking specimens, generally of inferior social position, presented themselves, and the contrast between them and the greater majority of the persons present was pointed out to the Native officials, who could not fail to see it. Large numbers of the women belonged to respectable castes, and had come to the works to earn a little money, their husbands being employed at home or otherwise off the works. Some cases of cheating by gangmen were exposed, and many persons were shown to be in a position not to require aid from Government.

2. Sir Richard was astonished by the very marked contrast between these gangs and the gangs of low-caste workmen seen on his second visit to Adoni, and Mr. Glenny remarked that, as regards physical condition, they were the best gangs he had yet seen. There was no sign of suffering among them, and Sir Richard Temple thought that there could be no doubt whatever that very many of them had been admitted to the works much too soon, and would have maintained themselves without difficulty had the works not been open to receive them. He considered that many of them might now be discharged without the smallest danger of their suffering risk of starvation or even of distress.

No. 114.

Nos. 127. 147.

No. 3,540, dated Hyderabad Residency, 22nd February 1877.

From the First Assistant Resident, Hyderabad, to the Secretary to Sir R. Temple, Bart., K.C.S.I.

Migration from Hyderabad to British territory and vice versâ.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter, No. 70, dated 17th instant, forwarding copy of a minute recorded by Sir R. Temple, regarding the reception of Mysore and Hyderabad labourers upon relief works in the Madras Presidency, and expressing his hope that the Resident will move the Minister to issue directions for the employment and retention within the Hyderabad districts of Nizam's subjects who may desire work.

2. The question thus brought forward has been the subject of frequent conversation and inquiry between Sir R. Meade and the Minister and officials of his Highness' Government for the last four months, and the Resident has every reason to believe that the orders passed by the Minister before he proceeded to Delhi, and also since his return to Hyderabad, have fairly provided for the employment on relief works of the suffering population of all the Hyderabad districts bordering the Madras Presidency that are affected by the famine.

3. At first, no doubt, many Hyderabad people crossed the frontier and presented themselves at the British relief works; but, so far as Sir R. Meade has been able to ascertain, a large proportion of these persons subsequently returned to the Nizam's limits and obtained employment on the works opened therein.

4. On the other hand, considerable numbers of men and cattle in search of the means of subsistence have from time to time come into Hyderabad from the British districts, and within the last fortnight the Minister has brought to the Resident's notice that there had been recently a large arrival of both in the Raichore district.

Sir R. Meade has been further informed by the officers of the Nizam's Public Works Department employed on relief works, that, latterly, many labourers from the British districts have made their appearance on those works, and been provided for on them.

5. It is, however, admitted that many of the Hyderabad distressed poor, who left their homes when the pressure began to be first seriously felt, have not returned, and it is not known what has become of them.

6. The Nizam's Government has not, that the Resident is aware of, hitherto taken any steps to prevent sufferers from the famine in the British districts entering its territory as already described in search of subsistence.

7. The Nizam's officials were at first disposed to effect the expulsion of any bodies of such persons that might arrive within their limits, on the ground that their presence would add to the existing difficulties, as well as be dangerous to the peace of the country; but Sir R. Meade urged that on no account should the migration of these

people be obstructed or interfered with so long as they committed no offence, and did not assemble in bands dangerous to the public peace, and the Minister entirely concurred in this view and issued orders accordingly.

8. It is well known that the practice under Native rule has always been for the poorer classes to abandon their homes in times of drought and famine, and to migrate to other parts of the country free from such a calamity.

9. Sir R. Meade's personal experience of the great value of this practice as a means of reducing the number of sufferers in a stricken district, and especially in localities to which food could hardly be transported, leads him to think that the door to its continuance along the Hyderabad and Madras frontier should not be closed by the adoption of any strict rule on either side of the frontier for the retention of the suffering poor within their own limits.

Proposed measure to meet immigration.

10. It has suggested itself to him, in considering the request contained in your letter under reply, that as a large portion of the Hyderabad territory is fairly off both as regards food for man and forage for cattle, it is probable that the migration towards it from the Madras and Bombay famine districts will continue, and that, in the interests of these districts and of the British Government, it should be encouraged as much as possible; and as any request to his Highness' Government to prevent its subjects who are in search of work or the means of subsistence from crossing over to seek the same on the British relief works, would probably be understood to warrant its preventing the migration of sufferers from the British districts into Hyderabad, the Resident proposes to limit his action on your present communication to urging his Highness' Government to increased effort to provide fully, in the matter of relief works, for the employment of the poor in the districts adjoining Kurnool and Bellary, and to instruct its local officials to use their influence to induce the people of those districts in want of work to take it on the relief works so provided for them.

11. The Resident trusts that Sir R. Temple will concur in the course thus proposed to be taken in this matter.

No. 115.

No. 12 of 1877. No. 201.

From the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce to the Secretary of State for India.

Calcutta, February 23, 1877.

With this Despatch we enclose various additional minutes and memoranda by Sir Richard Temple, relating to the famine in the presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and in Mysore. The subjects dealt with in these papers are—

1st. The organisation and supervision of measures for village relief. Nos. 63. 64. 72.
2nd. The concentration of relief labour on large public works in the Madras Presidency. No. 68.
3rd. The estimated loss of revenue in the two presidencies. Nos. 79. 80.
4th. Certain questions relating to the purchase and transport of grain in Madras. Nos. 81. 82.
5th. The condition of subdivisions of the Cuddapah and Bellary districts. Nos. 57. 70.
6th. The commencement of the projected railway from Bellary to Hubli as a relief work. Nos. 73–6. 98. 104–5. 108.
7th. The distress in Mysore. Nos. 84–88.
8th. The question of receiving labourers from Mysore and the Nizam's territories on relief works in the Madras Presidency. No. 95.
9th. The arrangements made for facilitating traffic between the Great Indian Peninsula Railway nnd the Madras Railway. Nos. 89. 90. No. 96.
10th. The doubling of the line of railway from Ambatoor near Madras to Arconum.

A few other papers on subjects which have come under our consideration during the past week are also forwarded, including a Resolution* in which we have briefly reviewed the Taluka reports† received from Bombay in reply to the call made in our letter of the 30th October last. * No. 107. † No. 106.

Necessity for home relief.

2. The necessity of organising a system under which individual cases of destitution, either in villages or on the highways, may be searched out and promptly dealt with, is clearly stated in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 8th instant. He there points out the facilities which exist under the land revenue system of the Madras Presidency (and his suggestions on this point are equally applicable to Bombay) for the application of such a system of relief. "It may happen," he observes, "probably it will happen,"

that " however searching, comprehensive, and far-reaching the relief measures may be," " individuals or particular families may yet be suffering in silence, may escape obser- " vation, and may compose themselves quietly for death without complaining to any " one." Such cases, he states, did occur in the famine in Behar, and some such cases have occurred at the outset of the present distress in Madras. They will only be scattered instances where persons from social prejudices, or from infirmity, or from fatalism or other inexplicable reason, do not apply for relief, and the only remedy is constant supervision of every village and of every highway in the distressed districts. The necessary organisation exists in the village headman, Revenue Inspector and Tahsildar, working under the orders of the Assistant Collector or Deputy Collector in charge of the division, and in the police, to meet the cases of travellers dying from starvation on the roads. In the existence of this organisation, Madras, Bombay, and Mysore have, as Sir Richard Temple observes, a great advantage over Behar, where a special organisation had to be summarily organised for the occasion.

Difficulty in devising large works for relief purposes in Madras presidency.

3. In our Despatch of the 9th instant (paragraph 6) we remarked that we had reason to believe that difficulty had been experienced in devising large works, suitable for relief purposes, in the Madras Presidency. This subject is discussed in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 10th instant. It will be seen that the only work of any considerable magnitude which he has been able to suggest, in addition to the East Coast Canal and the Junction Canal at Madras, now, it is believed, in course of construction, are a Railway from Bellary towards Dharwar and the western coast, and an embankment in the Cuddapah district to protect the railway from the Pennair River. Since his minute was written, Sir Richard Temple has met the Governor of Madras and the Consulting railway Engineers of the Bombay and Madras Governments at Bellary, and in concurrence with his Grace has recommended that the earth-work of the railway should be commenced as a relief work from Bellary to Hubli in the Dharwar district. The Government of Bombay had previously recommended the commencement of this work as a means of affording employment to the distressed poor in the Southern Mahratta Country. The recommendation now made has been sanctioned on the understanding that the Government of India are not pledged to the ultimate completion of the railway. Sir Richard Temple's minute on this subject of the 17th instant, which explains at length the grounds of the recommendation made in his telegram of the 12th, has only just reached us. We shall notice it more fully in next week's Despatch. The section on which work is to be commenced is, as your Lordship is aware, a portion of the line from Bellary to Karwar, which was projected some years ago. It will also serve to connect a line from the Portuguese port of Goa to Hubli with the Madras Railway at Bellary, which has recently formed the subject of correspondence between the Government of Portugal and Her Majesty's Government, should that line be eventually carried out.

Repair of irrigation tanks suitable for relief.

4. In more than one of the Minutes, herewith enclosed, Sir Richard Temple has suggested the repair and improvement of irrigation tanks, as a very suitable and valuable means of providing labour for those in need of relief. His attention appears to have been specially attracted to this description of work on the occasion of his visit to Mysore, where the relief works in progress are mainly tanks. It appears from an interesting Memorandum by Sir Richard Temple's Secretary, Mr. Bernard, on the Mysore district of Kolar, to which we would invite the attention of your Lordship, that out of 382 works proposed for the relief of distress in that district, all except two were tanks or irrigation works of some kind. The province of Mysore is thickly studded with irrigation tanks most of them of moderate size, and many of them in need of repair or improvement. The same may be said of many districts in the Madras Presidency, and especially of the southern portion of the Cuddapah district, which, situated on the level of the Mysore plateau, contains numerous works of this character. We trust that the Madras Government will find themselves in a position to adopt Sir Richard Temple's recommendations on this point, and that the want of concert between the Civil and Public Works Departments, to which allusion is made in one of these minutes as well as in a former minute, but which does not appear to be attributable to the local officers, may be overcome.

5. There would seem to have been some delay in communicating to the subordinate district officers the orders passed by the Madras Government on the 31st January for restricting expenditure on relief works. The Sub-Collector of Cuddapah had not received them on the 6th instant, and on the 11th instant they had not reached the Sub-Collector of Bellary. In the Cuddapah Sub-Collector's division the labourers were still paid grain wages, and the gangs inspected by Sir Richard Temple in that division contained persons who, the Sub-Collector admitted, could safely be dismissed from the works. The number receiving relief wages had, however, fallen from 108,000, the number on the works in the

division at the time of Sir Richard Temple's first visit to the district, to 90,000, partly owing to the elimination from the relief gangs of persons not in absolute need, and partly owing to the prevalence of cholera, which had led to the dispersion of certain gangs. In the division of the Sub-Collector of Bellary, cash payments had been substituted for grain wages and task-work had been introduced. The Sub-Collector on his own responsibility had begun to weed out his labourers and to turn off people who could manage for themselves. Cholera had dispersed some of the gangs, and some 30,000 persons had struck work owing to the introduction of task-work. From all these causes the number on the relief works had fallen from 88,000 to 30,000. The number nominally receiving gratuitous relief had also fallen from 33,000 in the first week of January to 8,000 in the first week of February. In the matter of gratuitous relief there had been a good deal of peculation. It had been discovered that some thousands of the names on the charitable relief returns, were fictitious. These irregularities, however, had been checked and punished, and the persons needing charitable relief were being gathered into relief camps.

6. The latest intelligence which we have received regarding the relief operations in Madras is contained in the following telegram from Sir Richard Temple, which reached us yesterday :—

"During past week I have been examining relief operations, interior of Bellary district, and part of Kurnool. Great improvement effected by local authorities in restricting relief to those who really need it. Numbers on relief works much reduced, and fresh admissions generally checked, but many persons are still being relieved without actual necessity, and fresh admissions not systematically arranged. Some demoralisation results, together with some malpractices and abuses. I am pressing this on local officers. The Government orders for reduction of relief wages have not yet taken effect, consequent financial loss considerable, but I still hope to see effect given to the inspection village to village for discovering cases of special distress, originally ordered in general terms and partly carried out. Still further specific orders from Government are wanting. I am representing the matter to Government of Madras. Import of grain from Madras end of railway has fallen off. I am endeavouring to secure early arrival of borrowed engines. Import from northern end good. Prices cheapening. Other favourable points in my two previous bulletins regarding physical condition of people, activity of trade, and exertions of officers remain unchanged."

7. It will be gathered from this telegram, and from the remarks which we have extracted from Sir Richard Temple's minutes, that in some respects the measures which have been ordered by the Madras Government with a view to the avoidance of all needless expenditure have not as yet been fully carried out; but already there has been a great improvement, and we entertain no doubt whatever of the sincere desire of that Government to co-operate with us in this matter. According to the latest returns the number on the relief works in Madras had fallen from 876,206, the number for the previous week, to 767,281. We enclose a copy of a letter which we caused to be addressed to the Government of Madras on the 21st instant, conveying our acknowledgments of the zeal and humanity with which they and their officers are contending against the famine, and of the wise and conciliatory spirit in which they have accepted Sir Richard Temple's mission, and the various suggestions made by him. We have observed with deep concern the very unsatisfactory, and indeed alarming, condition of the public health in the town of Madras, which has been reported to your Lordship in the Despatch from the Madras Government under date the 10th instant. The state of things described in the report of the Sanitary Commissioner which accompanied that Despatch has added a heavy burthen to the weight of anxiety and responsibility which at the present juncture presses upon the Government of the Duke of Buckingham.

Mysore. Area of distress. Commencement and progress.

8. Your Lordship will have learnt from our previous Despatches that a considerable portion of the territories of his Highness the Maharájá of Mysore, which are at present and for many years past have been under British management, have suffered very severely from the drought which has afflicted the adjoining British districts. The area of Mysore is 27,097 square miles, and its population a little over 5,000,000. For administrative purposes it is divided into eight districts. In two of these districts, Hassan and Shimoga, which lie close to the Western Ghâts, there was some rainfall, and there was a moderate harvest. In the district of Mysore, one of the largest in the province, part of which is irrigated by channels from the Cauvery River, the harvest was an average one; but over the remaining districts there was a grievous failure of rain. In this extensive tract, forming two-thirds of the province, nearly all the rain-fed tanks are dry, and the dry-crop cultivation, which depends entirely upon rain, has for the most part failed. Of the affected tracts, an area inhabited by about 2,000,000 of people must be held, in Sir Richard Temple's opinion, to be severely distressed. The crops of the

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i Mysore.

previous year (1875–76) were poor; but those of 1874–75 were full and good. Sir Richard Temple draws attention to the economy with which the relief operations have been conducted, and which, as he justly observes, is very creditable to the Chief Commissioner and his officers. In the beginning of January the number of persons on the relief works was 59,301, and the number in receipt of charitable relief 30,088. Sir Richard Temple was, on the whole, well satisfied with the character of the relief works in progress, and with the mode in which it is managed. As we have already observed, the relief works in Mysore are almost entirely irrigation tanks, and the work is paid for at task rates. All the work that is being done is good and useful work. On two works which Sir Richard Temple inspected near Bangalore, he "saw considerable numbers of persons "who appeared well able to take care of themselves without State aid," and none in a reduced physical condition; but among gangs in the interior of the Bangalore and Kolar districts he observed persons whose condition was much reduced. The result of his observations was, that so long as good and useful work on irrigation tanks is being done at piece-work rates, it may not be necessary to begin any large work (no single large relief work has yet been begun in Mysore), but that, if hereafter very large bodies of people should require employment, two projects, viz., the long projected railway from Bangalore to Mysore, and a reservoir in the Chitaldroog district, estimated to cost 15 lakhs of rupees (150,000*l.*), and to irrigate 50,000 acres, should be put in hand Both these works are ready for immediate commencement should the necessity arise. The point, however, which appeared to Sir Richard Temple to demand the most immediate attention from the Mysore authorities, was the organisation of a system of village relief, to which we have referred in the earlier part of this Despatch. Orders have been issued on this subject by the Chief Commissioner.

9. We have already drawn your Lordship's attention to Mr. Bernard's memorandum on the Kolar district, which is administered by a Native Deputy Commissioner, B. Krishna Iyengár. All that is stated in this memorandum appears to us to reflect very great credit on the Deputy Commissioner, whose humane, but careful and discriminating management of the famine in his district is most praiseworthy. Krishna Iyengár is the only Native who has yet risen to the responsible post of Deputy Commissioner. He is evidently an efficient and useful officer, and with reference to the approaching transfer of the province to the direct management of the Mahárájá, we regard the success of this Native official as very satisfactory.

Bombay presidency. Area of distress. Commencement, progress, estimated cost.

10. The returns submitted by the Government of Bombay in reply to our call of the 30th October last, which are reviewed in our proceedings of the 21st instant, contain a great deal of useful information regarding the condition of the various parts of the distressed districts in that presidency, and furnish ample evidence of the energy and ability with which the famine is being combated by the Bombay Government and its officers. The number of talukas and subdivisions of districts, of which particulars are given in these returns, is 93, covering an area of 54,355 square miles, and containing a population of 7,963,927. The area in which the crop saved is less than one-half of a full crop is 33,873 square miles, and the population 4,981,616. The returns of the crops saved show a more favourable condition of affairs than the estimate which was framed in November last. It was then estimated that more than half the crops would be saved in only 11 talukas. It is now found to be above that proportion in 24 talukas. The estimate of remissions of land revenue is also more favourable than it was in November. The remissions were then estimated at 66 lakhs of rupees, and later on the estimate of the Bombay Government was about 76½ lakhs. The estimate given in the present returns, which appears to be for the revenue year, which ends on July 31st, is Rs. 46,84,732, and this apparently may be regarded to be an outside estimate, judging from the language used by some of the local officers. Sir Richard Temple, however, in his minute of the 13th instant (enclosed in this Despatch) estimates the total loss of revenue at 54 lakhs. In the same minute Sir Richard Temple estimates the relief expenditure to be incurred in Bombay at 126 lakhs. The accuracy of this estimate in a great measure depends upon the number of persons whom it will be necessary to employ upon the relief works. We have now before us three estimates of the number of persons likely to be on the relief works on the 1st March, 1st May, and 1st July. The first is an estimate submitted by the Bombay Government on the 30th November last. It is in a monthly form, and commencing with 200,000 as the average for December gives 450,000 as the average of February, 750,000 as that of March, 1,000,000 for April, and only 300,000 for July. These figures included charitable relief at 10 per cent. The second estimate is that of Sir Richard Temple in his minute of January 11th, and allows 540,000 for March 1st, 870,000 for the 1st of May, and 340,000 for the 1st of July. The last is that of the local officers throughout the country, which was made

almost simultaneously with Sir Richard Temple's, and amounts to 677,500 for March 1st, 863,220 for May 1st, and 509,370 for July 1st. Sir Richard Temple is thus in accord with the local officers as regards May 1st, but anticipates lower numbers both before and after that date than they do. As we have observed in our Resolution, these startling discrepancies at once show the extreme difficulty of dealing with the subject, and the necessity of being prepared, by a reserve of works to be started when indispensable but not otherwise, for any sudden access of distressed persons whom the exhaustion of private stocks or the failure of employment abroad may throw suddenly upon the hands of Government. Adverting to the latest returns however (for the 16th instant), the number on the works was only 238,219, and we therefore see reason to hope that all the estimates will prove to be in excess of the actual numbers.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 116. No. 133.

Telegram, dated 23rd February 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta.

Please inform Calcutta Chamber of Commerce that railway through rate for grain from Negapatam to Bangalore is equalised with rate from Madras to Bangalore. Port dues at Negapatam suspended in case of vessels importing grain equal quarter of whole cargo.

Reduction of railway rate Negapatam to Bangalore

No. 117. No. 147.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department,—No. 131E.–444 (Local), dated 23rd February 1877.

Read—A letter from the Collector and Political Agent, Sholapur, No. 811, dated 12th February 1877, with reference to Government Resolution No. 37A.–153 Local, dated 25th January 1877, forwards copy of a report on the purchase of grain in the Akalkot State, and observes that no harm can result from what has been done, as the State is so small and so near the large market of Sholapur and the railway. Adds that the trade of the country will not be affected, and the inhabitants of the State will probably get their grain a little cheaper.

State purchase of grain in Akalkot.

Resolution.—The Collector and Political Agent should report whether the State cannot now withdraw from the purchase of grain, and leave the supply in the hands of the regular traders.

2. The State's transactions may be on a small scale, but they are entirely wrong in principle, and if it is not now too late, and if the ordinary retail dealers are prepared to take up and continue the business, no more purchases should be made by the State.

3. If the purchases of grain had been made in the adjoining local market of Sholapur, the arrangement would not have been so objectionable; but it appears that they were made in distant markets, such as Akola, in Berar, and no plan could have been adopted so likely to interrupt the regular flow of trade as that which has been pursued.

State should withdraw from transaction.

No. 118. No. 133.

Telegram, dated 24th February 1877.

From Sir Richard Temple, Tripetty, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta.

I yesterday received favourable accounts of coming spring crops from wells in most parts of Cuddapah district which mitigate anxiety.

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os. 120.
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No. 119.

No. 82, dated Bellary, 24th February 1877.

From the SECRETARY to SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

ssistance ndered by reat Indian eninsula to adras Rail- ay.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple I have the honour to submit copy of a memorandum by Captain Bisset upon the improvements in the working of the grain traffic, with copy of a covering letter to the Madras Government.

2. The assistance given by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company in smoothing the difficulties and assisting the working of the Madras Railway Company is now most satisfactory.

No. 147.

No. 120.

No. 81, dated Bellary, 24th February 1877.

From the SECRETARY to SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

On improvement of grain traffic from Raichore to ceded districts.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to forward copy of a memorandum by Captain Bisset on the progress of arrangements for improving the grain traffic from Raichore into the ceded districts.

2. With reference to this memorandum, I am to suggest that, if his Grace the Governor in Council be pleased to permit, the Agent of the Madras Railway may be moved—

(*a.*) To increase the staff in the locomotive sheds, so that the engines of the Madras Railway Company, and also those lent to the Company, may be kept in first rate working order, and so that failures of engine may be either prevented or set right:

(*b.*) To improve and increase the telegraphic staff and also the station staff, so that telegraphic reports and orders about the movement of trains may be promptly transmitted by day and by night:

(*c.*) To expedite the completion of the crossing stations, especially that between Nunchirla and Auspri.

3. Sir Richard Temple understands that some of these matters, as well as the completion of arrangements for watering engines, are engaging the attention of the railway officials. At the same time he considers it desirable to lay his recommendation on the matter before the Government of Madras, so that the improvement which has been effected in the grain traffic may continue, and in order that full work may be got out of the additional engines when they arrive.

4. The need for strengthening the telegraphic staff and for improved arrangements for passing trains is very apparent. But Sir Richard Temple will abstain from expressing a confident opinion whether it would be advisable to extend the block system gradually over the whole of the length of the Madras Railway in the ceded districts.

No. 147.

No. 121.

XLIX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Tripetty, 24th February 1877.

Grain transactions of Madras Government.

In continuation of my minute of the 13th February, regarding the Government grain transaction in this presidency, I feel obliged to represent to the Government of Madras that there seems to have been some misapprehension, in the Bellary district at least, respecting the time when the arrangements ceased between Government and the firm of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company.

2. It will be in the recollection of Government that the notification published on the 8th February set forth that these relations ceased on the 5th January.

3. Nevertheless, at Bellary the following circumstances occurred which showed that there must have been some misunderstanding on the subject. On the 12th January the Collector of Bellary bought on account of Government 10,000 bags of rice at Rs. 9-6 per bag from the firm of Harvey and Sabapathy. On the same day the Bellary agent of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company called and asked the Collector why the transaction had been concluded without making reference to him as Government broker. And on that same day the Government of Madras telegraphed to the Collector for explanation why this particular transaction had been concluded without reference to the Government brokers.

Again, on the 29th January certain Bellary dealers tendered for the supply of 5,000 bags of rice to the Collector. And their tenders were on that day, with the samples, referred by the Collector to the Bellary agent of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company for opinion. The agent, acting on behalf of his principals, gave an opinion on the samples. And it was not until the evening of the 29th of January that the Government officers at Bellary became aware that Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company were no longer Government brokers, and that it was no longer necessary to consult them regarding local purchases of grain.

4. It is probable that the importance of these circumstances has passed away, now that the cessation of the relations between the Government and the firm has been notified. But to prevent any possible misapprehension it has seemed to me desirable to state what I have learnt.

No. 122. No. 147.

L.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Tripetty, 24th February 1877.

Distribution of grain purchased by Madras Government.

In a minute dated 13th February I repeated my previous recommendation that a part only of the grain purchased by Government should be transported to places distant at least 60 miles from the railway, the residue being kept at Madras as a reserve. No definite reply has been received to this suggestion, which was laid before the Government of Madras, first on the 19th January, and afterwards on the 13th February.

2. I have now had an opportunity of conferring with Major Hicks, and I learn that about 15,000 tons of Government grain have already been delivered at depôts in the interior of the country; that to employ the contractors' carts, which he still retains, 4,000 bags of grain are required by him daily; that only 1,400 bags daily are now being despatched from Madras; that he is offering the use of his carts to local dealers at reduced rates of hire, but that as yet his arrangements are not sufficiently known in the interior to attract the village dealers.

3. It appears to me that the quantity (15,000 tons) already transported into the interior is quite enough for all the places that are likely to need such support. And the *26,000 tons remaining may safely be kept as reserve in Madras. But as Major Hicks contracted for the transport of at least 30,000 tons, out of which 15,000 tons have been delivered in the interior, it follows that there is spare carriage at his disposal for the residue, namely, 15,000 tons. Looking at all the circumstances of the case, seeing that the contracts have been made, and the carriage has been collected, I think that the carts employed by Major Hicks' agency had better be maintained under Government control, and not dispersed. And I recommend that these carts be let out to private traders if not wanted by Government.

*Note.

	Tons.
Madras Government purchases from Calcutta -	30,000
Purchases in Madras by the Madras Government and its officers - -	11,000
	41,000
Already transported to depôts by Major Hicks -	15,000
Residue which may safely be kept as reserve -	26,000

4. If the Madras Government should accede to my view that the quantity (15,000 tons) of Government grain already delivered at depôts in the interior is quite enough for the wants of the country requiring such support, then it would be necessary for Major Hicks to take prompt steps, through the local revenue officers, to make his terms known to the petty traders of the interior, who do most of the business of carrying goods from the railway to rural markets of the country. As soon as the local traders can employ all his carts, Major Hicks would cease to receive any Government grain by railway and so the waggons now occupied by Government grain would be set free for private traders.

No. 147.

No. 123.

XLV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding person-by-person inspection of relief labourers. Tripetty, February 24, 1877.

Relief labourers inspected by Sir Richard Temple.

I desire to place on record a statement showing the approximate numbers of the relief labourers who have been carefully inspected person by person, either by me or by officers deputed by me for that purpose, with a brief general remark on the physical condition of each gang of labourers.

2. It will appear from the abstract annexed that about 97,350 relief labourers have thus been inspected, always in the presence of a local civil officer; and that of this number the physical condition of 50,700 may be described as having been good, of 29,850 as middling, and of 16,800 as indifferent. And of this total some three bodies of labourers, numbering about 1,700, were found to be on strike, *i.e.*, in a state of refusing to accept the terms of pay offered by Government for such work as they could be made to perform.

Importance of gang inspection.

3. It is my opinion that this inspection of relief labourers is a matter of great importance; by this I do not mean a cursory glance at great masses of persons, but a careful look along the lines of men, women, and children, individual by individual, drawn up and arranged by the orders of the gangmen or relief officer. In this way it is comparatively easy to detect the unfit recipients of relief, and to show the officers, by selecting specimens of the well-to-do and needy respectively, the principles which should guide them on their inspections.

4. This work of inspection of gangs of relief labourers was at first, I fear, altogether overlooked by the local officers, but now they are attending to it with their wonted zeal and efficiency.

Statement showing Numbers of Relief Labourers inspected by Sir Richard Temple and Officers deputed by him.

Date of Inspection.	District.	Place.	Number.	Physical Condition.
14th January 1877	Kurnool	Head-quarters	2,000	Good.
15th „ „	„	„	2,500	Middling.
„ „ „	„	Yeldoortee	1,500	Good.
17th „ „	Bellary	Head-quarters	3,500	Middling.
18th „ „	„	„	2,000	Good.
19th „ „	Cuddapa	„	1,500	Middling.
„ „ „	„	Near head-quarters	1,000	Good.
20th „ „	North Arcot	Vellore	3,000	Indifferent.
23rd „ „	Tinnevelly	Tuticorin	300	Good.
26th „ „	Madras	Head-quarters	500	Indifferent.
27th „ „	„	Red Hills	2,000	„
29th „ „	Chingleput	*En route*	500	Good.
„ „ „	North Arcot	Raneepett	300	Indifferent.
30th „ „	„	Chittore	300	Good.
31st „ „	„	Palmanair	500	Middling.
1st February „	„	Poonganoor	3,000	„
„ „ „	Cuddapa	Madanpally	5,000	„
2nd „ „	„	„	2,000	Good.
5th „ „	Bangalore	Head-quarters	1,000	„
7th „ „	„	Dodabullabpore	1,000	Indifferent.
8th „ „	Kolar	Chikkabullabpore	500	Middling.
9th „ „	„	Buggopally	500	„
9th „ „	Bellary	Hindoopore	1,000	Good; on strike.
„ „ „	„	Pennikonda	500	Middling.
10th „ „	„	Gootoor	500	Middling; on strike.
„ „ „	„	*En route* to Anantipore	1,000	Good.
11th „ „	„	Anantipore	3,000	„
„ „ „	„	*En route* to Gooty	1,500	„
12th „ „	„	Head-quarters	2,000	Middling.
14th „ „	„	Adoni	15,000	Good.
15th „ „	„	Byayanaigar	500	Middling.
17th „ „	„	„	2,000	„
„ „ „	„	Hospett	1,000	Good.
18th „ „	„	Sundoor	3,000	Middling.
19th „ „	„	New head-quarters	500	Good.
20th „ „	Kurnool	Puttikonda	7,000	„

Statement showing Numbers of Relief Labourers inspected by Sir Richard Temple and Officers deputed by him—*continued.*

Date of Inspection.	District.	Place.	Number.	Physical Condition.
21st February 1877 -	Bellary - -	Adoni - - -	10,000	Indifferent.
22nd „ „ -	„ - -	Goondakal - -	4,500	Good.
23rd „ „ -	„ - -	Gooty - - -	150	Middling.
„ „ „ -	„ - -	„ - - -	200	Middling; on strike.
„ „ „ -	Cuddapa - -	Head-quarters - -	1,000	Middling.
Inspected by C. Bernard, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary, on behalf of Sir Richard Temple.				
	Kolar - -	Head-quarters - -	100	Good.
Inspected by Mr. C. E. Buckland, Private Secretary, on behalf of Sir Richard Temple.				
20th February 1877 -	Bellary - -	Alur - - -	5,500	Good.
21st and 22nd February 1877.	„ - -	Tadputri - - -	3,000	Middling.
		Total - - -	97,350	

ANALYSIS.

Physical Condition.

Good.	Middling.	Indifferent.
50,700	29,850	16,800
		On strike. 1,700

No. 124.

No. 147.

XLVII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, regarding the utilisation of the services of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway on the Madras line.

Tritany, 26th February 1877.

Railway grain traffic arrangements.

From the beginning of the present month (February) the Madras Railway has succeeded in carrying away promptly from Raichore all the grain waggons delivered there by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. The success of the Madras Railway in these affairs is very satisfactory. The daily average of despatches southwards from Raichore has been 105 waggons (683 tons). Most of this grain has been cholum (jowaree), which is the ordinary food of the poor in the ceded districts. And this grain, which was quoted at 7 seers per rupee in December, is now selling at Adoni and Bellary for $11\frac{1}{2}$ and $10\frac{1}{2}$ seers per rupee. I learn that, though the grain block on the Great Indian Peninsula stations in Central India is being cleared, the trade is expected to increase, and that there are practically inexhaustible quantities of grain ready to be sent down if wanted. I trust, therefore, that the large imports from the north may continue, notwithstanding the fall in price throughout the ceded districts. And I am clear that efforts should not be relaxed in delivering as promptly as possible all the northern grain which may come through Raichore.

Anxiety on account of block on Madras Railway.

2. But at the other end of the railway, namely, at Madras itself, there is much cause for anxiety. At one time the grain despatches from Madras by railway towards the interior averaged 1,000 tons a day; and when I was at Madras, at the end of January, I understood that the Madras Railway could, if working full power, despatch 1,200 tons of grain a day. But during the last fortnight despatches of grain from Madras have hardly averaged 700 tons per diem. Dealers in the ceded districts are in much difficulty, because they cannot get up their grain from Madras and fulfil their engagements in the interior. No appreciable decrease of the great accumulations of grain on the Madras beach is being effected. Shipments of rice from beyond the sea are falling off.

3. I cannot doubt that the drought-stricken districts of Madras and Mysore require that the stream of grain imports into Madras should continue as long as the monsoon permits. And therefore I think that new efforts must be made to relieve the block at Madras, and so prepare the way for further shipments from Bengal and Burma.

4. At one time it was hoped that, by reducing charges on the Sonthern India Railway, a portion a least of the grain supply from Mysore and Coimbatore might come from the port of Negapatam. But inquiry has shown that the Negapatam route could hardly give any appreciable relief to Madras for the next six weeks, even if facilities for landing, warehousing, and despatching rice existed at Negapatam, which is not at present the case.

Engine stock insufficient.

5. It was also thought that the 18 engines, which the Government of India has arranged to lend to the Madras Railway, would enable that Company to carry out its programme for working full power both at the Madras end and at the Raichore end. But the work of the last few weeks has broken down a number of the Madras Company's engines, and it now appears that the borrowed engines, when they arrive, can hardly do more than supply the place of the engines which have broken down.

6. In neither of these ways can such full relief be given as will enable the Madras Railway to do what the country absolutely requires, that is—(1) to despatch from 1,000 to 1,200 tons a day from Madras, and (2) to bring in from 700 to 1,000 tons from Raichore. This requirement is irrespective of the supply brought by the Beypore line to Coimbatore and Bangalore, which supply is comparatively inconsiderable, and must entirely cease when the monsoon closes the western ports early in May. Unless this requirement can be met, there is danger that the food-supply of the country may fall short.

Suggestion to work Raichore section of Madras line through agency of Great Indian Peninsula.

7. I see only one way by which the present difficulty can be met, and regular dispatches of grain into the interior of the Madras Presidency, both from the east (Madras) and from the west (Raichore), can be secured. And that is, by reviving a proposal, which was a one time under the consideration of the Government of Madras, for working the Raichore section of the Madras line by the rolling stock and through the agency of the Great Indian Peninsula Company. By this arrangement the Great Indian Peninsula engines and staff would work the traffic to Adoni, Gooty and Bellary, the principal marts to which northern grain is now being consigned. And the Madras Railway would be able to concentrate its efforts, its engines, and its staff upon the work of carrying into the interior the great accumulations of rice now awaiting despatch from Madras.

8. I am now writing at a distance from Madras, and it may be that in some detail my understanding of the facts may be open to correction. But if the case is in the main as stated above, and if no other way of meeting the difficulty can be devised, then I earnestly commend to the consideration of the Government of Madras that the services of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway be utilised for the requirements of the ceded districts in the way now suggested. A similar proposal was, I understood, favourably received by his Grace the Governor at the time of the Raichore block at the end of January. The subsequent smooth working of the Raichore section caused the proposal to be for the time dropped. But now the serious block at the other end of the Madras line appears to me to dictate the revival of the proposal.

9. It is quite certain that a large and constant supply of grain is wanted in the famine-stricken districts; it is also certain that there are large quantities of grain ready to be sent into those tracts both from the north and from the east; it is only too probable that there will be serious danger to the country if a constant and full supply cannot be maintained; the Madras Railway (from no fault of its agents and officers, who are doing their very best) first failed to maintain the supply from the north, and have now failed to maintain the supply from the east. There is, in my judgment, now no alternative but that the madras Railway should accept the aid of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at the northern source of supply. And I believe that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway is quite ready to give the required aid.

10. If his Grace the Governor in Council should be pleased to accept the views expressed in this minute, then I think no time should be lost in arranging to give effect to his Grace's decision. I anticipate that the Government of India and the Government of Bombay would accept favourably any proposal of the kind that might be made by the Madras Government. And the preliminaries could probably be settled by a meeting of the authorities of the two railway companies at Raichore, in presence of the Consulting Engineers of the Madras and Bombay Governments. If the proposal now revived is to be carried out at all, it will be best for the country and for both the railway companies that it should be carried out at once.

No. 147.

No. 125.

XLVI.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, suggesting the issue of further orders to secure that cases of extreme distress may be searched out and relieved in every village of the more distressed districts.

Tripetty, 26th February 1877.

Necessity for house-to-house visitation.

In my minute, dated Nundidroog, 8th February, I laid before the Government of Madras my views as to the need for fully utilising the existing organisation in the work of house-to-house visitation, so that all cases of dangerous distress may be searched out

and relieved. Since that date I have seen the Madras Government orders of the — February on the same subject. I have also visited the ceded districts, Cuddapah, North Arcot, and part of Kurnool, with the view of ascertaining how far systematic house-to-house visitation is being carried out, and how far the village headmen discharge the duty of searching out and bringing up every case of dangerous distress. House-to-house visitation.

2. The orders of the Madras Government on this subject have, I believe, reached the village headmen; and Government officers, European and Native, are doing something in this direction. Still the fact remains that, up to the present time, the village headmen have brought forward only a very few cases of persons (in the many taluks I visited there were hardly a score of such cases altogether) who were in extreme need of relief. At the same time, in many of the relief labour gangs I found, side by side with hundreds or thousands of people not as yet in absolute need, a few persons in very poor physical condition, an inquiry into whose cases showed that they were the only bread-winners for whole families of infirm people. There is risk that the weaker members of families in such straits must sooner or later die, unless they are brought upon charitable relief. And there is always the fear that, if cases of this kind come to light, more (possibly worse) cases of the same kind remain undiscovered. And all this may occur side by side and simultaneously with the employment of great gangs of relief labourers whose numbers perhaps exceed the real dimensions of distress.

3. During my visits I have always drawn the attention of the relief officers in charge to the dangerous nature of such cases. And I have explained that the admission of thousands of comparatively well-to-do people to relief gangs without discrimination cannot relieve the few scores of really needy people who may be at home in their villages.

4. I would recommend that the existing orders of the Madras Government (which are doubtless excellent so far as they go) be further explained and enforced, and that a written (or printed) notice of his duties and responsibilities be sent to every village headman in the more distressed districts, that a written acknowledgment be obtained from him, and that a report be demanded of him of his having inspected every household in his village, and of his either having done the needful if he found any person in dangerous straits, or of his having found none such. The intentions of Government will then become really known, and supervising officers of all ranks will be able to enforce the real and careful discharge of their duties by the village officers. It is assumed that they have already been authorised to relieve temporarily any person in this condition at the Government expense. They, therefore, cannot have any motive for concealing the existence of any such case, if it exist. The reports of the village headmen will therefore be evidence of the best kind.

5. With regard to the disposal of necessitous people, when they are brought up to relief officers by the village headmen, I desire to bring to notice that, as yet, no relief camps on the Madras system have been formed in the ceded districts. Instead of the relief camp system, there are a number of relief houses (in one taluk as many as seven), at which out-door relief is given under the supervision of village headmen. It may be necessary hereafter, when the pressure on the people is greater, to have several places in each taluk for the distribution of out-door relief. But at present such relief is not required; it may lead to great peculation and waste, (for instance) such as occurred recently on a large scale at Hindupur in the Bellary district. And I would recommend that, for the present at any rate, the regular relief camp system, such as is enforced at Madras, should be adopted in the ceded dstricts. It is true that a considerable establishment is required, but if Native officers of the army are employed and existing buildings (such as chuttrums) utilised, the cost will not be excessive. And at any rate the expenditure will be less than under the plan of indiscriminate out door relief under village headmen. Every necessitous person brought up by a village headman would be taken to the nearest relief camp, would be tended and fed there, until he or she was able to do some light work.

I suggest that some further orders on the subject of village visitation and the duties of village headmen be issued and carefully enforced at an early date. Systematic house to house inquiry is the necessary complement of an economical relief-work system. Indeed, it is the necessary complement of any relief-work system. Even if 70 per cent. of the population of a severely distressed taluk were on the relief works, I should still fear that some cases of extreme and dangerous distress must be left at home in the villages, unless a house-to-house visitation were maintained in the villages.

7. It is clearly cheaper for the public treasury and better for the people that all real cases of extreme distress should be searched out and relieved, while admission to the relief works is allowed with discrimination, than that all comers should be admitted

indiscriminately to the relief works while extreme cases of dangerous distress are left unrelieved in the villages or on the highways. In the Madras Presidency discrimination is now generally exercised in admitting people to relief works; and I earnestly recommend that no pains be spared to secure the discovery and relief of extreme distress, such as must occur in outlying villages, with increased frequency as the season advances.

No. 133.

No. 126.

From Additional Secretary to the Government of India Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

Calcutta, the 27th February 1877.

No. 77.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 91E.–325, dated 12th February 1877.

The interpretation put upon instructions of Government of India to Sir Richard Temple for the preservation of life.

2. The first seven paragraphs do not appear to the Governor-General in Council to require particular notice. He regrets that his instructions to Sir Richard Temple in respect of the necessity of preventing, to the utmost of our power, the loss of life from starvation, should not have been correctly understood by the Government of Bombay; and he would regret it the more if, as the Government of Bombay appears to think, the misunderstanding arose from some obscurity of expression, or inconsistency in the language which was used. It may, however, be observed that the interpretation placed upon the instructions by Sir Richard Temple to whom they were addressed has been from the first in complete accordance with the intentions of the Government of India; and his Excellency in Council fails to perceive the obscurity by which the Government of Bombay thinks that it has been misled. These, however, are matters of little practical importance, and as the Governor-General in Council has never attached any blame to the Government of Bombay for the misapprehension which has arisen, it is needless to continue what would be a merely verbal discussion.

As to dealing with those who refuse to work on reduced wage.

3. The 8th and 9th paragraphs of your letter refer to a more important and practical question. It appears that the Government of Bombay has most wisely determined to take active measures for carrying out the decision that relief shall be given to those persons only who require it; that certain reductions in the amount of relief wages have been made, and orders regarding the exaction of moderate tasks on relief works have been issued. The result has been a strike among the labourers, who, it is presumed, prefer to obtain good wages for doing little or nothing, to obtaining reduced wages and having real work to perform. Large numbers of people have left the works; "they "appear to be acting in bodies, and in concert, and the fear is that before the majority, "who are comparatively strong, are brought to reason, some of the weakly will be "reduced to a condition of great prostration. They wander about and may die out of "reach of assistance."

4. The Government of Bombay wishes to know what, in the opinion of this Government, ought to be done under these circumstances, and it is understood that while the determination is being strictly adhered to that the orders which were given shall be enforced, measures are at the same time being taken to carry out the injunction that "no "one shall die of starvation if it be in the power of the Government to prevent it."

5. You have already been informed by telegraph that the action of the Government of Bombay is entirely approved by the Governor-General in Council. The Government of Bombay may confidently rely on the support of the Government of India in its refusal to yield to the demands that have been made, and in its determination to introduce a more satisfactory system. At the same time the change must be carried out with care and caution, and his Excellency in Council has no doubt that this is being done. The most efficient measures that are practicable should be taken to guard against the danger pointed out in your letter, and to give relief in each individual case in which it is necessary. When a man is obviously in danger of dying from starvation, it is evident that we cannot refuse to save him because he has been misled into joining a strike, or has neglected to comply with certain orders or conditions. If, however, after all practicable efforts have been made, the case anticipated as possible by the Government of Bombay should occur, and some of the more weakly should "wander about and die out of reach "of assistance," the misfortune will be much regretted, but it will throw no discredit on the Government or its officers. In carrying out the humane policy which has been adopted, the Government does not pretend that it can guard against every one of the numerous risks to life which arise in time of famine, or that it can save every one from the consequences of his own ignorance or folly.

No. 127.

Nos. 131, 221.

No. 12,053G.-239, dated Bangalore, 27th February 1877.

ORDER by the CHIEF COMMISSIONER of Mysore.

Order.—The Commissioner of the Nundydroog division reports* that the people of the Hindupur and Madaksira taluks in the Bellary district are entering the Maddagiri taluk of the Túmkúr district in large numbers to seek relief on works and at kitchens, alleging that the works on the other side of the frontier have been stopped, and the gratuitous distribution of food curtailed.

* No. 103. Measures to prevent people leaving Bellary district for Mysore.

2. The Chief Commissioner apprehends that this influx is the immediate effect of the measures recently taken in the Madras districts to diminish the scale of wages and to economise expenditure on gratuitous relief.

3. Mr. Saunders has no reason to believe but that the provision made by the Madras authorities for the subsistence of their poor is fully adequate, and that the immigration is due to the expectation of these people that they will obtain more liberal treatment on this side.

4. To obviate this the Chief Commissioner has directed that the scale of daily-wage rates on special relief works shall be assimilated to that previously prescribed by the Madras Government, and that all able-bodied persons shall be relegated to the works proceeding under the officers of the Public Works Department. It will be necessary that the district officers and others in charge of relief operations, while abstaining from any such measure as rejecting distressed persons from our relief works, should see that the orders above adverted to are strictly carried out.

5. As regards individuals of the class referred to, who are in a starving condition, the needful help must be afforded at the relief kitchens, and efforts should be made to send them back to their homes.

6. The Deputy Commissioners of the border districts should, as a matter of statistics, have the numbers of foreign labourers and recipients of gratuitous relief registered and separately returned in the weekly statements to be hereafter submitted by Amildars.

Ordered—That a copy of these proceedings be communicated to the Government of Madras.

No. 128.

No. 147.

XLVIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE about drafting off relief labourers from the neighbouring districts to the East Coast Navigation Canal.

Nellore, 28th February 1877.

Having visited the East Coast Canal at Kurotoor, on the seaside opposite Nellore, in company with Mr. Sharp, the Acting Collector, and Mr. O'Shaughnessy, District Engineer, and having inspected 8,000 labourers now employed on the works, I desire to record the following remarks:—

East Coast Navigation Canal.

2. This excellent navigation canal, passing through the whole length of the Nellore district, connects the delta of the Kistna River with Madras, and opens out a large field for inland trade between the presidency and some of the richest agricultural districts of the interior.

3. Before the present scarcity commenced this canal was open from Madras to Kistnapatam, at the mouth of the Kundalairoo River in the Nellore district, a distance of 95 miles. Above Kistnapatam northwards, in the direction of the Kistna district, a distance of 105 miles, some work was in progress. Since the commencement of the scarcity this work has been vigorously prosecuted over the whole of this above length of 105 miles. Some 30,000 persons of both sexes are now employed. Of these, some are professional labourers, regularly employed before the commencement of the scarcity; others have been drafted on to the canal from the district relief works of Nellore; others again have been sent as relief labourers from the ceded districts and Kurnool. Mr. O'Shaughnessy informs me that he can with advantage employ 90,000 able-bodied persons of both sexes; if he shall obtain this full number, he can excavate the canal completely up to its terminus at the Kistna by July next; the work consisting of earth excavation, the very work best suited for relief labour. He has now, as just seen, only 30,000 labourers, leaving 60,000 to be yet made up out of the 90,000 full complement required. He has professional supervision available; he has an established task-work system;

Employs 30,000 persons;

and could employ 60,000 more,

East Coast Navigation Canal.

and everything that can be needed in the way of sheds, huts, hospital accommodation, and the like. The situation is remarkably salubrious, being on the very margin of the sea, and there is good fresh water close to the surface.

4. It seems to me that here is the fairest possible opportunity for employing relief labour from the Nellore district, and from the neighbouring districts, in a proper and regular manner. But the month of February is over, and only one-third of the desired complement of labourers has been made up. It seems to me that strenuous efforts ought to be immediately made for making up that complement to its full strength.

5. The Government of Madras have, as I understand, issued repeated injunctions to the district officers to send relief labourers to this canal. This is, I know, an object which the Government have much at heart. Indeed, if the canal be not now excavated as a relief work, while money for this purpose is available, there will be financial difficulty hereafter in finding money for it. This is another reason for not allowing the present opportunity to slip away.

6. In the Nellore district itself, comparatively near to the canal, there are upwards of 50,000 persons working on relief labour on district roads and other petty works. Of these many are unfit for regular task-work on the canal, but many, on the other hand, are quite fit. Surely these latter might be drafted off at once from the district works to the canal. The Collector of Nellore appears to have understood at first that only persons from the ceded districts were to be employed on the canal, so he did not take any particular steps to send people there. He, however, has recently issued orders that all the able-bodied persons on his relief works shall be drafted on to the canal, and about 1,000 have been so sent. The process of drafting and despatching these people seem to be tardy at first. Doubtless the people are unwilling to go; the attractions of relief works close at their own doors prove so great, and the Native officials are apt to be too yielding in such a case. That is all the greater reason why efforts should be made by the European officers to ensure the people being promptly sent; when, on being ordered to go to the canal they attempt to strike, as I see they are attempting in some places, then firmness and patience will be needed.

The Collector informs me that he expects to gather together 20,000 able-bodied persons of both sexes from among his relief gangs, which certainly are able to furnish that number for the canal. He probably will not be able to do more; if he succeed in effecting even as much as this, we may be content to accept that result. At all events he would do well to expedite the matter with all his might, looking to its importance in so many ways. And this he informs me that he is doing. Indeed steps are, as I see, being taken. But on the assumption that he does manage to send 20,000 persons, that number added to the already existing 30,000 would make up only 50,000; leaving 40,000 to be made up out of the required complement of 90,000.

7. It is therefore clear that 40,000 able-bodied persons ought to be sent from the ceded districts and Kurnool as soon as possible, in accordance with the policy already laid down by the Madras Government. As yet the numbers sent from those districts have been very small. The reason, as I understand, is this, that volunteers only have been called for from the relief gangs in those districts, and so long as the men can get easy work at their own doors (as they actually can) they will not volunteer to go to a distant district for harder work. But the proper plan would be for the relief officers to select persons, able-bodied and otherwise fitted, from every relief gang, to be ordered to proceed to the canal with an intimation that they will be turned off relief works in the event of their refusing to go. Having recently inspected so many of those gangs, I can affirm that there are many thousands of persons thus qualified who can go to the canal, and will go, if cautioned by the fear of dismissal in event of refusing, but not otherwise. The public interests seem to demand that a trial should be made in this direction; some 15,000 might thus be called for from the Bellary district, and some 15,000 from Kurnool, the necessary 10,000 (to make up the 40,000) could be called for from Cuddapah and North Arcot.

No. 147.

No. 129.

No. 64, dated Hyderabad, 1st March 1877.

From the First Assistant Resident, Hyderabad, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 114.

I am directed to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, copy of a letter addressed by order of the Resident to the Honourable Sir Richard Temple's Secretary with reference to a minute recorded by his Honour on the subject of the retention of his Highness the Nizam's subjects on relief

works within the Hyderabad territory during the present famine in some of his Highness' frontier districts and those of the Madras Presidency adjoining them. Relief measures in Hyderabad.

2. Sir Richard Meade had hoped ere this to have laid before Government a full report of the state of the Hyderabad districts which are affected by the famine and the arrangements made in them for the relief of the people, but he has found it impossible to get as yet from his Highness' Government the full statistical and other information required for its preparation, though such was promised some weeks ago.

3. The Resident has, however, been in constant communication with the Minister on the general question of the famine in his Highness' territory, and has no reason to doubt that the measures taken by the Government to meet the requirements of the calamity have been judicious and well-considered and suited to the condition of the people and the necessities of the occasion; and this being the case, he has thought it unadvisable to press the Minister for the prompt submission of information that would probably take some time to collect and prepare.

4. At an interview between the Minister and Sir Richard Meade yesterday, however, the former stated that the required information was now nearly complete and should be forwarded immediately.

No. 130.

Nos. 160. 213.

No. 32, dated Camp Chingleput, 1st March 1877.

From the Collector of Chingleput District to the Secretary to Sir Richard Temple.

In the evening papers of the 22nd ultimo I observed the following passage in an extract from a report of the Government of India to the India Office, dated the 16th idem:— Land revenue remissions.

"We do not overlook the statement which appears to have been made to Sir Richard Temple by the Collector of Chingleput, and to which we have already alluded, that much of the arrears due on the dry crop lands may be realised next year if the seasons are favourable."

I made no such statement to Sir Richard Temple, and I am unable to conjecture on what words of mine his misapprehension, for such it is, was based. The idea of suspending collections of dry assessment till next year was never entertained by me, and I have already strongly recommended to the Board the absolute *remission* this season of all assessment for dry lands, left waste, or on which the crops have withered.

No. 131.

Nos. 142. 221.

No. 767, dated Fort St. George, 1st March 1877.

From the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

I am directed by his Grace the Governor in Council to acknowledge receipt of your reply dated 15th* to my letter of 10th February, No. 508,† and to observe that it seems more essential to consider how the large numbers of Mysore folk now in this presidency shall be kept from starvation than to discuss conjectural causes which may have led to their increase by some few thousands, whether laxity on the part of any particular officer on some portion of an extended frontier, or the desire of the people themselves to evade the pressure of the Mysore revenue officials, or to escape the pangs of hunger in the prevailing scarcity. Mysore labourers in British territory.

* No. 91.

† No. 69.

The fact remains that there are at the present time in this presidency a very large number of Mysore labourers dependent on others for means of livelihood.

2. Of those in the Wynad a large proportion are doubtless the ordinary plantation labour supply of the year, but the demand for these was less and ceased earlier than usual owing to the season, while a large and extraordinary number of men, women, and children have flocked into the district in the hopes of finding a demand for labour which does not exist, and a similar influx has taken place at various other points on the frontier.

3. That many of those in the Wynad are in distress is testified from personal observation by Colonel Kennedy, the experienced District Engineer, writing on 30th January.

4. That some at least of those who found their way to relief houses in the Bellary district were in sore need is shown by the annexed extracts from reports by the Acting Head Assistant Collector.

5. This Government are determined that, so far as in them lies, loss of life from starvation shall be prevented in the territory under their administration, and have therefore directed that all in destitution shall be relieved alike. But though this will provide

Mysore Government should contribute to their maintenance.

for immediate need, the continued maintenance of people from other territory is a different matter. This Government ought not to bear the charge, and the Governor in Council considers that there should be no difficulty in the Mysore Government, administered by British officers directly under the Supreme Government, consenting to contribute towards the maintenance of its famine-stricken subjects, although in British territory. The measure would be advantageous both to the people and to the State, and would be no more than equitable, for though Madras in ordinary times benefits by the supply of labour to the Wynad, Mysore benefits also by the employment of large numbers of her population, and by their savings which they annually take back with them.

6. His Grace the Governor in Council still hopes that this system of contribution may be arranged, for the constant and unregulated movement hither and thither of large masses of people already weakened by insufficient or inferior food, in times of scarcity and of great sickness, is highly undesirable, and cannot but entail much additional suffering as well as increased risk of spreading disease.

7. I am directed to ask your early consideration of this important matter, as well as a reply to the request of this Government in my former letter, that an officer may be deputed from Mysore to supervise the return of the people to their own country.

8. I am, in conclusion, to point out that it is very desirable that important notices such as those alluded to in the letter under reply should be communicated to this Government direct. The notice of relief works established in Mysore seems to have been sent to a private association in the Wynad and to the Commissioner of the Nilgiris, but it was not sent to this Government, nor to the Collectors of Malabar (which includes the Wynad), of Bellary, Cuddapah, or other distrcits bordering on Mysore.

No. 181.

No. 132.

LX.—Note by Captain W. S. S. Bisset, R.E., on the probabilities of landing Grain at Negapatam, and delivering it at Erode Junction for Conveyance to Bangalore.

Bangalore, 2nd March 1877.

Negapatam port.

At Negapatam cargo is unloaded, not on the beach as at Madras, but at a quay on the banks of a river, at the entrance to which there is a bar, which for two hours out of six is impassable to the heavy boats in ordinary use. The quay, or river bank, where goods are ordinarily landed, is within 400 yards of the railway station. From the difficulties at the bar, and from the distance at which the ships lie, the boats which draw three feet of water with their ordinary load of four tons are prevented from making more than one trip a day, but they occasionally accomplish two trips a day from steamers, which lie nearer the shore than ships, and also from grain ships, to which the boatmen appear partial.

2. Although there are 90 boats on the license register, many are at present out of repair, some seriously so; and there are only 53 of them available for work. The Master Attendant has power to withdraw the license from any boat not kept in repair, and he hopes that the knowledge of this power, and the prospect of regular work, may induce the owners to put more boats in working order; but he does not think it likely that many boats from the neighbouring ports will come in to supplement the numbers, even if good prospects of regular work were held out.

3. Allowing for some increase in the number of boats, and for increased delivery from steamers, it appears safe to reckon on landing at Negapatam 300 tons a day of grain and general cargo.

4. During the month of March there are expected to arrive at Negapatam, (1) three ships (already overdue), with a total load of 2,600 tons of stores for the South Indian Railway; (2) forty Native craft with rice from Akyab; and also (3) the weekly steamers of the British India Company, which are now bringing grain from Negapatam. If the delivery by these Native craft is taken, as I am told it may be taken, at 8,000 tons, and by the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamers at 1,000 tons by the four steamers during the month, there will be ample work for all the boats available, and there will be every inducement for more to get ready for work, by the latter part of the month.

5. The following particulars learnt at Negapatam may be interesting:—

A ship with a cargo of 1,700 tons of coal has been 46 days unloading; another ship with 1,300 tons on board has just discharged her cargo in 28 days.

When steamers call with cargo from Negapatam, the boats leave the ships and Native craft, and concentrate all their energies on the steamer's cargo, frequently making two trips a day in place of their ordinary single trip.

6. The boats would be able to do more work but for the detention caused by the bar; whether any temporary improvement in the channel could be effected or not is a point on which, without special experience of works on the Madras coast, I would not venture an opinion. If, however, it is desired to work a large traffic at Negapatam, this way of increasing the landing power of the boats will doubtless be considered along with others. Negapatam port.

7. If now it is assumed that the special aid given to the conveyance of grain from Negapatam to Bangalore will change the natural current of trade, which at present flows from Negapatam and the Tanjore district towards Madura and the south, it remains to consider what amount of traffic can be worked over the two portions of the South Indian Railway, viz., the narrow-gauge line from Negapatam to Trichinopoly and the broad-gauge line from Trichinopoly (after transhipment to Erode). It is confidently stated by the Agent and officers of the South Indian Railway that there are sufficient narrow-gauge engines and rolling-stock to work from Negapatam to Trichinopoly all the grain which the broad-gauge railway stock can work away; and as the whole of the existing traffic is conveyed by day trains, it is evident that many more trains can, if necessary, be worked over the line. Any restrictions imposed by Government on working trains over an unfenced line at night will probably be withdrawn in view of the necessities of the country, and moreover, these restrictions do not affect directly the train service between Negapatam and Trichinopoly, where the line is fenced.

8. Up to Trichinopoly there need be no limit stated, but at this point the break of gauge necessitates transhipment. The Traffic Manager, in whose department this work lies, is of opinion that, with the present transhipment accommodation, he cannot undertake to tranship more than 30 waggons, or about 190 tons, a day, in each direction; and although I am surprised at the moderate estimate of the work considered practicable with the existing accommodation, it is possible that the less active habits and the smaller physical powers of the loading coolies at Trichinopoly present difficulties which I am not accustomed to consider. The Traffic Manager considers an additional transhipment platform necessary, and with this, which it is possible to provide within a fortnight, he is prepared to work up to the powers of the broad-gauge engines and rolling stock.

9. Next to the landing powers at Negapatam, the capacity of the broad-gauge section of the South Indian Railway fixes the limit to the traffic from Negapatam to Bangalore. There are altogether ten broad-gauge engines, suitable when in good repair for running trains; but of these five are now undergoing heavy repair. In ten days' time (say the 10th March) one engine of the five now running must go in for repairs, and it will be replaced by a larger one of which the repairs are nearly completed.

After an interval of about three weeks another engine will be turned out after repairs, and another after a similar interval.

The Locomotive Superintendent, with these prospects, considers himself in a position to carry after the 10th March—40 grain waggons a day, or 250 tons, and after 1st April 60 grain waggons a day, or 375 tons, to Erode.

10. The engine-power being sufficient for the probable landing powers at the port of Negapatam, even after allowing for a large increase, it remains to consider the sufficiency of the waggon stock. The stock of about 200 waggons of all sorts, including ballast waggons, would be enough to work about 60 waggons a day between Trichinopoly and Erode; but the through-booked grain will most advantageously and most expeditiously be carried on to Bangalore in the same waggons, and the waggon stock of the South Indian Railway Company will not suffice for this purpose.

11. To work to the best advantage, a system of waggon interchange not now in force would have to be established at Erode Junction; *i. e.*, for every loaded waggon sent off from the South Indian Railway, an empty waggon should, if required, be made over by the Madras Railway Company. In this way the stock of both lines may be worked with more effective results than is otherwise possible. And this joint service will not occupy the waggon stock of either railway longer than is proper to the respective distances on each line.

12. But the distance from Erode to Bangalore is so little shorter than that from Madras to Bangalore, that little, if any, advantage of economy of the engine-power and rolling stock of the Madras Railway can be claimed for this route. And although from the recently increased number of engines, and from more regular working, an increased delivery of grain may confidently be expected from Madras, it does not seem likely that the Madras-Arconum line will for some time yet be overworked, or that the engines can be more profitably employed elsewhere.

13. But with regard to the possibilities of working traffic from Negapatam to Bangalore, I am of opinion that, making allowances for all the difficulties in the way of working

Negapatam port.

a large traffic *viâ* Negapatam, it is possible, by bringing into use the power of the South of India Railway, and by an expenditure of the power of the Madras Railway equal to, or perhaps a little less than is required to work the same traffic from Madras, to carry from Negapatam to Bangalore about 200 tons of grain a day during March, and up to 300 tons a day in April and subsequent months, if more landing power can be provided at Negapatam, and that along with a disturbance of the natural current of trade from Negapatam to Madura and the south there are some incidental advantages in drawing, even at present, a portion of the food supply of Bangalore from Negapatam.

But I consider that until the Madras-Arconum section of the Madras Railway is worked so as to feed to the fullest extent of its powers all the portions of the north-west and south-west lines, which are with the least expenditure of carrying power supplied from Madras, there is no material advantage to be gained by the use of the Negapatam route.

14. But as changes in trade routes cannot be made suddenly, it is worth while noting that, if traders begin now to arrange for consignments *viâ* Negapatam, their consignments may be expected to arrive there about April, or just at the time when the greatest strain on the Madras-Arconum section is likely to occur, and when it is to be hoped that this section will be worked to its full power. And it is further to be considered that, before the end of the month of May, the Beypore traffic will probably be stopped by the monsoon, and that the Negapatam traffic, which will be practicable all through the rainy season, will then become of great importance to the country.

No. 222.

No. 133.

No. 13 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, the 2nd March 1877.

We proceed to lay before you a summary of the matters which have engaged our attention in connexion with the famine in Southern and Western India during the past week.

The proposed line, Bellary to Kárwár.

2. In our last Despatch we informed your Lordship that, on the recommendation of Sir Richard Temple, concurred in by the Government of Madras, we had sanctioned the commencement of the earth-works of a railway from Bellary to Hubli in the Bombay district of Dhárwár, which forms a section of a line projected some years ago to connect the Madras Railway at Bellary with the port of Kárwár in North Kanara. The commencement of this line as a relief work was recommended by the Government of Madras at an early stage of the famine in that presidency; but we declined to sanction it on grounds similar to those which influenced us in refusing our assent to the commencement of the Dhond and Munmar Railway when first proposed by the Government of Bombay, viz., that we did not consider it expedient to sanction large and expensive works, the ultimate cost of which would greatly exceed the expense involved for providing labour for the distressed poor. At the time at which the proposal was made, the 27th October, it was not too late to look for rain from the north-east monsoon, which would have materially altered the aspect of affairs in Madras.

3. More recently the Bombay Government, in their letter of the 23rd January, enclosed in our Despatch of the 9th ultimo, recommended the line as one which would afford a useful relief work to their southern districts as well as to the Madras district of Bellary. The principal questions connected with the line are discussed in Sir Richard Temple's minute* of the 16th ultimo, and in the memorandum* annexed to it. The entire length of the line from Bellary to Kárwár is 236 miles. It would pass through the cotton-growing tracts of Bellary, Dhárwár, and North Kanara. It would also serve a great part of the Belgaum district and the southern talukas of Kaládgi. The average cost of the line is estimated at about 7,000*l.* a mile, or somewhat more than a million and a half for the whole line. The estimated cost of that portion of the work which could be done by unskilled labour is Rs. 16,06,000, but it is stated that a proportion of the labourers on the relief works in Bellary and in Dhárwár are of the Wuddah tribe, whose ordinary employment is working in stone; that considerable gangs of stone-workers could be found in the ceded districts and in Dhárwár; that there is a large quantity of stone-work to be done at the Tungabhadra bridge, and heavy cuttings in rock, laterite, and gravel. The estimated cost of the stone-work at the ordinary rates is Rs. 3,62,000. The estimated cost of the work which could be done by relief labour during the present

* Enclosures in our Despatch of 23rd February 1877. (Nos. 74 and 93 in this Collection.)

season is, at the estimated rates in ordinary years, Rs. 14,60,000, and allowing for the expensiveness of relief labour, Rs. 19,000,000 is the sum which would be diverted to this work from comparatively unremunerative works.

4. It is doubtful, however, whether during the present season it would be possible to organise large relief gangs and transport them into Kanara in time to make any serious impression on the heavy cuttings of the Ghât section of the line. The traffic is estimated to yield about four per cent. on the capital. As your Lordship is aware, the Secretary of State in 1873 declined to sanction the line, entertaining doubts as to whether the export of cotton from India, on which the line would depend for two-fifths of its whole traffic, would be maintained. Sir Richard Temple was not in favour of undertaking the line as a whole, on the ground that other lines were politically and generally more important than the Bellary and Kárwár line, and that there seemed to be much doubt as to the capabilities and the need for future expenditure on the Kárwár harbour; but inasmuch as useful work was wanted for 350,000 labourers in Bellary, and that there would soon be no useful work left for them to do, he recommended that they should be employed in constructing the earth-work on the section from Bellary to Hubli, which is the cheaper and easier section of the line, and which, according to an opinion expressed to him by the Bellary cotton-dealers, would bring a great deal of cotton traffic upon the Madras and Great Indian Peninsula Guaranteed Railways.

5. Sir Richard Temple had already satisfied himself that there was no other work of magnitude in or near the Bellary district which could be organised for the relief of distress. The only other one which had been suggested was a high level canal from the Tungabhadra, projected some years ago, which, if practicable, would unquestionably be a most valuable work, bringing under irrigation a very considerable tract of land in the Bellary district; but the cost of the work would be very considerable, involving the construction of a costly reservoir in Mysore; and he had not been able to satisfy himself that this was a project which ought to be undertaken.

6. In these circumstances we thought it right, as stated in our Despatch of last week, to sanction the earth-work of the Railway from Bellary to Hubli as a relief work, on the understanding that the Government of India are not pledged to the ultimate completion of the line.

To facilitate grain traffic the line fror Ambatur tc Arconum tc be doubled.

7. With your Lordship's permission, sanction has been accorded to doubling the line from Ambatur, near Madras, to Arconum on the Madras Railway. Arconum is the point at which the north-western branch of the Madras Railway leaves the main line, and consequently up to this point the railway, with its single line of rails, has had to carry the traffic, not only of the western districts, which are traversed by the main line, but that of the two branches to Bangalore and to Raichore, where the Madras line and the Great Indian Peninsula join. It is to be hoped that the doubling of the line to Arconum will greatly diminish the difficulties now experienced in carrying into the interior the large stores of grain which have been recently imported into Madras.

And throug rate for grain from Negapatam to Bangalo to be equalised.

8. Another step which has been taken with the same object, is the equalisation of the through rate for grain from the port of Negapatam in Tanjore to Bangalore, and the suspension of port dues at Negapatam in the case of vessels importing grain equal to a quarter of their whole cargo. A telegram from the Madras Government, dated the 23rd ultimo,* notifying these measures, which has been communicated to the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, and published in the Calcutta newspapers, is enclosed. As the freights from Calcutta to Negapatam are the same as from Calcutta to Madras, it may be expected that these measures will lead to some of the grain from Calcutta, Burma, &c., which in the ordinary course would be sent to Madras, being shipped to Negapatam, whence it will find its way by the Great Southern of India Railway to Bangalore, and also probably to the distressed districts in the south of the Madras Presidency.

* No. 116.

9. From a telegram addressed to us by Sir Richard Temple on the 24th ultimo,† we were gratified to learn that he had "received favourable accounts of coming spring crops from wells in most parts of the Cuddapah district which mitigate anxiety." We have since received the following telegram from Mr. Bernard, dated from Madras, yesterday, containing Sir Richard Temple's weekly bulletin:—

† No. 118

Sir Richard Temple is visiting Nellore. He sends following for mail: "favourable points, same as per last bulletin, regarding activity, internal trade, food supply, condition of people, and energy of Government officers. Price of millet cheaper in Bellary, whither large importations continue from north. Railway despatches of rice from Madras are short, and accumulation of stocks there great. Good deal grain coming from Beypore. Further arrangement for strengthening railway at Madras proposed. Doubling line to Arconum progressing. Ten more miles double line will shortly open. Numbers on works reduced in all districts, except Nellore and Salem, which Sir Richard will now visit. Spring crops irrigated from wells and river channels in Cuddapah, North Arcot,

and some other places surpassing expectation; will yield food for those neighbourhoods for two months. Tinnevelly district doing very well; large saving on estimated expenditure will accrue there."

The intelligence contained in this telegram is on the whole satisfactory.

Correspondence with Governor of Bombay as to reservation of life.

10. We enclose for your Lordship's information a further correspondence* which has passed with the Government of Bombay regarding that part of our instructions to Sir Richard Temple in which we endeavoured to define the duty of the Government in times of famine. A strike having recently occurred among the labourers on the relief works at Sholapur, owing to a reduction in the rate of wages, the Government of Bombay inquired what course they were to take in the event of the strike continuing; in which case they apprehended that, before the majority who were comparatively strong were brought to reason, some of the weakly might be reduced to a condition of great prostration and might die out of reach of assistance. We had previously, as stated in our Despatch of the 16th ultimo, paragraph 8, been in correspondence with the Government of Bombay by telegraph regarding the strike, and had expressed our concurrence in their opinion that it would be very mischievous to yield to a strike on relief works attributable to combination, and that relief wages would not be raised if the Government of Bombay were satisfied that the rates were sufficient. In replying to their subsequent representation, we observed that, while we were fully prepared to support the Government of Bombay in its refusal to yield to the demands which had been made, the most efficient measures that were practicable should be taken to guard against the danger which they pointed out, and to give relief in each individual case in which it was necessary. We remarked that when a man was obviously in danger of dying from starvation no efforts should be spared to save him, although he may have been misled into joining a strike; but that if after all such efforts had been made, the case anticipated, as possible, by the Government of Bombay should occur, and persons to whom no relief could be given should die out of reach of assistance, the misfortune will be much regretted, but it will throw no discredit on the Government or its officers. It is obviously impossible for the Government, in carrying out its humane policy, to guard against every one of the numerous risks to life which arise in time of famine, or to save every one from the consequences of his own ignorance or folly. We trust that there will be no further misapprehension as to the precise meaning of our instructions on this point.

Nos. 77. 26.

As to dealing with strike among labourers.

Five lakhs of rupees advanced to municipalities.

11. We have sanctioned a special grant of five lakhs of rupees to enable the Government of Bombay to make advances to municipalities and local fund committees, who being in a position to carry out relief works, consent to pledge their revenues as security for advances made to meet the present emergency.

Sir Richard Temple's suggestions anticipated by Bombay Government.

12. The Government of Bombay have drawn our attention to a passage in our Despatch to your Lordship's address under date the 9th February, which does not sufficiently describe the extent to which Sir Richard Temple's suggestions has been anticipated by the Local Government. We said, in the 5th paragraph† of the Despatch in question, that the Government of Bombay had anticipated the most important of the suggestions made by Sir Richard Temple, viz., the reduction of grain wages. We ought to have framed our remark in terms of more general application; for, as the Government of Bombay observe, the suggestions made by Sir Richard Temple had been anticipated, not only as regards reduction of wages, but also as regards the rejection of persons not really in need of relief, and in reference to a more rigid exaction of task work. In the same letter, a copy of which has been sent to your Lordship by the Local Government, referring to a remark made by us in the same Despatch, that we were not then aware whether anything had been done in either presidency, in the direction of closing small works, the Government of Bombay state that as soon as they had been put in a position to do so, by receiving sanction for the prosecution of large works, they proceeded with all practicable expedition to close as many as possible of the small and more scattered works that had previously been in progress, and over which a proper control could not be effectually maintained. We have noticed, that since the beginning of January, when the restrictions on large works were removed, the Government of Bombay have sanctioned provisionally a very considerable number of small works; but we feel sure that when they accorded these sanctions, the Government of Bombay had satisfied themselves as to their necessity, and we entertain no doubt whatever as to the earnestness of the efforts which that Government is making to prevent all needless expenditure. The last weekly return shows that the number of persons employed on relief labour under Civil Agency, most of whom probably were on small works, had diminished from 136,629 on the 13th January to 63,659 on the 10th February.

† Page 77.

No. 22.

Numbers employed in Bombay and Madras.

13. According to the latest return the number employed upon the relief works in the nine distressed districts of Bombay was 248,902 against 238,219, the number for the previous week. In Ratnagiri and Kanara, where hill-men and immigrants are employed

upon relief works, there was a decrease of 3,785. There was thus a net increase of 6,808 in the number of famine labourers in Bombay, which seems to be principally attributable to the gradual cessation of the strike, already alluded to, in the Sholapur district. In Madras there has been a considerable further diminution in the number of relief labourers. The number stated in our last Despatch was 767,281, which has fallen to 713,921.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 134. No. 147.

Telegram, dated 3rd March 1877.

From Sir R. Temple, Arconum, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta.

Have returned from Nellore after a hard journey. Found numbers on relief not at all excessive compared to failure of crops. Saw signs of distress in western part of district. Was much pleased with East Coast Canal. Have recommended that 40,000 relief labourers be sent there from ceded districts and Kurnool. Have also suggested commencement of earth-work by relief labour on Sangum irrigation project from Pennair River near Nellore. Shall next proceed to Salem and Coimbatore. Nellore district.

No. 135. No. 170.

LI.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple on the advisability of commencing the earth-work of the "Sungum" project in the Nellore District.

Arconum, 3rd March 1877.

During my recent visit to the Nellore district, I was much struck by the possible advantages of what is known as the "Sungum" project for the employment of relief labour. Sungum irrigation project.

2. This project has, as I learnt, been professionally framed; the plans and estimates are ready, and the work could be put in hand at once, whereby many relief labourers now employed on village works could be at once employed under regular professional supervision.

3. The project is an excellent one for using the flood waters of the Pennair river to fill channels which carry the waters to tanks and other reservoirs for irrigation. The head works are situated at a point called "Sungum," near Atmakoor, on the Pennair River, about 30 miles above Aloor. The total cost is estimated at 27 lakhs of rupees (say 270,000*l.*); 94,000 acres would be irrigated, and the net returns in water tax are computed at 2½ lakhs (say 25,000*l.*) annually. The financial prospect is therefore fair enough.

4. Out of the total cost above set down—27 lakhs of rupees—the greater portion consists of earth-work and excavation, namely, 16 lakhs, as will be seen thus,—

	Lakhs.
Tanks and channels - - - -	16
Masonry distributaries - - - -	5
Anicut in Pennair - - - -	6
Total -	27

5. Now, subject to correction, I understand from the District Engineer (with whom I had the advantage of travelling while in the Nellore district) that the earth-work, that is, the channels and tanks, might at once be undertaken by relief labour within the cost of 16 lakhs, which work would be useful so far as it goes, without the whole of the remaining expenditure, namely, 6 lakhs for anicuts and 5 lakhs for masonry distributaries, being necessarily undertaken. These works will, of course, be wanted for the complete project; but the project might be executed without them, and though in some degree incomplete, it might be useful without them. In this limited sense I learn that only 3 lakhs worth of masonry channels would be absolutely necessary. If executed in this manner, that is,—

with - -	16 lakhs,	earth-work.
„ - -	3 „	masonry distributaries.
Total -	19	

the project might yield net $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs annually in revenue returns. It would employ 200,000 persons for four months.

6. Considering the large numbers that are being employed on comparatively unproductive district and village works, I think it is a pity that relief labour cannot be employed on the earth-work of this really useful and well-considered project.

7. I bear in mind that all available labour is wanted for the East Coast Canal, which is also in the Nellore District, as is shown in my minute of the 28th ultimo on the subject. But there is much difficulty in inducing the relief labourers to go there. And it is possible that thousands of persons who would not go to the East Coast Canal would be willing enough to work on this Sungum project, which is favourably situated as regards their homes. And some thousands of relief labourers might be sent from the ceded districts and Kurnool.

8. It is true that the earth-work for the channels and tanks will not produce a result without the addition at least of 3 lakhs of expenditure for the masonry distributaries, but for this also relief labour would be to some extent available. And something might be contributed from the ordinary irrigation grant of the presidency; of this point, however, the Madras Government would be the judge.

9. At all events, when so much stress is justly laid upon the employment of relief labour upon really good and reproductive projects, it seems proper to ask the notice of the Government of Madras to the merits, in this respect, which the Sungum project in Nellore possesses. If anything is to be attempted, then rapidity in commencing would be essential.

No. 181.

No. 136.

LXI.—Memorandum by Captain W. S. S. Bisset, R.E., on the carriage of Grain for Bangalore, *viâ* Negapatam.

Bangalore, 3rd March 1877.

Grain supply to Mysore *viâ* Negapatam.

I have now visited Negapatam and ascertained by observation and personal inquiry the present and prospective possibilities of landing grain at Negapatam, forwarding it thence to Trichinopoly, transhipping it there to the broad-gauge waggons, delivering it by the South Indian Railway broad-gauge line to Erode on the Madras Railway for conveyance thence to Bangalore.

2. Yesterday, through the courtesy of the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, I had an opportunity of seeing the chief traders here, and of explaining to them the fears that are entertained that the amount of grain required at Bangalore cannot be supplied by the Madras route.

3. I learnt that the merchants were obliged to refuse heavy orders for grain from the interior, and that they could easily sell 100 to 150 tons a day in addition to the present supplies, which have amounted to 330 tons a day in November, 375 tons a day in December and January, and 390 * tons a day up to the 22nd February. I endeavoured to explain the advantages which they could have in drawing from Negapatam as much of their supply as could find carriage by that route, and I informed them that I had just been to Negapatam, and that I had ascertained as follows:—

* These figures are for the Bangalore station only. Kolar and other stations in Mysore on the Bangalore branch takes about 16 per cent. (or say 60 tons a day) on the Bangalore receipts.

1st. That grain sent to Negapatam can be landed easily to the extent of 200 tons a day after allowing for the landing of other general cargo.

2nd. That the boats can take the grain bags direct from the ship to the river bank, which is within 400 yards of the railway station.

3rd. That by the order of his Grace the Governor of Madras, the rates for the carriage of grain from Negapatam to Bangalore have been made the same as the rates from Madras to Bangalore.

4th. That the Agent and officers of the South Indian Railway are prepared † to carry from Negapatam during March 40 waggons or 250 tons, and during April and subsequent months 60 waggons or 375 tons a day, and that they can certainly carry at once 200 tons a day.

† For the free working of this traffic some transhipment arrangements are required and can be readily made if considered necessary.

5th. That fears are entertained that, with equally urgent demands from other distressed districts, the carrying powers of the railway from Madras to Arconum will be unequal to the pressure, and that if additional supplies are required for Bangalore it will be necessary to draw them from another source than Madras.

6th. That grain can be landed at Negapatam throughout May, June, and July, while the western ports will be closed by the burst of monsoon early in May.

4. The authoritative announcement of the reduction of rates had not then, and has not yet, reached the Chief Commissioner, the Railway Station-master or the traders, and my statement on this master was with difficulty accepted. I assured the meeting that the orders had been received at Negapatam on Monday the 26th February, and that they would find on inquiry that my statement was correct. Grain supply to Mysore *viâ* Negapatam.

5. The merchants said they would at once inquire and instruct their agents to send some of their grain *viâ* Negapatam, so that they might get as much as possible by using all routes.

They evidently had misgivings about the supply of waggons at Negapatam and Trichinopoly, and some of them said they had already been getting a few waggons from Negapatam, and that they had actually experienced this difficulty, and that their grain was much delayed in transit. I referred to the assurance given to me by the railway officers, and as regards delay I suggested that a few days' delay on the way was less objectionable than long detention on the Madras beach. Another merchant objected that he could get no *raggi* at Negapatam, and that *raggi* could only be got at Beypore, where it comes down the coast from the north. No answer could be given to this, for, as far as I am aware, *raggi* is not to be bought on the eastern side of India. But I endeavoured to explain that the object of my visit was not to desire them to use Negapatam port to the exclusion of other sources of supply, but to inform them of the means which were at their disposal for drawing supplementary supplies from Negapatam and of the reduction of railway rates, which his Grace the Governor of Madras had been pleased to authorise, in addition to the abolition of port dues at Negapatam on any vessels carrying a fourth part of their cargo in grain.

6. I am permitted to record that the officers of the Mysore Administration * who were present at the meeting concur with me in believing that the Native traders understood the explanations given, and that they intended to take advantage of the facilities offered.

* Major T. Clarke, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner.
Colonel Pearse, Commissioner.
Colonel Puckle, Deputy Commissioner.

7. I conclude by mentioning an incidental advantage which would arise if any considerable supply of dry grain were to be sent from Calcutta or other port to Negapatam. Karur or Caroor, the head-quarters of the taluk of that name in the Coimbatore district, draws about 100 tons of cholum a day from Beypore. If the landing powers at Negapatam were increased, this supply could be taken to Karur in addition to the supply for Bangalore; for the gradients between Trichinopoly and Karur are easy, and those from Karur to Erode heavy. It may be objected that the supply to Bangalore will diminish the supply to Madura; but Madura can be more easily supplied with sea-borne grain from Tuticorin, and there are, as far as I have learnt, no objections to sending grain there.

8. I would suggest further, that a corresponding reduction of rate be granted on grain consigned from Negapatam to Kolar road.

No. 137. No. 170.

LVIII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple on his third visit to the North Arcot District.

Vellore, 5th March 1877.

In continuation of the minutes and memoranda regarding my first and second visits to the district of North Arcot,* I have to record the result of a further visit to that district. I was induced to pay this third visit because my information about the degree of distress in some parts of the district was conflicting, and because in other parts, especially zemindaris, there was reason to fear that distress might become serious. North Arcot district. * Part II. pp. 54–5. No. 48.

2. On this occasion I visited the town of Tripetty, accompanied by the Native officials of the place, where the arrangements made by Veeraswamee Chetty, a Native gentleman, for charitable relief were inspected. Upwards of 1,000 persons were being fed gratuitously, of whom about one-fourth were certainly able to work and were unworthy of this form of relief, one-fourth were perhaps able to work, and the remainder were either destitute and depressed, or else were poor and weakly. The Native donor stated that this charitable work had been going on for many weeks, that the daily number often exceeded 1,200, and had been as high as 2,000, even sometimes 2,500.

3. I then proceeded to Chendragiri, 15 miles distant, to meet the Collector. All the way thither excellent spring crops were met with, watered by irrigation channels from the river Surnamukhi. At Chendragiri, ascending the hill, we saw that these ripening crops extended for miles, also along the other valley through which runs the road to Chittor.

North Arcot District.

At the town of Chendragiri I saw some gangs of relief labourers and some few persons being fed gratuitously—some also when offered a reception at the relief camp at Arcot refused to go. Here were learnt the particulars of the distress undoubtedly prevailing in some 30 villages in that portion of the taluk in the neighbourhood Rungumpet and of the relief works provided there, which appeared to me to be sufficient. Otherwise in the rest of the Chendragiri taluk there is a fine crop on the ground, sufficing for the maintenance of the resident population.

4. Returning to Tripetty, we met the Agent of the Mahant of that well-known and wealthy shrine and the principal person of the place; he affirmed that all the destitute poor of that locality were being cared for. At Ranugunta, near the Tripetty railway station, there is a small relief work open under a European subordinate.

5. I then visited, in company with the Collector, the town of Trittany; saw some gangs of relief labourers and some recipients of charitable relief; heard the statement of the Police Inspector, who thought that there was severe and unrelieved distress in some of the neighbouring villages, and the counter-opinion of the Native Sub-Magistrate, who thought that there could not be such distress, as the relief works which he had opened were not well attended. This latter view was to some extent borne out by the sight of excellent crops on the ground at intervals for many miles round. The Police Inspector did not appear to have regularly reported to the Sub-Magistrate the result of the observations made. It was understood, however, that in future this want of intercommunication would be rectified.

6. I then proceeded to Puthoor, the railway station for Narayana-venum (apparently the same place as that called Nurnaverum in the police reports). There was not any charitable relief being administered, but 1,000 persons of the poorest classes were paraded by the Magistrate for my inspection, on the report of the Native Sub-Magistrate that these persons fairly represented those classes in the town. I picked out 24 persons who, from physical depression or emaciation, seemed fit subjects for inquiry; the Collector expressed his intention of dealing with these cases and of instituting a house-to-house inquiry to see whether any more similar cases could be found. The remainder, that is, the vast majority, were in fair condition, and did not at all complain of distress. Thereabouts also there was a considerable area under good crops. Though there was no relief work at the place, still the works open at or near Tripetty and Trittany would suffice to afford employment to those who might need it.

7. The towns of Narayana-venum and Trittany are the principal places in the Karwetnagar zemindary. The eastern portion in the direction of Madoo Pauk is reported to have suffered much from drought. Otherwise this zemindary has been favoured by the seasons which elsewhere proved so disastrous. Autumnal showers gave it a fair winter crop. Irrigation from wells and from water courses will give it a good spring crop. So far then, this tract has not suffered from drought, and therefore there ought not to be distress among the cultivating peasantry. Still high prices may have caused employment in the fields to be narrowed and restricted (ryots working themselves instead of employing labour), and will have reduced the scanty means of such tribes as Yenadas, Irulas, Korchas, and others who wander about that part of the country. I carefully read the report by Mr. Austin, Sub-Collector, made after his visit. He is an officer of much humane zeal. On inquiry he stated that he could not discover any proof of famine, though there might be some partial distress and some individual misery.

8. I examined the returns of crime presented by the Magistrate. It appeared that towards the end of 1876 crime had been extraordinarily rife, but had since subsided. There do not seem to be any bad symptoms at the present time in this respect.

9. In the local reports previously made to Government I failed to find notice of the fact that for some time past extensive private charity had been dispensed daily at the town of Tripetty.

10. I then visited Kalustri, the head-quarters of the zemindar, who met me there, together with the Sub-Magistrate. The zemindar reported having employed a considerable number of persons on relief works which were just being closed on completion. But the Sub-Magistrate stated that he had received authority from the Collector to open some relief works, which had been opened. Out of 1,200 persons being fed daily by the zemindar, I carefully inspected 600. Many belonged to the Yenade tribe and seemed physically depressed. The worst of them were about to be despatched to the relief camp at Ranipet, near Arcot, by the Collector's direction, in order that they might be better cared for. The zemindar complained much of the drought, which complaint was confirmed by the Sub-Magistrate. My impression is, that the drought has been exceptionally severe in this zemindary.

11. After a few days' interval (for my visit to Nellore) I returned to the North Arcot district, and proceeded to Ranipet, near Arcot, and inspected the relief camp there,

which really was nearly all that could be desired, and was fairly well filled with persons deserving charitable relief. Some gangs of relief labourers were also inspected. Then, passing through the town of Arcot and seeing some relief gangs there, I drove to Arni, where a large number of poor are being fed by the jagirdar, most of whom are deserving, but some are not. A 10 anna crop (that is, a crop somewhat, but not much, below the average) is expected in the jagir. No relief works are open at present; if any are required, the jagirdar is prepared to open them. The spring harvest all round Arni is coming on. I had all the lower classes of the town of Arni, some 2,000 persons, paraded for inspection. They were found to be in good condition. I there met the Deputy Collector (a Muhamadan gentleman) and the tahsildars of the Wandewash and the Poloor taluks. The crop in Wandewash appears by the best evidence to be little below the average, and no relief works are at present proposed there. The crop in Poloor is not quite so good, and relief works are ready to be opened there if need should be apparent.

12. I then proceeded to Vellore by the Kaneimbady pass. I found that the large numbers on the charitable outdoor relief which existed at the time of my previous visit had melted away on the opening of the relief camp. Without doubt there had been some abuses in connexion with this charity. I inspected the relief camp there, which was found to be nearly all that could be desired, and fairly well filled with persons deserving this kind of relief. The arrangements in this camp, as in the Ranipet camp, are creditable to Captain Harris, the Superintendent.

13. At Vellore I met the Sub-Magistrate of the zemindary of Kongonda. He reported much distress in that quarter, which would be met by the relief works which were being opened, and was partly being relieved by the private charity of the zemindar.

14. I then left the district for Coimbatore.

15. During this my third visit the following things seemed to me to be required:—

1st. The converting of the ill-regulated private charities at Tripetty, at Kalustri, at Arni, at Punganur, at Kongonda, and other places into well-regulated relief camps. The private contributions should be studiously maintained, it being so great an object to encourage private charity, but the donors might well be induced to consent to let their contributions be managed by Government officers, so that undeserving applicants may be rejected and only the deserving entertained. Otherwise experience shows that private charity in this country is so apt to mingle the undeserving with the deserving, wherefrom demoralisation ensues. The Collector is arranging to form a relief camp on this principle at a suitable place near Tripetty.

2ndly. The rendering of the relief camps more attractive or rather less repulsive to the poorer classes than they now seem to be. It is indeed an object to render them unattractive comparatively, as an indirect check upon people unduly availing themselves of the charity. But they do not fill so rapidly as might be expected under existing circumstances, and there must be some sort of prejudice arising against them, despite all the carefulness with which they are managed. I incline to attribute this to defective arrangements in respect to the allocation of the people in their several castes. This subject is being considered by the local authorities.

3rdly. The inspection by selected Government officials of every village throughout the several zemindaris existing in this district, namely—

Punganur	Kalustri,
Arni,	Kongonda,
Karvetnagar,	

in order to see whether the house-to-house visitation by the village headmen to search out cases of distress is carried on with the same precision and certainty as in the regular ryotwari villages. I understand that the collector intends to have this done.

4thly. A specially house-to-house visitation in the several towns,—Vellore, Arcot, Tripetty, and others,—not only to search for unrelieved distress among the lowest classes, but also to ascertain whether distressed persons of the better, though broken-down, classes who are too proud to come forward may not receive special relief. This, I believe, the Collector has ordered to be arranged by the several municipalities.

5thly. The arrangement of some light textile work on which the distressed weavers (so numerous in this district) might be employed, the digging and delving on ordinary relief works being unsuited to them. This also the Collector has under consideration.

North Arcot district.

16. I have now at various times visited the following taluks in this district:—

Chittoor, Chendragiri,
Vellore, Wallaja,
Palmanair, Arcot,
Gudathum,

and the following zemindaris:

Punganur, Kalustri,
Karvetnagar, Arni.

The only taluks unvisited are Wandewash and Poloor, and the only zemindary Kongonda, but of all these I have met the Native officials.

17. I find that distress does not threaten the mass of the people; that the numbers on relief works will probably not much exceed the comparatively small number now employed, if only the usual showers of April shall last; that the numbers on charitable relief will probably increase considerably as the season advances; that in the old town, scattered over the district, in the sacred haunts so much frequented by pilgrims and beggars from distant places, and in the jungle tracts fringing the edges of the district, there are classes among whom many cases of individual distress are to be expected; that on the whole the relief measures taken in hand are sufficient to meet that degree of distress which is to be anticipated; that the relief works are of a small description, the number of able-bodied relief labourers not being large enough to justify their congregation upon large works, but if such large works should be wanted, there are many tanks to be repaired; that in some particular places the delay which at one time occurred was owing to technical and other reasons beyond the control of the local authorities; that the arrangements for house-to-house visitation in every village (save the zemindaris, which are being separately arranged for)are very systematic and satisfactory. I have discussed with the Collector every measure of relief which I can think of. My impression is that he is now doing everything whichought to be done in this respect.

18. The Collector, Mr. Whiteside, appears to me to be a very able and experienced officer—on the one hand very anxious to spare the Government money and to prevent the Government being imposed upon, on the other hand equally anxious to prevent any accident occurring to human life and to relieve every person who really needs relief—specially acquainted with the ways of the people in this district, and alive to all the devices by which some might try to unduly benefit by the State bounty, yet fully aware of all their merits and virtues, and entirely sympathising with all distress which may actually occur. He is zealously and humanely seconded by his Sub-Collector, Mr. Austin, and the Assistant, Mr. Cox.

Nos. 139.

No. 138.

LII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple respecting the Nellore District.

Coimbatore, 6th March 1877.

Nellore district.

In forwarding the memorandum of facts ascertained by me during my recent visit to the Nellore district, it will suffice to make only a few general remarks.

2. The failure of the rains during 1876 in this district appears to have been more utter than I had previously supposed. Hardly one-third of the average rainfall was vouchsafed. At no period of the year did any sufficing rain fall; even the Pennair River failed to come down in flood; and the dam across that river opposite the town of Nellore and the irrigation works dependent thereon have this year proved almost useless. Along the East Coast line, that is, in the villages immediately adjoining the margin of the sea, some rain fell; but it dwindled away to the westwards, till almost nothing fell in the western parts of the district at the base of the Ghât range of hills. I found very serious drought prevailing and considerable distress, especially in the vicinity of the well-known hill fort of Udaigarh. The total out-turn of the district is still estimated by the local authorities to be under four annas, or less than one-fourth of the average out-turn. On the other hand, in some parts of the district, especially the eastern, the people, finding water to be near the surface, have, with commendable industry, made the most of this slender opportunity and have dug temporary wells or deepened old wells, and thus raised a certain amount of spring crops. Between Nellore and the East Coast Canal, I saw cultivation of this kind stretching for several miles. In a short time the result of the accession of new grain supply will be felt throughout the district.

3. Meanwhile, the markets are well supplied with grain, coming both by inland and by water routes.

4. Out of the large number of relief labourers whom I inspected carefully (about 17,000 in all), very few were found to be apparently in a condition to sustain themselves; the vast majority seemed to be persons of the right sort for these works, that is, persons who really needed this form of relief. Their physical condition was generally fair. But among them were found sprinkled here and there persons whose physical state was low and unsatisfactory. Every one of these I brought to the notice of the Collector. The total number at the time of my visit, 55,000 persons on district works and 30,000 on the East Coast Canal (of which latter most belong to the Nellore district), in all 85,000, amounts to 6 per cent. on the population of the district—a proportion which, though liberal and sufficient to meet the existing distress, is not excessive, considering the failure of harvests. Nellore district.

5. But I think that this number ought not, without careful consideration, to be permitted to materially increase, because the condition of the ryots generally is reported to be good and free from indebtedness, and because the spring crops shortly to be harvested will bring in a fresh supply. To this favourable description the peasantry of the western parts form the only exception.

6. On the whole, I think that much more discrimination in regard to admission of people must in the first instance have been exercised in the Nellore district than in the ceded districts. The difference in the condition of the gangs in Nellore presented in this respect a marked difference as compared to the ceded districts, which is, so far, very creditable to the Nellore authorities. We may venture to believe that no undue expenditure on relief (to any appreciable amount) has been incurred in Nellore, which redounds to the credit of the Acting Collector, Mr. Sharp.

7. On the other hand, the occasional appearance, even among the ranks of the relief gangs, of persons in a reduced or depressed condition indicates clearly the need of a house-to-house visitation, more systematic than heretofore, in the villages throughout the district. This inference I pressed on the consideration of the Collector, who seemed quite alive to it.

8. No relief camps in the improved style established near Madras have been opened in this district, though charitable relief is being administered at several places. Proper camps ought, I think, to be opened without the least avoidable delay.

9. The relief works have been sometimes useful, consisting of excavation of irrigation channels and reservoirs, but have often been of doubtful value, such as opening out roads which the local funds will hardly be able to keep in repairs in future. The task-work, though perhaps in some places fairly well exacted, has, I fear, often been little better than nominal; the relief labourers have been employed too near to their homes, and the matter has been allowed to become too easy and attractive. Doubtless the Collector will try to remedy this; and some remedy has already been applied in the western portion of the district through the praiseworthy exertions of Mr. Underwood, Assistant Collector.

10. In proof of the objectionable attractiveness of the petty district works, I may adduce the extreme difficulty of transferring relief labourers from these works to the East Coast Canal—an excellent work in a salubrious position, remarkably suited for purposes of relief, and distant only 30 miles on the average. Able-bodied relief labourers on the district works are being ordered to proceed to the East Coast Canal, but they refuse to obey and go on "strike," remaining for days and days out of work sooner than proceed. It is to be hoped that these difficulties will be overcome by the firmness and patience of the local officers and by the people themselves being awakened to a sense of the necessity.

11. I have in a separate minute recorded my views regarding the East Coast Canal. Rumours unfavourable to the salubrity of the operations on this important project have from time to time been spread. I found, however, the position of the works very salubrious, and the arrangements, sanitary, engineering, and others, excellent, and very creditable to the District Engineer, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, of whose practical ability I am disposed to form a high estimate.

12. If the commencement of the Sungum irrigation project (from the River Pennair 30 miles above the town of Nellore) can be sanctioned, as recommended in my separate minute, that will afford a further field for the profitable employment of relief labour.

13. Though the state of affairs regarding the relief of distress in this district may be generally pronounced to be favourable, yet there is this cardinal defect, that although the district has the very best relief work in all Southern India (the East

Nellore district.

Coast Canal) running through it, still the relief labour of the district is not brought to that work to anything like a sufficient extent. The management of this particular matter is the primary point to which the attention of the Collector should be given.

No. 170.

No. 139.

LIII.—Memorandum on the Nellore District, visited by Sir Richard Temple from the 27th February to the 1st March 1877.

From North Arcot, Sir Richard Temple entered the Nellore district, proceeding thither from Triputty *viâ* Kalustri and Goodoor. At the last-named place he was met by the Collector, Mr. Sharp, C.S., and after inspecting the relief labourers there, drove into Nellore on Tuesday, the 27th February. The next day Sir Richard visited the East Coast Canal works at Maipad, Korutoor, and near the Pennair River, with the Collector and Mr. O'Shaughnessy, the District Engineer; there he also met Mr. Stevens, who is employed on the canal works. About 8,000 relief labourers on the canal, and in the evening some hundreds more on works near the Pennair anicut at Nellore, were inspected. On Wednesday night Sir Richard left Nellore, with the Collector and District Engineer, reaching Nellarpalem the next morning. Here he saw the tahsildar of the Atmakur taluk and inspected about 4,500 relief labourers who had been collected there by previous arrangement. Continuing his journey to Nandeveram, he met there Mr. Underwood, C.S., head assistant, who was on tour in the western taluks. Mr. Underwood accompanied Sir Richard, after seeing the labourers at Nandeveram, to Murripad, where more gangs were drawn up. From Murripad Mr. Underwood returned; Sir Richard and staff proceeded in palanquins by the Dornel, Ghât, Budvail, and Sinhout to the Wontimetta railway station in the Cuddapah district. At Nellore Sir Richard also met Mr. Goldingham, C.S., District Judge, and Mr. Christie, District Superintendent of Police.

2. The following facts were ascertained by inquiry, chiefly from the Collector, Mr. Sharp, C.S.:—

The district of Nellore has an area of 7,150* square miles, including zemindary tracts, and contains a population of 1,374,012 persons, according to the census of 1871. It is divided into nine Government taluks and four zemindary divisions, the extent and population of which are shown in the margin. Many zemindary villages, however, are scattered in all the Government taluks, except in Nellore and Rapur.

	Sq. miles.	Population.
Government taluks -	4,626	897,845
Venkutgiri zemindary	1,853	348,370
Kalustri „	526	100,866
Chundy „	124	21,990
Mutyalpad „	21	4,941
	7,150	1,374,012

* In the Nellore district manual it is stated to be 8,751 square miles.

3. The area of land in the Government taluks cultivated with the several food-grains, according to the returns sent to the Board of Revenue for Fusli 1285, was 884,852 acres, and the statistics of the important grains sown are as under:

	Area of crops sown in Fusli 1285. Acres.
Rice - - - - - - -	200,910
Jouna or cholum - - - - - -	360,063
Ragi (small millet) - - - - -	41,327
Luzza - - - - - - -	63,381
Aruga - - - - - - -	74,361
Varigalu - - - - - - -	115,316
Pulses, &c. - - - - - -	29,494
Total -	884,852

The current year's details of *crops sown* are not to hand as yet, but, speaking generally of the whole district with respect to the cultivated yield, there is an almost general failure of wet crops, with the exception of isolated patches here and there, under wells, under some of the Pennair River channels, and spring-fed ponds. A great part of the wet area was not cultivated this year, owing to the drought, and the sowings in many places were fruitless. As regards dry crops, those cultivated under wells have grown fairly, while the yield on those depending entirely on rain varies from nothing in some parts of the upland taluks to four annas or one-third of the average standard estimate. It must be, however, stated that a fair out-turn is expected in a few villages of Ongole in the north of the district. The average yield of purely "dry crops" for the whole district may not

be more than three annas. The rain-fed tanks in the district are almost entirely dry, while those under the Pennair anicut received but a scanty supply, so that cultivation under them was unsuccessful.

4. Of the total holdings of nearly 766,960 acres under the head of "dry" lands, only an area of 2,24,433, or 29 per cent., have been actually cultivated, and the Government demand on this area is only Rs. 2,98,265. Besides the poor state of the crops in general, the many important and valuable "kanchas" or pasture farms are devoid of fodder.

5. The rainfall of this district, from the month of April up to the end of January, was very light, as will be seen from the following details:—

	In.	Cts.
Average of four years to Fusli 1285 - - - - -	37	40
Average rainfall for Fusli 1285, from 1st April 1875 to 31st March 1876 -	27	29
Average rainfall for Fusli 1286, or from 1st April 1876 to 21st January 1877	11	35

Portions of the district feel the effects of the different monsoons which sweep in from the south-west and north-east, Udaigiri and Kanigiri receiving less than any other part of the district.

6. Nellore suffered from famine in the years 1832, 1854, and 1866, but the scarcity was not so severe as in the present year. The harvest in the year 1875-76 was on the whole poor and much below an average yield for nearly the whole district, especially as regards wet crops. The rainfall of that year was only 26 inches 49 cents., against 44 inches 32 cents of the previous year. The year Fusli 1284 was marked by floods, when many important large tanks and river channels were breached, chiefly in Atmakur and in the principal rice-growing taluk, Nellore, on account of the Pennair floods. The two bad years succeeding the year of the floods have evidently tried the resources of the district generally. In ordinary good years the produce of the country not only supports Nellore itself, but much grain is generally exported both by land and sea to other districts.

7. The condition of the ryots and labouring classes is good in ordinary years. Many of them formerly acquired a good deal of wealth from the sale of indigo, rice, &c., but in Kanigiri and Udaigiri taluks the soil is very poor and the ryots proportionately so. The ryots of the Coast taluks are far better off than those of the western upland ranges. The number of pattadars registered as paying direct revenue to Government is 95,710; of those, 8,627 own pattas of Rs. 50 and upwards, and 87,083 below that amount. The actual cultivators and inamdars, with their families, amount to nearly five-eighths of the entire population of the district. The majority of the population of the district is agricultural, and the *bonâ fide* labouring classes who depend solely upon labour may be estimated at about a sixth of the population.

8. The markets of Nellore, Ongole, and most of the towns of the district are now well supplied with rice. The extraordinary demands of the western districts have much reduced the district stock. The unusually high prices have induced merchants and others to purchase and import grain both by sea from Cocanada and other places from the north, also by the East Coast Canal, and by land from Madras and from Guntoor, &c. Competition among the merchants has now resulted in a slight fall in the price of grain. The present prices of grain, as compared with ordinary prices, in seers per rupee, are given below:—

	1st Week, February.	2nd Week, February.	Average for the last six Years, up to January.
Rice - - - -	8·	8·36	16·67
Cholum - - - -	9·18	9·24	24·42
Ragi - - - -	9·57	9·82	27·39
Cumbu - - - -	9·58	9·12	19·33
Wheat - - - -	6·87	7·	10·17
Gram - - - -	8·33	8·65	18·79

It should be remarked that cholum, cumbu, and ragi are not easily obtainable in the local markets. In the upland taluks of the district the prices range one seer dearer than in Nellore itself; but owing to the public competition noticed above, and partly, the Collector thinks, owing to the example set by Government in importing grain by sea, prices fell. The country ryots send in their carts to Nellore and make purchases both for their own consumption and for purposes of trade. There is little fear that the supply will fail. Recently it appeared necessary to make special arrangements to purchase for the western taluks, but trade generally, the Collector thought, was in no way interfered with by this undertaking. The merchants of Nellore were ready enough to supply rice in Nellore itself, but were unwilling to cart it to the western taluks. This

Nellore district.

was the reason assigned for buying and transporting the grain already purchased, in anticipation of further want in the western taluks.

9. Owing to the scantiness of produce in Fusli, years 1285 and 1286, and exportation, it is feared that the local stocks in hand are small, and no great quantity can be available for sale, as seed-grain is wanted for the next Fusli.

10. The affected tracts of this district are now relieved to a great measure by the many relief works already opened. The relief works consist chiefly of making new roads, river embankments, and repairing Government irrigation courses. Wells are either being newly sunk or repaired wherever water may be scarce, and the East Coast Canal already employs about 300,000 coolies, a few of whom are from the ceded districts as well as Nellore.

11. The following return shows the numbers employed on the 10th February in the several taluks:—

Taluks.	No. employed.	Per-centage to the Population.
Gudur	3,827	3
Rapur	2,783	4
Nellore	4,039	2
Atmakur	5,662	5
Kavali	5,610	7
Udaigiri	13,111	13
Kandukur	8,250	6
Kanirgiri	6,299	5
Ongole	1,526	1
Zemindary	5,899	2
	57,006	4
East Coast Canal	18,045	

If it be remarked that as the per-centages of population employed on relief work is very low, the district on the whole must be in a fair condition, it is answered that the idea of supporting himself as a coolie is held to be demeaning to a Nellore ryot. Malas and Madigas, who are in general exceedingly poor and have no such pride, form the majority of the present labourers. As there is no prospect of rain for the present, the numbers are expected to gradually increase. Task work is now exacted on the East Coast Canal range only, but in the remaining parts of the district the ordinary wage system is in force, or was up to a recent date. The names of all the labourers are duly registered by the subordinate officers, some of whom come from the Survey Department, others from the Settlement, and some have been temporarily appointed. All the tahsildars and some of the taluk subordinates are now supervising the relief works, and the divisional officers, moving about frequently, exercise supervision over them all.

12. The following are the rates of wages now paid or about to be paid in the district:—

	*1st. As. P.	2nd. As. P.
For adult males	1 6	2 0
„ females	1 4	1 6
Children above seven years of age	0 9	0 10

* For lower standard of task-work, which is being gradually introduced.

The total expenditure up to the 17th February on relief works is stated to be Rs. 3,84,363, and on gratuitous relief, Rs. 26,406. The number fed gratuitously on that date was 11,025. Relief labourers were in the beginning employed solely on road works from want of professional assistance, but with increased facilities for supervision, efforts are now being made to carry out irrigation works in communication with the District Engineer, who has sent in his proposals for repairing many tanks, and as each work now under progress may be completed, irrigation works will be gradually undertaken. But it is hoped that by far the larger part of the able-bodied labourers will be gradually drafted to the East Coast Canal.

13. At first relief was afforded at Nellore at the poor-house. Objections were found to this plan. Three different relief houses were then opened in the outskirts of the town. These by their proximity to the town attracted undeserving recipients. To lessen the risk of disease, and to prevent imposition, two large relief camps have now

been opened, one on the north, the other on the south of the town. Superintendents on Rs. 40 and 30 respectively a month have been appointed to supervise the cooking and distribution of food, and separate sheds have been erected for accommodating the helpless, sick, cholera, and small-pox stricken paupers. There are in all 18 relief houses throughout the district. No attempt has yet been made to secure the people being detained in the camps, but the plan of compelling them to eat their food in the camps is being introduced. The taluk relief houses are under the direct superintendence of either a tahsildar or deputy tahsildar. The pauper recipients get their food only once a day, at the following rates:— Nellore district.

Each adult - - -	One pound of uncooked food.	
Children under 14 years -	Half ditto,	with salt.

14. The condition of the cattle is very poor. Very little fodder is now available as pasture. The harvest of ragi and cholum may relieve the sufferings of the cattle to a certain extent. The tahsildars and many ryots state that one-fourth of the number have already died from starvation, and that as many more are likely to die. Every effort is now being made to feed the most valuable cattle, and attempts are being made to use prickly-pear as fodder. Many ryots have sent their cattle to the Kistna district, Viligondas and Nanamalla hills, but the absence of water in these hills is a drawback. Locally, efforts are being made to keep the cattle alive by giving palmyra and date leaves and green leaves of trees, specially in the western taluks.

15. Except in the beds of rivers, where water can be obtained by sinking shallow wells, and in villages on the seaboard, drinking water is procurable only with difficulty everywhere, and more especially in the western taluks, Kanigiri, Udaigiri, Rapur, Darsi, Todeli, and Venkutgiri. If no rain falls for the next two or three months, the distress for water is expected to be very great. On both sides of the road between Goodoor and Nellore many large pools of water were to be seen. Efforts are now being made to improve and add to all sources of supply from funds placed at the disposal of the Collector by the Board of Revenue, and the digging of ponds and wells is to be undertaken from the jungle conservancy funds wherever emergent. Special consideration is also given to the wants of Malas, &c., who are generally prohibited from drawing water from the ordinary supply wells. The Board's orders regarding the advances to be made for wells have also been published, and many advances have already been granted by the tahsildars.

16. The Rajah of Venkutgiri has promised to spend two lakhs on relief works. Up to this date he is said to have spent Rs. 13,000 annually. The Rajah of Kolustri has done nothing for the Pamur range, which is south of Kanigiri, in a poor and distressed part.

17. Under the above circumstances it is feared that the average revenue will fall short in the Government taluks, and that even the realisation of arrears must be postponed to relieve the present distress of the poorer ryots. It is proposed to give liberal remissions under the head of "wet" lands, and some partial remissions in "dry," wherever the case is thought really emergent. Though the abkari contractors have suffered to a certain extent by low rates, the maximum guaranteed to Government is now being levied from them without the least difficulty. There is, it is said, a slight fall in their profits only, and that the Government demand should not therefore be foregone. In consequence of the loss of fodder and pasture, combined with the wants of the Jail and East Coast Canal authorities for palmyra leaves, trees, &c., the number of the palmyra and date trees is stated to have been much diminished, and it is proposed to reduce the demand on the toddy revenue. This will be considered in due course after obtaining the divisional officers' reports.

18. In the Collector's opinion the number of local applicants for relief work may reach 100,000 at the worst time. It is at present probably 70,000, viz., 55,000 on local relief works + 15,000 relief labourers out of the 30,000 on canal. The Collector calculates the remissions on last year's figures thus:—

	Acres.	Assessment.	Probable remission or suspension.
		Rs.	Rs.
Dry - - -	766,960	8,97,790	5,98,500
Wet - - -	193,255	10,24,514	8,19,600

19. Sir Richard Temple has separately recorded his views on the East Coast Canal and the "Sungun" irrigation project.

No. 140.

Nos. 141. 170.

No. LIV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, reviewing his former Estimate of Famine expenditure in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies.

Coimbatore, 6th March 1877.

Revised estimate of cost of famine in Bombay and Madras.

I have been invited by the Government of India to submit a revised estimate of the cost to Government of the famine in the presidencies of Madras and Bombay, so far as known facts and the inferences therefrom deducible may enable me to do so, with an intimation than any figures of mine must be submitted immediately, if they are to be of any use, inasmuch as the financial statement by the Government of India may be coming forward by a very early date. I therefore on receipt of this instruction, despatched immediately a telegram on the 3rd March, to the effect that, owing to the actual accounts of the month of February and the beginning of March being so much more favourable than had been anticipated, to the expectation of the spring harvest, and other favourable circumstances, the estimates given by me on the 5th and 13th February* must be reduced for the total of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies as follows :—

*Nos. 52. 79.

Estimates of 5th and 12th February.		Estimates of 3rd March.	
	£		£
Expenditure -	4,180,000	Expenditure - -	3,336,000
Loss of revenue -	2,115,000	Loss of revenue - -	2,115,000
Total -	6,295,000	Total -	5,451,000

Difference, less on the 3rd March - - - - £844,000.

To this total must be added 180,000*l.* under the heading of Military, as shown by the telegram from the Government of India, making up the grand total to 5,631,000*l.* From this, however, must be deducted 350,000*l.* on account of extra traffic earnings on guaranteed railways as shown by telegram from the Government of India, making the net grand total 5,281,000*l.* But from this sum, it is still my opinion that it is proper to deduct the amount of probable recoveries of land revenue in future years, viz., 1,295,000*l.*, which would make the net cost of the famine 3,986,000*l.*; and this I submit as my revised estimate.

2. It was also stated by telegram that, whereas the estimate of the 5th February showed the maximum number of persons expected to come on relief as 1,840,000, the present estimate showed a maximum of only 1,196,000 persons.

3. To-day a memorandum is being despatched showing in detail the data on which the above statements by telegraph were founded.

4. In the estimate of the 5th February, it was stated that the main factor was the number of persons expected to come to the relief works. The maximum in April, 1,840,000 persons, was obtained from figures given me, district by district, by the Collector mostly after full conversations on the subject, which took place on various dates immediately following the 14th January. In these conversations much allowance was made for the reduction of the then existing numbers and the restriction of fresh admissions to the works in accordance with the principle which I knew the Government of India to have in mind and intention, and which I explained to the local officers. These principles, when thus explained to these officers, verbally, certainly seemed to commend themselves very much to the judgment of every Collector I met. And all the Collectors, almost without exception, seemed anxious to give effect thereto. I carefully avoided giving them authoritative advice or instructions, for which they were to look to the Madras Government alone. I confined myself to conferring with them and explaining to them for their own consideration principles and policy and the results of experience. I believe that in most cases they themselves, from their own observation, were prepared for these views, more or less, and proceeded to give effect thereto under the responsibility vested in them by their own Government. At the same time I submitted the same views officially to the Government of Madras on the 19th January, together with practical recommendations for system and economy.

5. On the 25th January the instructions of the Government of India (bearing date the 16th January) were received in the Madras Presidency, in which the above-mentioned principles were authoritatively laid down. The publication of these instructions doubtless stimulated all the local officers to further efforts in the direction of economy.

6. About the same time it appeared that the Madras Government had themselves formed the conclusion that the first outbreak of famine having been successfully met some systematic restrictions must be introduced. On the 28th January, they intimated to me their intention of adopting the substance of the recommendations which had been

made to them by me officially. On the 31st January, their orders were officially issued to the district officers, and again the efforts of these officers were stimulated in the direction of a just and reasonable economy. Revised estimate of cost of famine in Bombay and Madras.

7. I have since travelled about from place to place in the distressed districts, seeing how far the orders of the Government of Madras were or were not being carried out, avoiding, as before, the giving of any instructions or even of advice, but showing the local officers how they could best give effect to the orders of their own Government.

8. It seems necessary to state the course of the procedure in order to show the reasons why I venture upon an estimate lower than that given a month ago.

9. The effect of all this upon the numbers upon the relief works may be thus seen. On the 9th January the total numbers stood at 1,061,000. The number had been increasing weekly ever since the beginning of December. The beginning of January was thought by every one to be only the beginning of the trouble. No limit of relief had been in the first instance indicated, and no principle of restrictions had been prescribed, except the labour test, upon which reliance was placed. The people were availing themselves of the privilege to such an extent that ere long half, or more than half, the population of the ceded district and Kurnool seemed likely to come on relief. That alone would give two millions of persons, and the districts below the Ghauts seemed likely to yield another million. The necessity of making some fresh rules was forcing itself on the attention of the authorities. In the first instance, that is, in November and December, it was deemed best to let all have work who might ask for it, and to watch the result. But by January, the result showed that a rule must be promulgated to the effect that employment should not be given to those who seemed able to support themselves.

10. After making much allowance for the introduction of economy the sum of the calculations by the various Collectors showed a gradual increase, week by week, till the maximum of 1,840,000 was reached. Without such allowance for economy, the total would undoubtedly (according to the practice which was obtaining in the beginning of January) have reached two millions before April, and would have exceeded it after that date.

11. But, instead of increasing, the January number of 1,061,000 has been falling week by week, until the latest returns of February show only 713,000. The Madras Government and its officers may be congratulated on this result, considering the good condition of the people generally, the absence of mortality (subsequent to the mortality which occurred in some places at the outset before the introduction of the new rules), and the effective manner in which the distress has been met. In the face of this, however, it is impossible to maintain the estimates, which I had been before obliged to present for March, namely, 1,480,000; especially as there is a spring harvest ripening in several of the distressed districts, to an extent greater than the original anticipation. By parity of reasoning, it has become necessary to reduce the estimate for April and the subsequent months in the manner described in the memorandum, which will speak for itself. As time did not admit of a further reference to each Collector, it was thought best to make the alteration rateably all round. But although there is no present reason to apprehend that any district will show actually more than what is shown in this revised estimate, there is reason to expect that some districts will show even less, such as Cuddapah, North Arcot, Coimbatore, and Tinnevelly. On the whole, however, I have deemed it better to submit the revised estimates in its present form, believing that it has within itself a margin to cover unforeseen contingencies.

12. The same remarks apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the heading of charitable or gratuitous relief.

13. While system and economy have been considered, every precaution has been taken to prevent those considerations causing relief to be withheld from those who really need it.

14. From the very day of entering the Madras Presidency, I have been constant and urgent in pressing on all concerned the duty of saving human life from starvation; of preserving people from such emaciation as might be dangerous to health; of not only admitting all deserving and needy persons who might apply for relief, but also of searching for and relieving all those who, being in such need, might from any cause fail to apply for relief, and further of making this search in the most comprehensive manner, village to village, and house to house. This is the practice of humanity in relief operations in the highest and strictest sense of the term. This is the discriminating charity which, while rejecting those who are not in real need, succours those who are in such need, and takes care that none of them shall escape observation or fail to receive assistance. This most important subject was officially brought forward on the 16th January (two days after my arrival), again on the 19th January, on the 4th February,

Revised estimate of cost of famine in Bombay and Madras.

on the 5th February, on the 8th February, on the 9th February, on the 11th February, on the 14th February, on the 26th February, on the 5th March, on the 6th March. This subject has formed the topic of more official representation on my part than any other subject whatever. And several of these representations are couched in the most forcible terms which I am able to employ. In every place which I have visited, and to every relief officer, European or Native, whom I have met, the matter has been explained by me in practical detail, and all those concerned have been shown exactly how they can most effectually compass this paramount object. In short, everything that can be thought of has been and is being done in this respect.

15. I can bear witness that this matter has always been thoroughly understood by the Madras Government and its officers, whose humane intentions can hardly be surpassed.

16. As regards the Madras Presidency, I must here reiterate what has been stated on previous occasions, that the revised estimate assumes that the usual spring showers of April be vouchsafed in Southern India, and that the checks and restrictions ordered by the Madras Government on the 31st January be steadily and faithfully maintained. If there be failure in any of these respects then the estimate may become exceeded, more or less seriously.

17. As regards the Bombay Presidency, I represented officially the expediency of economy in several respects on the 12th January and on various subsequent dates. The reduced estimate recently framed by the Government of Bombay has been embodied in my general estimates.

18. In respect to the searching out and relieving of all cases of serious distress, I addressed the Government of Bombay officially on the 12th January, and have repeated these representations on several subsequent dates. The Government have, I believe, been from the beginning fully alive to this consideration.

19. In the revised estimates I have adhered to the recommendation submitted with my minute No. XXX. of the 13th February, regarding the suspension, and not the remission, of only the land revenue from the dry or unirrigated lands in Southern India, because I find that so many of the most experienced Collectors in both the Madras and Bombay Presidencies are in favour of this plan. Here again the revised estimate assumes that the coming rains will be propitious and the harvests of the next season will be abundant. If there shall be failure in these respects then the estimate will be greatly disturbed.

No. 170.

No. 141.

LV.—Memorandum of the Revised Estimate of the probable Cost of the Famine in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies, with respect both to Relief Expenditure and Loss of Revenue, by Mr. C. E. Buckland, Private Secretary to Sir R. Temple.

It has now become possible to prepare from the figures available for the month of February a revised estimate, showing both the anticipated loss of revenue and the expenditure on relief in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.

2. *Relief Works.*—In paragraph 5 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum attached to Sir Richard Temple's minute, No. XXVIII., of the 5th February, the estimated numbers on relief works for the six months from February to July inclusive were thus given :—

Total number of labourers in	February	- - -	1,228,000
,, ,,	March	- - -	1,480,000
,, ,,	April	- - -	1,840,000
,, ,,	May	- - -	1,530,000
,, ,,	June	- - -	795,000
,, ,,	July	- - -	310,000
			7,183,000

Now the actual numbers on relief works in Madras were, according to the returns I have seen—

On the 10th	February	- - - - - 868,423
,, 17th	,,	- - - - - 759,275
,, 27th	,,	- - - - - 713,821

which give an average of 780,500, and to make allowance for the higher number at the beginning of the month, the average for the whole of February may be taken at 800,000. The Board of Revenue, in their report for the week ending the 17th ultimo,

stated that the scale of wages ordered in Government order of 31st January 1877, No. 329, had not yet begun to take effect, and that the time for the introduction of the new scale must be counted from the receipt by Collectors of Government order of 12th February 1877. It will be safer for the purposes of this estimate not to assume that the orders of economy had taken effect to any great extent during the month of February. If this be granted, the 800,000 labourers of February must be considered to have cost an average of Rs. 3 for that month (*see* paragraph 6 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum, to which allusion was made above). The difference between the estimated number for February, viz., 1,228,000, and the actual number, viz., 800,000, is 428,000, *i.e.*, about 35 per cent. on the estimated number, 1,228,000. Revised estimate of cost of famine in Bombay and Madras.

3. It is not expected that the number on the relief works will rise in March above the average number given for February, 800,000; it is evident that even to attain that number a rise of over 80,000 must take place; but the settled tendency of late has been downwards. Instead, therefore, of the estimated number for March, viz., 1,480,000, it will be fair to take the number 800,000 as not likely to be exceeded.

4. For the remaining months, April to July inclusive, it will be safest to calculate upon the same per-centage of reduction in the estimated numbers that has actually taken place in February in the number for that month, viz., 35 per cent. on the estimated numbers. While, on the one hand, due allowance has been made in the previous estimates for the more trying circumstances of the months, April–July; on the other hand, the scrutinising of the gangs will be more strictly carried out, as experience is gained, as tests are enforced, and supervision improved; add to this that the district of Tinnevelly, which was thought likely to have 100,000 labourers in April, and 50,000 in March, had on the 27th February only 1,295 persons on relief works; moreover, the improved prospects of the ragi crop in parts of the districts of Cuddapah and North Arcot have to be considered; and on the whole it may be permissible to take the same per-centage of reduction of numbers of labourers for the months April–July that has actually taken place in February, viz., 35 per cent. on the estimated number of labourers for the month. The result of this calculation will be found from the appended statement to give a total of 3,708,750 labourers from March–July inclusive; and as it may be assumed that the Government orders for the reduction of wages will have generally come into force from the beginning of March, this number of 3,708,750 labourers may be estimated to cost Rs. 8,653,750 (at the average rate of Rs. $2\frac{1}{3}$ a person for each month, according to paragraph 5 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum).

5. The cost of the labourers' wages for February being 800,000 × Rs. 3 = 24,00,000, and for March to July Rs. 86,53,750, the total cost of the relief work wages in Madras for the six months from February to July amounts to Rs. 1,10,53,750, say Rs. 1,10,53,000. These figures compared with the same item in the previous estimate, viz., Rs. 1,79,00,000, show a reduction of Rs. 68,47,000, *i.e.*, 684,000*l.*

6. In the Bombay Presidency, according to the Bombay Government's letter, No. 109*a*–460, dated 24th February, to the Government of India, the revised estimate of expenditure upon relief works, charity, &c. amounts to 116 lakhs; which sum, being compared with the former estimate of 126 lakhs, shows a saving of 10 lakhs in the Bombay expenditure.

7. *Gratuitous relief.*—The number of recipients of gratuitous relief amounted at the beginning of February to about 60,000 persons, *see* paragraph 9 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum. Whereas in that same paragraph 100,000 has been taken as the number of persons to receive such relief in February, the real number was on the 27th ultimo slightly over 40,000. If 50,000 then may be considered as the mean number of recipients of gratuitous relief in February, when 100,000 was the number estimated, a large margin for the increase in the recipients of charitable relief (which must occur as the supervision on relief works is more strictly enforced) will be left, if instead of a half, two-thirds (*i.e.*, Rs. 12,00,000) of the former estimate of the cost of gratuitous relief (*i.e.*, Rs. 18,00,000) are reckoned as the probable cost under the same heading. Thus the reduction in Madras will be six lakhs under this heading; and the aggregate of the probable saving under both headings is 744,000*l.* In Bombay the aggregate reduction under both headings of relief works and gratuitous relief has been given at 10 lakhs.

8. The figures will then stand thus:—

	£
The total relief expenditure for the Bombay Presidency was, according to the former estimate - - -	1,260,000
Deduct - - - - - - - -	100,000
Revised estimate - -	1,160,000

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	£
The total relief expenditure for the Madras Presidency was according to the former estimate - - -	2,920,000
Deduct - - - - - - -	744,000
Revised estimate - -	2,176,000
The total relief expenditure in both presidencies according to the revised estimate will be—	
In Bombay - - - - -	1,160,000
In Madras - - - - - -	2,176,000
Total - -	3,336,000

9. From the telegram received, it appears that the Government of India have taken the probable loss of revenue as 2,000,000*l.*, and have also debited to famine a charge of 18 lakhs (180,000*l.*) in the military department, an item which had not been previously included in Sir Richard Temple's calculations. These two items, added to the 3,336,000*l.* previously ascertained, give a total of 5,516,000*l.* On the other hand, the Government of India take credit for railway revenue amounting to 350,000*l.*; thus the net result would be reduced to a cost of 5,166,000*l.*

10. Sir Richard Temple's former estimate of the probable loss of revenue, which would occur if the Local Government shall promise remissions of the land revenue, amounted to 2,115,000*l.*, thus exceeding the estimate of the loss of revenue framed by the Government of India by 115,000*l.*; that is, the cost of the famine would be 5,166,000*l.*+115,000*l.*, *i.e.*, 5,281,000*l.*

11. Sir Richard Temple's views on the important point of land revenue remissions were fully stated in the minute No. XXX of the 13th February and Mr. Bernard's memorandum which accompanied it. If those views meet with acceptance, it is not too much to hope that the sum of 1,295,000*l.* (*see* paragraph 15 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum) will represent the probable recoveries of land revenue in future years; and if this sum be deducted from the cost of the famine above given, viz., 5,281,000*l.*, the net cost will be 3,986,000*l.*

12. This estimate, like the others, which have been framed and submitted by Sir Richard Temple, postulates that the checks which have been recently ordained for the reduction of expenditure will be maintained in full force, and that the usual showers in April and May will fall. It has not been overlooked that in such a district as Tinnevelly, where severe distress was expected, it is a matter for consideration with the Board of Revenue whether the relief works should not be closed immediately, nor has the fact been disregarded that in some districts early spring crops are approaching maturity, which will before long afford work to the agriculturists, and a supply of food for a month or two to the population.

13. With respect to the distribution of the revised estimate of famine expenditure in Madras, viz., 2,176,000*l.* between the years 1876–77 and 1877–78, the following statement may be offered in the order adopted in paragraph 11 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum appended to Sir Richard Temple's minute No. XXVIII. of the 5th February, thus:—

For the year ending March 31st, 1877.

	Rs.
Relief works and other expenditure according to the Accountant-General's statement up to end of December - - -	37,25,000
Estimated expenditure on relief work wages during January -	31,17,000
Estimated expenditure on relief work wages during February -	24,00,000
Estimated expenditure on relief work wages during March -	18,67,000
Estimated cost of additional establishments and miscellaneous charges to 31st March 1877 - - - - -	6,00,000
Estimated cost of gratuitous relief to 31st March 1877 - -	4,00,000
Cost of grain purchased by Government - - - -	30,24,000
	1,51,33,000
Deduct cost of Government grain to be expended up to 31st March	7,22,000
	1,44,11,000
Say -	£1,441,000

For the year 1877–78.	Rs.
Estimated expenditure on relief work wages, April to July 1877 -	67,86,000
Estimated cost of additional establishments and miscellaneous charges, April to July 1877 - - - - -	12,00,000
Estimated cost of gratuitous relief, April to July 1877 - -	8,00,000
	87,86,000
Deduct cost of Government grain to be expended, April to July 1877	14,44,000
	73,42,000

Probable cost of famine in Bombay and Madras.

£		
1,441,000	Say -	£735,000
735,000		
Total estimate expenditure -	£2,176,000	

14. Some of the above figures require explanatory notice. The cost of the wages of relief labourers for February has been shown to be Rs. 24,00,000. For March the number of labourers given in the revised estimate is 800,000, who, at the average rate of Rs. $2\frac{1}{3}$ a month for each person, will cost Rs. 18,67,000,—

	Rs.
i.e., for February - - - -	24,00,000
for March - - - -	18,67,000
	42,67,000

The revised estimate of expenditure on relief works from February to July was given as Rs. 1,10,53,000. From this, deducting Rs. 42,67,000, the result is obtained of Rs. 67,86,000 as the revised estimate of cost of relief works from April to July.

15. For additional establishments and miscellaneous charges in the original estimate the sum of Rs. 18,00,000 was taken, as 10 per cent. on the original estimate of relief wages for the six months February to July (*see* paragraph 8 of Mr. Bernard's memorandum). These additional establishments and charges will not be materially affected by the variations in the numbers of relief labourers. Therefore one-third of the Rs. 18,00,000 may be estimated as the cost for the two months February and March; and two-thirds of the Rs. 18,00,000 as the cost for the four months April to July.

16. With regard to the gratuitous relief, in the revised estimate the sum of Rs. 12,00,000 has been taken as the cost. As in the preceding paragraph, this may be debited, one-third to February and March, and two-thirds to the four months April to July.

17. Similarly, in deducting as a set-off three-quarters of the cost of Government grain (as that grain will be used to pay labourers or relief paupers), it appears correct to credit one-third and two-thirds of the Rs. 21,66,000 to the years 1876–77 and 1877–78 respectively.

18. In the Bombay Government's letter, referred to in paragraph 6 above, the revised estimate of expenditure of 116 lakhs is distributed thus, viz., 47 lakhs to 31st March and 69 lakhs subsequent to 31st March.

STATEMENT referred to in paragraph 4 of the Memorandum dated 6th March 1877.

—	Estimated Number of People on the Works during the Month of						Total.
	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	
According to minute of 5th February -	1,228,000	1,480,000	1,840,000	1,530,000	795,000	310,000	7,183,000
Revised estimate -	800,000	800,000	1,196,000	994,500	516,750	201,500	4,508,750
Difference -	428,000	680,000	644,000	535,500	278,250	108,500	2,674,250

No. 142.

No. 12,327 G.–243, dated Bangalore, 6th March 1877.

ORDER thereon* by the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

Nos. 143. 221. Mysore emigrants to return to their own country.

Order.—The wishes of the Government of Madras, that an officer of this Administration should be deputed to supervise the return of Mysore people to their own country,

* V. Nos. 1, 6, 14, 35, 69, 91, 131.

will be complied with, and the Commissioner of the Nundydroog division is desired to detach Mr. Mahomed Ali, the Subdivision Officer at Chikballapur, Kolar district, to proceed at once, and in personal communication with the Head Assistant to the Collector of Bellary, ascertain the number of Mysore people receiving gratuitous or other relief from the Madras Government in the Hindupur, Madaksira, and Pennakonda taluks of that district. He will arrange for the return of all such as are capable of being moved into the several taluks of the Mysore districts adjoining, and, through the amildars of these taluks, provide means for deporting them from the Bellary district by easy stages, where food should be supplied. An advance of Rs. 500 should be made to Mr. Mahomed Ali by the Commissioner of Nundydroog to meet emergent requirements.

The Deputy Commissioners of Kolar, Túmkúr, and Chitaldroog will instruct the amildars of the border taluks to comply promptly with the requisitions made upon them for the purpose by the Assistant Commissioner. Those who are able-bodied should be relegated to the special or other relief works in progress, and those who are physically unable to work should be properly admitted to the feeding kitchens, under arrangements to be made by the Deputy Commissioners and their Assistants.

Nos. 161. 221.

No. 143.

ORDERED—That the following letter be addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, in reply to his letter above recorded :—

No. 12,335 G.–43, dated Bangalore, 6th March 1877.

From the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER of MYSORE, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT of MADRAS.

Mysore State not prepared to bear charge of maintaining its subjects who migrated to British territory,

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 767 of 1st March, in which his Grace the Governor in Council again presses upon the consideration of the Chief Commissioner the proposal that the Mysore State should bear the charge of maintaining those of its subjects who have resorted to the frontier districts of Her Majesty's territory, either to seek relief on easier terms than they could obtain it in their own taluks, or to evade the payment of the land revenue.

2. While desirous of according the deference which is due to this expression by the Madras Government of their views, the Chief Commissioner is unable, for the reasons fully stated in my letter of the 15th ultimo, to assent to the grounds on which the demand for a contribution from this State towards the outlay incurred for relief purposes in the adjoining territory is based.

3. Mr. Saunders has no desire to advert to the causes which had, as he conceives, led many hundreds of the people in this province to migrate across the frontier, and which though to a certain extent conjectural as you remark, have received much confirmation from what is stated in paragraph 3 of Sir Richard Temple's minute dated 16th of February 1877. But it is important, I am to remark, as affecting the consideration of the equity of the claims put forward by the Madras Government, to remember that, while what may be fairly termed extraordinary inducements were held out to the people on the eastern frontier of the province to resort to the relief works and kitchens in the Bellary district, this migration was neither desired nor encouraged in the interest of this Administration, whose local officers were fully prepared to provide employment for all who needed it, and on terms which, though not so liberal as prevailed over the border, were well adapted to the then existing circumstances of the people.

the migration being neither desired nor encouraged.

4. With regard to the Wynad frontier, the inducements which led the people to migrate to that locality in larger numbers than usual were somewhat different, but, as the Chief Commissioner has reason to believe, notwithstanding all that was done by the local officers and by the returning emigrants to dissuade them from leaving the province, the people have persisted in moving into Wynad, as they have done into the coffee-growing districts of Coorg and Manjarabad, long after the demand for their labour had ceased, the cause must be found in the same desire which has operated throughout of evading task-work however light, as well as the endeavours which are still advisedly made to recover a fair proportion of the Government revenue.

5. It must be obvious in this view, that the duty of the Chief Commissioner lies in setting his face resolutely against any encouragement to these people to persevere in a course demoralising to themselves and injurious to the interests of this Administration, and as the means are available to all of this class, as explained in paragraph 6 of my letter

of 15th ultimo, of returning by easy stages, their immediate needs being provided for *en route*, Mr. Saunders would again urge upon the consideration of his Grace in Council that the humane intentions expressed in your letter can be fulfilled without recourse to the measure of maintaining the subjects of this State at the expense of this Government. Migration from Mysore to British territory.

6. On the other hand, the wish of his Grace the Governor in Council, that an officer should be deputed from this province to supervise the return of the people to their own country, will be at once complied with, and I am to state that Mr. Mahomed Ali, the Assistant Commissioner in charge of the Chikballapur Subdivision of the Kolar district, has been directed to proceed to Pennakonda, and after personal communication with the Head Assistant Collector, to arrange for the removal to their own taluks of all persons belonging to Mysore who may be receiving Government relief in the three taluks of Hindupur, Madaksir, and Pennakonda.

The Chief Commissioner will be willing, on receipt from you by telegraph of specific information as to other localities in which Mysore people are being maintained on Government works or relief houses, to make similar arrangements for the purpose of inducing their withdrawal.

7. The Chief Commissioner anticipates, however, that the number of "Mysore paupers" remaining in the Hindupur and other bordering taluks of the Bellary district will be small, for, on referring to the returns furnished to the Madras Government under date the 30th January last, and published in the Madras newspapers, it appears that between the 23rd and 30th January, the number on relief works and gratuitously fed in the Bellary district had fallen from 393,400 to 377,147, and that the Collector had officially reported that the reduction in these numbers was due "to a large number of "Mysore coolies being sent away from Hindupur, Madaksira, and Pennakonda." It was further stated that there was a decrease of more than 11,000 in the numbers gratuitously fed, chiefly in Hindupur, "where Mysore paupers have been sent back." This return, it will be observed, is of a more recent date than that of the Head Assistant Collector's letter, No. 34, dated 23rd January 1877, an extract from which is appended to your letter under reply.

8. A more recent return, moreover, shows that between the 10th and 17th February 1877, the numbers on relief works in the Bellary district had been reduced from 344,343 to 307,509, and from the fact which has been recently reported, and communicated to you in my letter No. 12,055—G. 42, dated 27th February 1877, that the tide of immigration has now set in from the Bellary district into the neighbouring taluks of this province, the Chief Commissioner is probably right in assuming that there must be comparatively few of the Mysore people still remaining in the Madras districts.

9. As regards those who are reported to be "hanging on" at the Wynad coffee estates, the Chief Commissioner has no information as to the numbers congregated there, but as ample provision has been made, as already stated, for finding employment, as well as other needful relief for them in the Mysore and Hassan districts adjoining, the Government need feel no apprehension as to the consequences of withholding from those people the means of idly prolonging their stay in those localities. As large importations of grain continue to be made into the Wynad weekly from the south-western taluks of the Mysore district, it is evident to the Chief Commissioner that the supposition expressed by the District Engineer of Malabar as to the cause of the unwillingness of Mysore subjects to return to their own country is an erroneous one.

10. With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, I am desired to explain that the notice alluded to was issued by the Commissioner of the Ashtagram division, and had reference solely to works in progress in the Mysore and Hassan districts comprised in that division.

No. 144. No. 170.

No. LVI.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, reviewing the objections of the Sanitary Commissioner, Madras, to the reduced scale of wages.

Coimbatore, 7th March 1877.

I have examined and considered, with the attention due to the opinions of an officer so highly qualified and accomplished, the letter from Surgeon-Major Cornish, Sanitary Commissioner of Madras (addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Madras Government), in which he records various professional objections to the reduced scale of ration directed The reduced scale of wages. Reply to Dr. Cornish.

The reduced scale of wages.

to be adopted by that Government in its Resolution of 31st January last. The particular point to which he objects is the allowance of 1 lb. avoirdupois per diem to an adult labourer (not performing severe task work), plus half anna in cash. Inasmuch as his views, if these were to be adopted without adequate deliberation, might involve a large and unnecessary expenditure of public money, I would submit, for the consideration of the Governments of India and Madras, a few remarks on these objections.

2. Into the purely professional part of his arguments I cannot enter, further than to note that, while no doubt abstract scientific theories of great value on the subject of public health are of modern growth, the Indian population with which we are now dealing have lived for centuries in disregard of them, and practically at the present date the poorer classes, even in countries much more civilised than India, do not actually obtain either in food, lodging, or ventilation the amount declared by scientific men to be necessary. I would further note particularly that most of Dr. Cornish's observations refer to Europeans living in a cold climate, where waste is greater, and largely exceeding the Natives of India in average weight, requiring therefore more food. The Edinburgh inquiries which he cites, however applicable to European cases, and however valuable in the abstract, are not strictly and exactly applicable to the poorer classes of the Madras Presidency.

3. The practical question, however, is this. Can, and does, the new scale of wages suffice to keep the people with whom we are now dealing in fair health under present conditions and circumstances? More than this, this Government has declared itself unable to undertake.

4. Dr. Cornish seems to object, on the ground that a diet sufficient to sustain a man's life when at rest may be "wholly inadequate to his needs when employed on tasks "necessitating severe physical exertions," and again, that "a man engaged on task labour and paid at the rate of 1lb. of grain and half an anna in cash" cannot "procure a sufficiency to eke out the defects of his grain ration." I do not know whether Dr. Cornish would admit that 1 lb. of grain is sufficient to maintain a Native of India; in a state of rest, perhaps, he would. The evidence of relief camps in the Madras Presidency, however, shows that a Native at rest can gain flesh on a pound a day.

NOTE.—I was informed at Vellore that indigent adults admitted to the relief camps in consequence of their inability to work, have improved considerably on a ration of a pound a day. Dr. Fox, Civil Surgeon, and Captain Harris, the Relief Officer, were agreed on this point.

5. But in paragraph 5 he says that the "combined testimony" of numerous observers showed that "the maximum grain allowance of a man in health and in work was not "less than 24 ozs." or $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

6. He apparently assumes that by the new scale a man cannot obtain $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.; but in the first place it is to be observed that at present prices throughout the greater part of the distressed district a man can, with the half anna which he receives in cash, buy an extra half pound of grain a day and still have a small margin over for condiments, that is, he earns sufficient to allow him the minimum quantity requisite to keep him in health while at work. More than this, I submit it is not in the power of Government to do.

7. Let it be assumed, however, that a man receives the 1 lb. plus the half anna, which will give him something over in grain, together with something for condiments. Then there is one defect in Dr. Cornish's line of argument which appears to me to invalidate his conclusions. I consider that the particular misapprehension to which I am about to advert renders his remarks inapplicable to the state of things as at present existing in the distressed districts. His argument is, that the present rate of wages (equal to 1 lb. in grain with half anna in cash), "will not permit of severe labour or task-work," is insufficient for men "employed on tasks necessitating severe physical exertion;" thereby implying that the bulk of the relief labourers in the Madras Presidency are employed on such tasks. This, however, is so far from being the case that the general condition of the people on the works approaches much more nearly to one of rest than to one of severe physical exertion. There are probably very few out of the thousands employed by Government who do nearly as much work as they do in ordinary seasons for their own support. In short, the reduced scale (1lb. and a half anna) is not applied to persons undergoing severe physical exertions, but to persons who are on light work or are comparatively at rest. In many places task-work has not yet been introduced; in many others it is only nominally enforced, and where it is in actual operation the amount of labour exacted is extremely light.

8. It must be remembered that in the Madras Government Orders of 31st January, two rates of working pay are laid down, and that all persons who do work amounting to 75 per cent. of the Public Works rates receive 1lb. of grain and one anna in cash; while those who receive a pound of grain plus half an anna (who alone are referred to by

Dr. Cornish) are only required to render task-work at half the Public Works rates. Now the Public Works labourers are paid by piecework, and no definite task is asked for; they do as much or as little as they like, and are paid accordingly. The reduced scale of wages.

9. The result is that those who really undergo the severe physical exertions described by Dr. Cornish do actually receive wages equal to 1½, perhaps even 2 lbs. a day, which is tantamount to what he recommends. It is only for those who do not undergo such exertion that the lower scale recommended by me and ordered by the Government of Madras is intended. Practically, at this time, by Public Works rate is meant the amount of work done per rupee, and relief labourers on the first standard are expected to do three-quarters as much for a rupee as common labourers; that is, supposing the Public Works Department rate for earth-work to be eight cubic yards per rupee, then relief labourers of the first class have to do six cubic yards for the same money; and two annas being taken as the minimum wage on which they can be maintained in health, three-quarters of a cubic yard is the task assigned to enable men in this class to earn their two annas. It is considered (and this is in accordance with Dr. Cornish's views) that persons doing less work than this can live on less, so while the second class labourer does only half a cubic yard of earth-work daily he receives in return 1½ anna. But, as observed, the Public Works rate is not a task but a scale, and ordinary labourers are not content to earn two annas daily by excavating one cubic yard, but, as a matter of fact, earn much more than this. I was informed by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, the District Engineer of Nellore, that some of the gangs at work on the East Coast Canal were earning five and even six annas a head daily, that is, were doing five or six times as much work as is demanded from the relief labourers on the lower scale.

10. The work of such relief labourers could, therefore, scarcely be described as "severe physical exertion," even if it were fairly rendered; and in many, if not in most districts, it is still little more than nominal. As more efficient supervision is introduced and task-work really exacted, all those willing to do the very moderate task asked for will gradually be admitted to the higher standard and receive full wages, while it is submitted that the lower rate is sufficient to maintain those employed on nominal tasks of extreme lightness.

11. The objection to the new scale, which Dr. Cornish states in detail, is popularly formulated by the phrase "a full day's wage (that is, something more than the 1 lb. and "the half anna) for a fair day's work." But the phrase postulates that there is a fair day's work, which is just what the vast majority of the relief labourers do not render. Therefore they are not entitled to, and do not physically need, the full day's wage. Where they render a really fair day's work there they do receive under the new rules more than the reduced scale.

12. The rates were avowedly recommended by me as experimental, and if they shall be found insufficient they may be increased; but it appears to me that they have not yet been found so, and that Dr. Cornish argues from a mistaken premise, which undermines his conclusions. If the poor people were found to be falling off in condition then I would at once recommend an alteration in the rate; but at present we have no such experience.

13. As a matter of fact, I must repeat that payments are not made in grain but in cash. A pound of grain has been estimated as costing one anna, and in no cases have the wages paid been less than an anna and a half, the anna being the supposed equivalent of a pound of grain, and the half anna being available to eke out the ration. An anna, however, represents in most parts of the worst districts more than 1lb. of grain. At Adoni, for instance, where nearly 50 per cent. of the population were recently on work, one anna will purchase about 1½ lbs. of cholum, which is the staple food of the people, leaving each labourer half an anna to buy pulse, condiments, &c.

14. It is impossible over such a large tract of country as is now affected with scarcity, where prices vary to some extent in almost every district, to lay down any rule which may not be open to local criticism and inapplicable to certain localities, but the scale laid down appears to me to be on the whole sufficient to yield the people that subsistence which alone Government can afford. We would gladly give more if it were in our power, but we must content ourselves with saving life, and cannot pretend to prevent all forms of distress.

15. There is one point which I must concede to Dr. Cornish's argument. In laying down the minimum scale it was, of course, intended that each labourer should be able to consume his own wages, and not have to share them with other persons of his family. These members of the family should either work for themselves, or if unable to do so, should be admitted to gratuitous relief. The case of young children who accompany their parents to the works, but are too young to work, that is, children from one year to seven years of age, has already attracted my attention, and I have recommended in a State minute that subsistence allowance be granted to them.

The reduced scale of wages.

16. Further, I would urge as the one motive common to the Government of India and Madras, and to all connected with the famine relief works, is the preservation of life and the mitigation of extreme suffering at the smallest cost to the State, consistent with the attainment of the object in view, that the inquiry as to whether the reduced scale of wages is sufficient to enable the people to tide over the next few months without serious danger to themselves should be decided not by pre-conceived physiological theories, but by patient practical examination of the people themselves, with a view to ascertain whether there is in fact any or any serious change for the worse in their physical condition under the new scale, as compared with their average condition in ordinary times. Having carefully inspected during my tour in this presidency thousands of relief labourers, I give it as my opinion that with very few exceptions, which are not as a rule traceable to insufficient relief wages, the general physical condition of the labourers is as good now as in ordinary years. If, as already stated, I find after a little more experience that the new scale of wages does seem insufficient to maintain the people in health, I will be the first to say so; but so far this has not seemed to me to be the case.

17.* In conclusion, it is not possible, I submit, to determine *á priori* on scientific data what amount of food is necessary to sustain the particular classes who come to our relief. The real point to be considered is whether in ordinary times they get more than 1lb. a day for a male adult. This is an economic question, which can be determined by calculating the rate of wages in the rural districts—not the wages of trained professional labourers employed by public bodies, not the wages of stalwart men of the professional class of workmen, but the men of lesser physique and lighter frame, such as that of the village poor, but the wages received by the labouring poor in the villages of the interior, and then by taking the prices of common grains in ordinary years. Now, from inquiries made in various districts of the Madras Presidency, I apprehend that the labouring poor in rural localities can hardly get more than 1lb. a day for a male adult in ordinary times. If this be so, then the reduced scale must be sufficient for these same people on the Government relief works and need not be increased.

No. 170. No. 145.

LVII. Minute by Sir Richard Temple, on the subject of giving Subsistence Allowance to the younger Children of Relief Labourers.

Subsistence allowance to children.

Since the introduction of the new scale of wages, complaints appear to be made that relief labourers are sometimes accompanied to the works by children too young to work, *i.e.*, below seven years of age, who have to be supported out of the earnings of their parents; and suggestions have been offered that a subsistence allowance should be made on account of such children.

2. The new scale is avowedly a minimum allowance sufficient for one person, and it is evident that if a labourer has to divide his wages with other persons they will not suffice either for himself or for them, and suffering must result. All persons who are able to do light work can earn subsistence on the works for themselves, all who are unable to work are entitled to gratuitous relief, so that it is only the young children who have to be considered. These cannot be separated from their parents even if it were desirable to send them to the relief camps, which, in my opinion, it is not. They accompany their parents to the works and have to depend for food on some small share of the family earnings. When several members of a family (father, mothers and elder children) are employed, it is probable that one or two small children could be sustained out of the joint wages; but in cases where there may be only one or two bread-winners, and perhaps three or four children, a supplementary allowance will be necessary.

3. I believe that in some way or other the local officers have the power to afford additional aid to persons burdened with young children, and that such children do in many places get something extra, but I think it is now time that relief officers should be formally vested with a discretionary power for the relief of all children between one and seven years of age. Up to a year the child is at the breast; at seven he is admitted to the works.

4. A child of six requires much more food than a child just weaned, and it might be expedient to have different rates for children of different ages, say one rate for babies from one to three years, and another for children from three to seven, but I think that any fixed rate would be so open to abuse that it would probably be better to leave the amount of aid to be granted to the discretion of the local officers, subject to a maximum limit not exceeding half the rates paid to working children.

4. I would also suggest that this aid should not be indiscriminately given to all children who may be brought to the works, as this would probably lead to large numbers of children being sent to the works by parents not on relief at all, and thus an abuse might spring up. It would be preferable that inquiry should be made into individual cases, and the aid extended to such cases only as seem to need it. Subsistence allowance to children.

No. 146. No. 147.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated Calcutta, the 9th March 1877.

RESOLUTION.

The province of Mysore is undergoing, throughout a large portion of its area, the unusual misfortune of a second season of drought. The harvest of the year 1874–75 was abundant, but the south-west monsoon of 1875 failed so extensively as to cause a loss of the greater part of the dry crops, and the succeeding north-east monsoon was likewise scanty and insufficient to fill the tanks which are relied upon for the irrigation of about one-sixth of the province. The prevalence of distress was brought fully to the notice of the Government of India in January 1876, and aid was afforded by means of relief works and considerable remissions of the land revenue. During the present year both the south-west and north-east monsoons have been even more scanty than before, and distress has consequently been converted into a famine of much severity. The Province of Mysore.

2. In October last the Chief Commissioner reported very fully on the condition of affairs up to date, obtained a grant for relief works, and was requested to submit statistical information regarding each taluk similar to that called for at the same time with reference to the distressed portions of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. Subsequently, a complete review and forecast, resembling that required for those presidencies, was considered to be necessary. The submission of the information thus expected has been unavoidably delayed by various circumstances, and it has not in all cases been found possible to ascertain details with the precision which might have been desired. The result has, moreover, been to a considerable extent anticipated by the graphic sketch of the condition of the province very recently presented by the minute of Sir Richard Temple dated the 14th ultimo, and its accompanying memoranda by Mr. Bernard. At the same time his Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers that there may be much advantage in making public a review of the tract suffering from scarcity which is based upon a comprehensive series of facts, collected by the several local officers who are in actual contact with the people and their difficulties, and expressed as far as possible in their own words.

3. The area of Mysore is 27,077 square miles, and its population 5,055,412, and the province is divided into eight districts, comprising 68 taluks. The Shimoga, Kadur, Hassan, and Mysore districts, which lie in order from north to south along the edge of the Western Ghâts, have suffered less than the others, and the two first named have even afforded by the jungles and grazing grounds in certain of their taluks most material aid to the remainder of the province. Chitaldroog and Bangalore come next in order of failure, while Tumkur, lying between them, and Kolar, the easternmost of all, have virtually lost nearly the whole of their crops. The affected area and population as estimated by the Chief Commissioner are given in the margin, and amount to nearly two-thirds of the whole area and one half the whole population of the province. If, however, all taluks be considered as affected in which the crop saved amounts to less than one half, the numbers will be 14,479 and 2,849,329, while if taluks with half crop saved be added the results will be raised to 16,160 and 3,141,747 respectively.

Area in square miles.	Population.
16,812	2,579,827

4. The rainfall during the past season is shown in the margin. As only one-third of the taluks have had less than half the average, and no less than 31 have received above one-half, the general result is more favourable than that of the rainfall in the distressed districts in the Bombay Presidency during the same period. The fact, however, of the present season being the second one of drought renders the deficiency far more serious in its consequences than it otherwise would have been. The Chief Commissioner reports that "the tanks generally are all "dry, and the gravity of the crisis is undoubted," and it is to be feared that a considerable increase of suffering to both man and beast is inevitable.

Proportion.	Number of Taluks.
Full rainfall - -	8
Three-fourths - -	13
Two-thirds - -	10
One-half - - -	14
One-third - - -	10
One-quarter - -	9
One-seventh - -	4
Total - -	68

The Province of Mysore.

5. The attempt to estimate with any approach to accuracy the failure of crops is in the present case surrounded with considerable difficulties. The province is subject to the influence of two monsoons, and there is also a considerable amount of land dependent on irrigation, which again proceeds from several sources, some of which are less affected by the rainfall than others. In the absence of correct statistics as to the proportions of the total area under each class of cultivation, it is obvious that a mere estimate of the yield of each such class in annas in usually of little use. In some cases the taluk reports are sufficiently intelligible without such statistics, but in others it has been necessary to fall back upon the estimates prepared for the returns called for in October, which, though doubtless framed with all care, are probably less reliable than the more matured taluk reports of a later late, and which for the most part anticipated a loss somewhat heavier than has eventually resulted. The marginal table is the nearest estimate which, under these circumstances, it has been found practicable to frame. The Tumkur district, it will be seen, has suffered the heaviest loss; but is closely followed by Bangalore and Chitaldroog; Kolar and Kadur hold an intermediate position; Hassan and Mysore have failed but slightly, and Shimoga is almost untouched. Counting by taluks, the crop saved is above half in 25 taluks; the failure has been total in 10 and nearly so in eight more, while the intermediate number, losing from one-sixth to one-half both inclusive, is 25. These results are more extreme as regards both crop lost and crop saved, than those ascertained in the case of Bombay.

Districts.	Number of Taluks in which the Crop was								
	Full average.	Five-sixths.	Three-fourths.	One-half.	One-third.	One-fourth.	One-sixth.	One-eighth.	Nil.
Bangalore -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	1
Kolar - -	—	—	—	—	6	2	2	—	—
Tumkur -	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	6
Mysore - -	1	2	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hassan - -	—	4	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Shimoga -	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Kadur - -	2	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Chitaldroog -	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	3
Total -	9	6	10	4	8	5	8	8	10

6. The estimates of probable remissions of land revenue which were formed in November amounted to no less than Rs. 25,64,956, the total demand for the year being Rs. 68,94,825, but further inquiry has reduced this figure to one half, or Rs. 12,76,672. It appears probable that still further reductions will be found practicable, especially in the Kolar district. The general principle laid down by the Chief Commissioner has been that eight annas in the rupee may be remitted on wet lands under tanks, if wholly unirrigated, and from four to six annas on dry land holdings, but that if any further concession be needed it must be in the form of postponement of recovery till next year.

7. The resources of Mysore in cattle and agricultural stock generally have not been reported, but they have already been most materially impaired, and it is to be feared that considerable further loss is unavoidable. The condition of the cattle may be said to be decidedly bad in 19 taluks, indifferent in 41, and good in eight only. The districts of Chitaldroog and Tumkur appear to be the worst, the reported losses being 79,700 and 97,600 head respectively. The remedial measures adopted have been the suspension of sales of grass on waste lands, the throwing open of the State forests, and above all, the removal of the cattle to the Ghât districts, particularly to the eight Mulnad taluks or hilly region in the Shimoga and Kadur districts. Prickly-pear has not found favour as fodder.

8. The scarcity of water is great through above two-thirds of the province; the condition in this respect of 17 taluks being bad and of 32 indifferent, and the suffering of the people and the cattle will be intensified in the event of no rain falling in the course of next month. The digging of temporary wells in the beds of nullas and tanks is the only measure which can be resorted to.

9. The course of prices during the three years months terminating at Christmas is chiefly remarkable as showing a general and gradual rise, rather than the sudden rise and subsequent recovery which was observable in the case of Bombay. Since that date there has been a decided amendment in the price of ragi, but that of rice has been more stationary. The condition and prospects of the grain trade have been ably reviewed in the memoranda by Mr. Bernard, to which reference has already been made, that it is sufficient to say that in Mysore, as elsewhere, private trade has shown great activity, that the demand on the railway is, and will continue to be, in excess of its carrying power, and that there appear to be not inconsiderable stocks in the hands of the people which will not be drawn upon until June and July, when it is to be hoped that rain will have fallen and removed all anxiety regarding the coming season.

10. Mysore, like the west of India generally, does not possess a wealthy zemindari class, who can be relied on to pay their revenue regularly, notwithstanding occasional bad years. and to deal liberally with their tenantry. The population contains a rather larger per-centage than usual of high castes, but the majority are poor, excepting, perhaps, in the Mysore district. The Province of Mysore.

11. The number of persons reported to have emigrated is 334,248, or about 13 per cent. on the affected population, but the movement has for the most part been only to the Mulnad taluks of the Shimoga and Kadur districts, for the purpose of grazing cattle, or to the coffee plantations of Coorg and its vicinity, where labour is in request. It is doubtful whether the change of climate has usually been found advantageous.

12. Up to the period when the taluk reports now under consideration were sent in, the organisation of relief works had not attained any very large dimensions, and the Chief Commissioner was endeavouring, with equal caution and judgment to meet, without exceeding the exigencies of the situation. The projects which have been undertaken have, owing to the want of facilities for large undertakings, been of limited extent, and have in the great majority of instances consisted of tank repairs and clearances. As such projects are particularly appropriate to the circumstances of Mysore, and task-work is everywhere enforced, with the cordial co-operation of the Public Works Department, there is good reason to believe that the result will be a material improvement of the irrigational resources of the province. The totals of the general expenditure up to December 31st, by means of which much relief will be afforded, are given in the margin. The appropriations for relief works under civil officers were on February 17th Rs. 4,98,568, out of which Rs. 1,92,968 had been actually expended. The relief appears to have been sufficient without being excessive.

	Rs.
District Fund Budget - - - -	1,85,323
Special relief works - - - -	1,19,269
Total - -	3,04,592
Imperial Public Works Irrigation Budget -	3,56,234
Ditto roads and buildings ditto	8,36,533
Total - -	11,92,767
Civil Budget; petty repairs, &c. - -	76,831
Municipal Budget - - - -	1,19,713
Total - -	16,93,903

13. The organisation for charitable relief has been carefully developed throughout the various districts. Considerable sums have been privately raised for the support of the aged, helpless, and infirm, and the Chief Commissioner, in accordance with sanction accorded to him at his request on the 2nd November 1876, has made in all cases an equivalent grant on the part of Government. Recently arrangements have been commenced at the suggestion of Sir Richard Temple for a careful house to house visitation, with the view of preventing, as far as human agency can effect it, the mortality which might otherwise possibly occur among those who are from any cause prevented from seeking relief on the works.

14. The local officers estimate, as shown in the margin, the numbers likely to be in receipt of relief. As regards the first-mentioned date, it seems sufficient to say that, according to the latest information obtained by telegraph and relating to the latter part of February, the total on the works and receiving charitable relief was 94,596. The estimate, therefore, while beyond the mark was not altogether excessive, and it seems not improbable that the numbers on the 1st of May may come up to the local calculation. By the 1st of July, however, a considerable reduction in numbers may fairly be anticipated, especially if a favourable commencement of the rains has taken place.

March 1st - -	140,000
May 1st - -	164,000
July 1st - -	166,009

15. In conclusion, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has great pleasure in congratulating the Chief Commissioner and the officers of the Mysore Administration on the zeal, judgment, and humanity which have characterised their arrangements and exertions to meet the great calamity which has fallen upon the province, and the large measure of success which has hitherto attended them.

Ordered, that copies of this Resolution be communicated to the Secretary of State for India, the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, the Governments of Madras and Bombay, and Sir Richard Temple, and that it be published in the "Gazette of India."

No. 147.

No. 238.

No. 14 of 1877.

Agriculture and Horticulture.—Famine.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, 9th March 1877.

Insufficiency of means of transit for grain.

The subject which has most particularly engaged our attention during the past week in connexion with the famine in the presidencies of Madras and Bombay, is the insufficiency of the means at present available for transporting grain from Madras to the interior, and more especially to the north-western districts of Cuddapah, Bellary, and Kurnool. The stock of grain at Madras awaiting removal by rail, including, we understand, some 26,000 tons of Government grain, is very large. Much of it is lying on the beach in bags exposed to the weather, and will be seriously damaged if rain should fall before it is removed. At present the Madras Railway is not able to carry more than 700 tons a day. It is of great importance that the carrying power of the railway should be increased with as little delay as possible, and with this view Sir Richard Temple has suggested, in a minute which we enclose, that the working of the Raichore section of the Madras Railway should, for a time, be made over to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company. On the 3rd instant we communicated to the Madras Government our concurrence in this proposal; but it now appears that there are difficulties in the way of its being carried out, owing, it is stated, to the rolling stock of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway not being more than sufficient to furnish haulage to Raichore. We hope to be able in the course of a few days to make arrangements for the supply of additional rolling-stock from the East Indian and other railways to the Great Indian Peninsula and Madras Railways. The strain on the railways for some months past has been undoubtedly very great, and the exertions of the railway officials have been most commendable; but still greater efforts will have to be made to avert disaster, and we trust that they will not be unsuccessful.

Grain purchases by the Madras Government.

2. Another matter which has caused us considerable anxiety, is the distrust which appears to be felt by members of the mercantile community, both at Madras and at Calcutta, in connexion with the purchases of grain made by the Madras Government some time ago. From letters which have appeared in the newspapers, and from information which has reached us from other quarters, there is evidently still an impression that the relations between the Madras Government and the firm which was employed by it to make its purchases, have not entirely ceased, and that there is danger of further similar purchases being made, and disarranging the calculations of the trade. Some colour was unfortunately given to the impression in question by a transaction which occurred at Bellary subsequent to the date on which the Madras Government brought to a close the arrangement with the firm alluded to for the purchase of grain. It appears that on the 12th of January, the arrangement with Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company having been terminated on the 5th, the Collector of Bellary purchased some grain for the relief works from a local firm without reference to the local agent of Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company, and was called upon by the Madras Government to explain why this particular transaction had been concluded without reference to the Government brokers, and it was not until the 29th January that the Government officers at Bellary became aware that Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company were no longer Government brokers. The fact that the firm in question had ceased to act for the Government in that capacity was not publicly notified by the Madras Government until the 8th February, a delay which was unfortunate, and which not improbably caused misapprehension in the minds of the mercantile community. From orders of the Madras Government which have recently been received, we learn that Messrs. Arbuthnot and Company were employed in issuing supplies of rice from the Government reserve, and in replacing in the reserve an equal quantity which apparently was supplied by them to the Government. In one of Sir Richard Temple's recent minutes, the same firm are alluded to under the designation of the Government grain agents. We are aware that the Madras Government have no intention of entering into further purchases of grain, similar to those made by them in November last; but it is so important that there should be no grounds whatever for misapprehension, either as to the action or intentions of the Government in this matter, that we have deemed it necessary to request that the Madras Government will lose no time in publicly notifying the quantity of grain now in its hands, both at Madras itself, and in the distressed districts, and its resolution to make no further purchases of grain outside of the distressed districts, unless it is satisfied that the trade is unable

To allay apprehensions of mercantile community, Madras Government will publicly

to supply the wants of those districts, in which case the grounds of that conclusion, and the exact intentions of the Government should be publicly made known. We have also instructed the Madras Government to notify that even in the distressed districts, the Government will abstain from making purchases except for the relief of localities which the trade is unable to reach; that all Government grain now in those districts will be removed to places at least 60 miles from the railway, and that no more Government grain will be sent to those districts from Madras so long as private trade is able to supply them.

notify intentions to make no further purchases.

3. In regard to the reserve of Government grain now at Madras, amounting, as we have said, to 26,000 tons, we have suggested, for the consideration of his Grace the Governor of Madras in Council, the expediency of disposing of this reserve by public sale to the trade. With reference to the large quantity of grain which appears to have accumulated at Madras, belonging to private traders, the retention of a Government reserve would seem to be unnecessary; and its existence is certainly calculated to keep alive the erroneous impressions which have taken possession of the public mind in regard to the probability of the Government again interfering with the grain market. We think that the reserve should be sold to the highest bidders in specified lots at intervals of, say, a fortnight, previous notification being given of the quantities to be sold, and of the dates on which the sales will take place. We feel sure that the adoption of these precautions will effectually dispel any apprehensions of interference on the part of the Government with private trade.

Government reserve at Madras should be sold to trade.

4. Among the enclosures of this Despatch will be found a minute by Sir Richard Temple on the expediency of drafting labourers from the relief works in the Nellore district, and also from the ceded districts and Kurnool, to the East Coast Navigation Canal, on which some 30,000 persons are now employed, but which will afford useful occupation to 60,000 more. This is one of the few relief works of magnitude at present in progress in the Madras Presidency. It is likely to prove a most useful work, passing, as it does, through the whole length of the Nellore district, connecting the delta of the Kistna River with Madras, and, as Sir Richard Temple observes, opening out "a large "field for inland trade between the presidency town and some of the richest agricultural "districts." It is a work which the Madras Government have long desired to carry out to completion, and it would have been completed under the Government of Lord Napier and Ettrick, who gave much attention to the project, had funds been available. It is very desirable that the present opportunity should not be lost. We have no doubt that in this, and in other cases, the difficulty of inducing people to leave their villages for a distant work on which a full day's work will be exacted can be overcome by patience and firmness on the part of the district officers and their subordinates.

East Coast Navigation Canal capable of employing 90,000 persons.

5. The following is Sir Richard Temple's telegraphic summary, received yesterday, of the present aspect of affairs in the Madras Presidency:—

Condition of Madras Presidency.

"Spring crop coming on in most of the distressed districts, tendency of prices slightly favourable, markets well supplied, but much anxiety about accumulation of grain at Madras. Great delay in doubling line to Arconum. Number on relief works further decreased by improved carefulness of local officers; task-work more strict from improved supervision. The reduction of wages is being introduced with much hesitation. Since letter reporting my inspection at various times of 97,000 relief labourers, I have inspected 30,000 more in districts of Cuddapah, Nellore, North Arcot, Coimbatore, and Salem. With some exceptions, physical condition of gangs inspected fairly good. In Nellore, relief labourers very reluctant to be transferred from petty village works under lax supervision to Coast Canal under professional control. Local rumours of mortality going on in Nellore district are without foundation. Applicants for charitable relief decreasing, because unwilling to submit to system of relief camps. General prospect tolerably favourable, with certain drawbacks only."

6. The number of persons employed in the relief works in the Madras Presidency, according to the latest returns, was 667,443, showing a decrease of 36,241 below the number of the previous week; 48,091 persons were gratuitously fed against 46,588, the corresponding number for the previous week.

Number in receipt of relief in Madras and Bombay.

7. In Bombay the number on the relief works during the week ending the 2nd instant was 263,053. As compared with the previous week, there was an increase of 11,630 persons; but the number on the works is enormously below the estimates referred to in the 10th paragraph of our Despatch of the 23rd ultimo, which gave the probable number for the 1st March at the respective figures of 750,000, 540,000, and 677,500. In Mysore the number on the works was 94,596.

The reduced rate of wages.

8. We have been furnished by the Madras Government with a copy of the letter addressed to them by their Sanitary Commissioner, which has been sent by them to your Lordship, regarding the alleged insufficiency of the reduced rate of wages lately prescribed for the relief works in the Madras Presidency. Sir Richard Temple has proceeded to Madras for the purpose of conferring with the Local Government on this subject. We shall probably be in a position to express our views upon it in our next Despatch.

No. 146.

9. We enclose a summary of the returns received from Mysore in reply to our call of the 30th October last, regarding the condition and prospects of the several talukas or subdivisions of districts in that province, together with our resolution reviewing them. As we have already noticed most of the salient facts connected with the famine in Mysore in our Despatch of the 23rd ultimo, we need not do more on the present occasion than draw your Lordship's attention to the papers now sent, which confirm the opinions we had previously formed from Sir Richard Temple's reports that the arrangements for dealing with the famine in that province have been characterised by zeal, judgment, and humanity.

10. When we deputed Sir Richard Temple in January last to visit the famine-stricken tracts and to confer with the Local Governments regarding the measures which were being carried out for the relief of distress, we had hoped that his mission would not occupy more than a few weeks; but it now seems probable that the arduous duty on which he is engaged will still occupy him for some time longer. It is impossible to over-estimate the value of the service which Sir Richard Temple is rendering to the State at the present juncture.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
H. W. NORMAN.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.

Nos. 175, 181.

No. 148.

No. 276, dated 9th March 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Grain purchases by Madras Government. Instructions of Government of India in regard to.

I am directed by the Governor-General in Council to communicate the following remarks with reference to the stock of grain purchased by the Government of Madras, a considerable portion of which is retained as a reserve.

2. The Madras Government are doubtless aware of the distrust which is felt by members of the mercantile community both at Madras and at Calcutta, and it is believed also at Rangoon, in connexion with the purchases of grain made by the Madras Government some time ago. This feeling has found expression from time to time in letters in the newspapers, and it is evident, from information which has reached the Government of India from other quarters, that there still exists an impression among persons interested in the grain trade that the relations between the Madras Government and the firm which it employed to make its purchases have not entirely ceased, and that there is a danger of other similar purchases being made, and disarranging the calculations of the trade. Some colour has unfortunately been given to the impression in question by the delay which occurred in notifying to the district officials at Bellary, and to the public generally, the termination of the appointment of Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co., as Government brokers for the purchase of grain; and from proceedings of the Madras Government which have recently been received, it would appear that Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. were employed a few weeks ago in issuing supplies of rice from the Government reserve and in replacing in the reserve an equal quantity, which, apparently, was supplied by them to the Government. In one of Sir Richard Temple's recent minutes the same firm are alluded to under the designation of the Government grain agents.

3. The Governor-General in Council is aware that the Madras Government have no intention of entering into further purchases of grain similar to those made by them in November last, but it is so important that there should be no grounds whatever for misapprehension, either as to the action or intentions of the Government, that his Excellency

in Council deems it necessary to request that the Madras Government will lose no time in publicly notifying the quantity of grain now in its hands, both at Madras itself and in the distressed districts, and its resolution to make no further purchases of grain outside of the distressed districts, unless it is satisfied that the trade is unable to supply the wants of those districts, in which case the grounds of that conclusion, and the exact intentions of the Government, will be publicly made known before action is taken. Grain purchases by Madras Government.

4. This resolution should apply not only to additions to the reserve of grain now stored at Madras, but also to purchases made with the view of supplying the place of issues made from the reserve. It should also be notified that even in the distressed districts the Government will abstain from making purchases except for the relief of localities which the trade is unable to reach, that all Government grain now in those districts will be removed to places at least 60 miles from the railway, and that no more Government grain will be sent to them from Madras so long as private trade is able to supply them. I am to request that these instructions may be carried out with as little delay as possible.

5. In regard to the reserve of Government grain now at Madras, which, according to the latest information furnished to the Government of India, amounted to 26,000 tons, I am to suggest, for the consideration of his Grace in Council, the expediency of disposing of this reserve by public sale to the trade. With reference to the large quantity of grain which appears to have accumulated at Madras, belonging to private traders, the retention of a Government reserve would seem to be unnecessary, and its existence is certainly calculated to keep alive the erroneous impressions which have taken possession of the public mind in regard to the probability of the Government again interfering with the grain market. What the Government of India would suggest is that the reserve should be sold to the highest bidders in specified lots of, say, 5,000 tons each, at intervals of a fortnight, previous notification being given of the quantities to be sold, and of the dates on which the sales will take place.

No. 149. No. 181.

LIX.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Madras, 12th March 1877.

When recording my minute of the 19th February, upon the adoption of the Negapatam route for the supply of grain to Bangalore, I was under the impression that the rates for the carriage of grain from Negapatam to Bangalore had already been lowered, and that the effect would by this time have been apparent in considerable despatches of grain to Bangalore by this route. Negapatam route, supply of grain to Mysore by.

2. It was hoped that the augmented stock of engines would, by the 1st of March, have put the Madras Railway in a position to despatch grain from Madras up to the full extent of the carrying power of the single line between Madras and Arconum, and in addition to this to carry to Bangalore all the grain despatched from Beypore or Negapatam. And I look forward with much anxiety to the early attainment of this object.

3. With the large amount of grain now on the Madras beach, the immediate importance of the fullest possible despatches of grain from Madras is manifest. But I am advised that with the best arrangements the despatches of grain by the single line of rail from Madras to Arconum are not likely to exceed 45,000 tons a month; while the requirements in all the distressed districts from Madras and other sources of supply may rise even to 90,000 tons a month; and I have therefore invited attention to the great importance of the subsidiary sources of supply, namely, Raichore, Beypore, and Negapatam. Grain supply to Mysore.

4. Captain Bisset has now visited Negapatam and Bangalore, and in the record of his observations he shows that, even at present, 200 tons a day can be landed at Negapatam and forwarded to Bangalore; and that, with improved landing facilities at Negapatam and increased transhipping accommodation at Trichinopoly, a daily supply of 300 tons may be obtained at Bangalore by this route. He has noted, also, that the demand for grain in Bangalore is now put at over 500 tons a day, or nearly 100 tons a day above previous estimates.

5. On account of this growing demand, and because the progress of the doubling of the line of railway from Madras to Arconum is so much slower than I was led to expect when recommending this measure, the arrangements for developing traffic *viâ* Negapatam become even more important than before; and I would invite attention to

Grain supply to Mysore.

the several suggestions offered in Captain Bisset's narrative, and would make the following recommendations:—

I. That increased landing facilities be provided at Negapatam to meet a traffic, which, on the closing of the western ports by the monsoon, will become of vital importance to the country.

II. That the necessary measures be taken to avoid delays in the supply of waggons at Negapatam, and in the transhipment of grain at Trichinopoly.

III. That the system of waggon-interchange at Erode be adopted as suggested by Captain Bisset.

IV. That every publicity be given to the orders for the reduction of grain rates from Negapatam to Bangalore, and that a similar reduction be made in the rates from Negapatam to Kolar road, a station from which large supplies are sent to the northern parts of Mysore and the southern taluks of Bellary.

No. 181.

No. 150.

No. 115, dated Madras, 12th March 1877.

From the Secretary to Sir Richard Temple to the Secretary to the Government of India.

Forwarding No. 149.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple I have the honour to submit copy of a minute recorded by him in regard to the utilisation of the Negapatam port and route for the supply of grain to Bangalore and the Mysore country. The desirability of working this route first attracted the notice of his Grace the Governor, and it was in accordance with his Grace's suggestion that Captain Bisset was deputed to look into the facts on the spot. It is believed that steps have already been or are now being taken, under the orders of his Grace the Governor in Council, to meet some of the requirements noticed in the appended minute.

No. 181.

No. 151.

LXII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Madras, 12th March 1877, on the employment of weavers in the Madras Presidency.

Light labour required for weavers and spinners.

I desire to invite attention to the advisability of establishing some light labour test for the many thousands of weavers and spinners who are now coming upon the hands of Government in several of the famine-stricken districts of the Madras Presidency. It was proposed, as I understand some months ago by some of the Madras authorities, that Government should advance money to enable destitute weavers to buy material and carry on their trade. For several reasons it was then thought the plan might be deferred. But I submit that the time has come when this proposal might, with such modification as may be required by local circumstances, be resuscitated and carried into effect.

2. Near Bangalore, on a tank, I saw a special gang of poor weavers, who were allowed a higher rate for their piece-work than ordinary relief labourers, because their habits and the condition of their hands and fingers prevented their doing a full day's work. Some similar arrangements are, I believe, carried out in several places in the Madras Presidency also. And such arrangements may suffice for those weavers who make the coarser fabrics at Adoni, at Bellary, and other places.

3. But there are many weavers who work in silk or who do the finer kinds of cotton weaving; and such people might, if put upon tank or road work, become physically unfitted, for a time at any rate, to return to their usual employment after the end of the famine. Yet many of these poor people are undoubtedly in great straits; they can get no market for their products, and they can get no credit wherewith to buy materials. Yet they are many of them quite ready to work to the best of their power, in return for such relief as the State may give them. At Salem, for instance, I learnt that the silk weavers had reduced themselves to some extremity sooner than go on relief works, and at present they are subsisting on an organised private charity. Similar instances will ere long occur in Vellore, even if they are not already occurring.

4. In parts of Bengal (Burdwan and other places), during the famine of 1874, advances were made to weavers, and their manufactures were taken over by Government officers in return for the advances and for their support. At some of the relief houses also weavers were employed in making cotton and silk fabrics. The stores of such manu-

factures were kept till after the famine, and these were sold to the best advantage; and in the end the loss was not very large. I suggest that the Madras Government might see fit to authorise its officers to make similar arrangements at towns or in tracts where there is a large population of weavers who make the finer kinds of cotton or silk cloth. The Collectors, with the assistance and advice of Native officers and non-official Native gentlemen, would be able to carry out arrangements such as are now suggested with the least possible loss to the State, and with much advantage to a deserving and industrious class of the people.

Light labour required for weavers and spinners.

No. 152. No. 181.

LXIII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding relief camps and gratuitous relief in the Ceded Districts.

Madras, 12th March 1877.

In the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency below the ghâts there have been established relief camps for the reception and treatment of destitute persons who are unfit for labour on relief works. These camps consist of sheds erected in rows within large enclosures. They afford accommodation which is really good; indeed their accommodation ought not to be better than it is, otherwise a standard of comfort would be set up far superior to anything that could be obtained in the villages. They are organised and managed in a way that is most creditable to the officers concerned. Provided that the people were taken care of, their diseases treated and their necessities relieved, it was undoubtedly desirable at the outset that sojourn in these relief camps should not be made so agreeable and attractive as to lead to the pauperisation of the people. And so far the object has been attained.

Relief camps well organised,

2. But as the season advances, it is evident that these camps are not so largely resorted to as might be expected under the circumstances of the people. There seems to be some prejudice against them among the poorest classes. And there is actually reason to fear that destitute persons may shrink from going to relief camps so long that meanwhile they may drift into dangerous distress. It is noticed that in some cases people will not resort to the camps, and paupers who are taken there run away for a few days only to return in a worse condition than ever. It may therefore become necessary for officers in charge of relief camps to make their camps somewhat more popular than they are now.

but not popular.

3. After consulting various Native gentlemen of experience, I think that some concession might be made in relief camps to the caste feelings of the people. For the very poor classes, who in this presidency are often said to belong to no caste, the present system of public cooks in the camps might suffice. But for those who have grown up with caste feeling, some relaxation of the present arrangements might be permitted. Inmates might be allowed to cook their own food either for themselves or for self-arranged gangs, and they might be allowed to eat their meals apart and free from observation. In most of the camps there would be ample space for the enjoyment of such concessions. Then again, the sheds might be set apart for the principal castes; the casteless or very low caste people would in such case have sufficient shed accommodation for themselves. In most cases it would be possible to make these not very great (but still to Natives acceptable) concessions without any considerable increase of expenditure. If such concessions could be given, the relief camps would certainly become more efficient as safeguards against dangerous distress.

4. While the relief camp system has generally been adopted below the ghats, different arrangements have been made for giving gratuitous relief in the ceded districts. In those districts outdoor relief, in the shape of cooked food, is distributed to ticket holders and to orphan children at relief houses. Ordinarily there is one such relief house at the head-quarters of each taluk, and five or six other subordinate relief houses in the interior of the taluk. Each such relief house is under the superintendence of a selected village official, or of a Revenue Inspector. At the outset there may have been, indeed in some cases there certainly were, abuses at relief houses of this kind; and gratuitous relief was occasionally given with undue liberality at towns where arrangements, begun from private charity, were afterwards taken over by Government officers. But now that adequate supervision has been or is being provided for every distressed taluk, these relief houses are inspected once or oftener in each week; abuses will be prevented, and the numbers on charitable relief are by no means excessive.

Gratuitous reliefs.

elief camps
id gratui-
us relief.

5. The sad prevalence of cholera, and the practical* difficulties in the way of effective sanitation may prove obstacles to the extension of the relief camp system to the ceded districts. And under all the circumstances of the case, I would therefore now recommend that in those districts the present system of giving gratuitous relief be allowed to remain; and that the regular systematic inspection of all relief houses be enforced. One or two relief camps only in central places in the ceded districts might suffice.

*NOTE.—Persons of the sweeper caste are not readily procurable in the ceded districts.

No. 181.

No. 153.

LXIV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madras, 12th March 1877, on his visit to the Coimbatore and Salem Districts.

Salem and Coimbatore.

In forwarding the accompanying memorandum of my visit to the districts of Salem and Coimbatore, a few brief remarks from me will suffice:

2. There can be no doubt of the heavy losses suffered in the eastern and north-eastern part of the Coimbatore district, and of the serious distress among the labouring classes.

3. The relief has been confined as yet to those classes, and has not yet been extended to the purely cultivating classes. Some portions of these classes are no doubt straitened, and had the relief system been at all lax, many of these would by this time have been in receipt of State charity. But the district authorities are very justly alive to the importance of keeping the peasant proprietory off State charity as long as possible.

4. My inspection of the various gangs of relief labourers, about 7,500 persons in all, was highly satisfactory, that is to say, the men and women were almost all of the sort which one would expect to find properly on relief; very few were persons who seemed able to sustain themselves, very few were in a physically reduced condition; task-work was rigorously exacted; there were many signs of system and organisation. About each person, singly, whose appearance seemed at all reduced, special inquiries were made. The local authorities were confident that the village headmen do understand and act upon the Government orders about searching for every individual case of distress throughout the district.

5. It is very satisfactory to find that the Collector does not anticipate any large increase of numbers on relief. This must, however, greatly depend on the weather.

6. On the whole, I consider the Coimbatore gangs to be the most satisfactory gangs which I have yet inspected anywhere. My impression regarding the carefulness, vigilance, and economy exercised by the Collector, Mr. Wedderburn, is very favourable. He is manifestly a thoughtful and experienced officer. The same watchfulness on his part which guards against waste or demoralisation will also ensure that no case of real distress will escape unrelieved. His Assistant and Sub-Collector, Mr. MacWalters, is an excellent manager, indeed, he is one of the very best relief officers whom I have met in this presidency.

7. My visit in the Salem district was cut short by the necessity of proceeding to Madras to confer with the Government on certain points. But I had the advantage of carefully examining the Collector, Mr. Longley, regarding the relief operations of the district in the presence of Mr. Puckle of the Board of Revenue. Here also I have formed a very favourable impression of the care and management of the Collector. He seems to me to be exacting task-work more strictly and completely than in any other district in this presidency. Considering the undoubted distress in the northern portion of his district, I think that his numbers on relief are moderate, though I fear they must increase. He is most thoughtful too, about searching for individual misery in every village. I have not met any officer yet in this presidency with sounder ideas on this important matter than Mr. Longley.

8. I have the pleasure to express my unqualified satisfaction with the result of the proceedings of the Collectors of Salem and Coimbatore, and my belief that in both these districts the Madras Government is thoroughly well served.

No. 154. No. 181.

LXV.—Memorandum on Sir Richard Temple's visit to Coimbatore and Salem on 6th, 7th, and 8th March, by Mr. C. E. Buckland, Private Secretary. Salem and Coimbatore.

Madras, 12th March 1877.

In the district of Coimbatore, on the 6th and 7th March, Sir Richard Temple met Mr. MacWalters, the Sub-Collector, the officer in charge of the relief works in the interior, the tahsildars of Bhowany, Parundoray, Pelladum, and Coimbatore. He observed on both days the aspects of the country between Erode and Coimbatore, which comprises the tracts that have most suffered from drought. At Coimbatore itself he stayed with Mr. Wedderburn, the Collector, from whom he learnt that on the 6th March there were on relief works 22,351 labourers, the number the week previous having been 22,900. The number of persons fed gratuitously was stated to be 1,312, of whom 600 were at Oodamalapetta, some at Suttyamangulum, and some at Bhowany. He thought now that the numbers would not rise above 30,000 at the worst time. The labourers are only paid for six days in the week, and task-work is enforced at the rate of 10 cubic yards for the rupee.

2. All the markets in the district are well supplied, as trade is extraordinarily active; Coimbatore itself is full of grain. The imports by sea all come from the west coast (Beypore). Cholum and ragi are imported largely from Bombay, and even Bengal rice comes round to Beypore. Last week 322 tons of rice were brought in, and 299 tons of dry grains. The price of grain has not varied greatly since last December. About the end of October and beginning of November prices ran up suddenly, in consequence of the demand for Mysore. The ordinary and present prices of food may be thus compared, in Madras measures for a rupee—

	Ordinary.	Present.
Rice - - - - - -	12·50	7·80
Cholum - - - - -	20·50	9·33
Ragi - - - - - -	23·50	10·20
Cumboo - - - - -	24·	10·60

The Collector regards the stationary prices of food grain since November as evidence of the existence of old stocks in the district. In his opinion, generally, one or one-and-a-half year's supply is kept in hand, though he has no means of gauging the amount accurately. And the fact of any quantity of rice being available at the rate of 7·80 seers the rupee, he thinks, keeps down the prices of the other grains; rice is only consumed by the upper classes as a rule.

3. The harvest just reaped has averaged about three or four annas throughout the district. The rice crop from the wet lands is nearly all cut, and the out-turn will be a half crop. For two or three months no field-work or agriculture is expected.

The Collector anticipates no necessity to make any remissions of land revenue in the Coimbatore taluk. Of the five lakhs assessment on "wet" land, where there has been a half crop, he expects to have to remit one lakh, and four lakhs out of the 19 lakhs assessment on the "dry" land.

5. The estimated expenditure sanctioned for the district is Rs. 4,68,346, of which, up to date, Rs. 1,40,860 have been spent.

6. During the week there were 1,158 attacks of cholera and 748 deaths.

7. On his way to Coimbatore, Sir Richard inspected collections of relief labourers, amounting to more than 5,500, at the stations of Perandoorg, Ootakally, Loonanoor, and Coimbatore, and on the return journey about 2,800 more at Avenashy road and Erode. Their condition struck him as middling, though sufficiently good with some few exceptions. Very few seemed to be able to sustain themselves without relief. Most of them belonged to the poorest and lowest classes. The velalars or cultivating classes were but slightly represented in these gangs, and these were either field labourers or cultivators of the poorest class. On the whole, the gangs comprised persons who need relief and hardly any others. There were no signs of waste or abuses, and many signs of care, system, and organisation. As relief labourers, these people appeared to be in a satisfactory condition, just in the sort of condition we should reasonably expect to find. At Coimbatore itself a number of weavers presented themselves, and complained that they had to work at the rate of 10 cubic yards the rupee, which was beyond their power. They had struck work in consequence. The Collector had under consideration the lowering of the task for these people.

Salem and Coimbatore.

8. At Salem, on the 8th, Sir Richard Temple met Mr. R. Puckle, member of the Board of Revenue, Mr. Longley, the Collector, and the Native Deputy Collector. He inspected the relief camp near the head-quarters of the district, and inspected one gang of relief labourers, who were in very fair condition. He examined some of the wells in the highly cultivated plain near Salem, and found most of them dry, although water might be reached by deepening them; these seemed cases for advances being made by Government. He again questioned Mr. Longley carefully on all the points comprised in the memorandum of the 25th January. Mr. Longley had just returned from a careful inspection of the most distressed taluk in the district, namely, Dhurumpuri. Its condition, by all accounts, is very bad, as bad as that of any taluk in the presidency; but the relief operations have been carefully inspected by the Collector, and he is confident of their success and sufficiency. Undoubtedly, those portions of the district which, geographically, form a part of the Mysore plateau must suffer severely. For the other part of the district there is not much anxiety. The Collector's answers to all questions in detail were highly satisfactory. Sir Richard Temple was himself about to visit the Dhurumpuri taluk when he was summoned to Madras on important financial business. He is bound to say that from no Collector in the presidency has he received more sound and explicit replies to all questions regarding relief than from Mr. Longley. The Collector is most strict and zealous in enforcing a full performance of work by the gangs, and most anxious that all cases of misery should be dealt with under the village relief system. He is in some difficulty in regard to finding suitable work for the silk-weavers, who are as a class much distressed. He also regrets that the excellent relief camp is not more largely attended. On the day of Sir Richard Temple's visit, the number of relief labourers was taken to be somewhat below 25,000; the question of this number remaining stationary or rising depended on the falling of the spring showers. In this district, as in Coimbatore, the relief comprises only the poorest and lowest castes, and the poorest stratum of the agriculturists. The numbers on charitable relief were now under 10,000, but these will probably increase. The Collector quite understands the importance of instructing the village headmen to seek out and care for all cases of distress.

9. Sir Richard Temple had the advantage of verifying all these matters with Mr. Puckle, who most forcibly drew attention to the drought and uncertainty of season caused by the rapid denudation of the hill sides once so richly clothed with forests.

No. 181.

No. 155.

Relief works and gratuitous relief.

LXVI.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Madras, 12th March 1877, on relief works and gratuitous relief.

In continuation of my minute dated 24th February, and the statement thereto appended, I desire to submit a further statement of the numbers of relief labourers and recipients of gratuitous relief inspected by me between the 24th February and the 8th March, and some persons of the poorest classes, for the most part in the districts of North Arcot, Nellore, Cuddapah, and Coimbatore.

2. These inspections were conducted in the manner previously described. The analysis of the numbers shows that the physical condition of 14,330, 17,069, 2,428, and 1,300 may be considered as having been good, middling, indifferent, and bad respectively.

3. I wish to take this opportunity of correcting the description given of the physical condition of the gangs of 500 and 2,000 relief labourers and recipients of gratuitous relief inspected by me on the 26th and 27th of January at Madras and at Red Hills. Instead of the word "indifferent" I should have used the word "bad." It had been my wish to avoid minute distinctions and to group the gangs into broad classes, which would be readily numbered. But on reflection I think that the gangs mentioned were so inferior in physical condition to any other collection of such persons I have seen, that the word "bad" would have been more appropriately used to describe them.

STATEMENT shewing the CLASSIFICATION of PERSONS on RELIEF WORK and RECIPIENTS of GRATUITOUS RELIEF inspected by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE between 24th February and 8th March 1877.

Relief works and gratuitous relief.

Date of Inspection.	District.	Place.	Number.	Physical Condition.
24th February 1877	North Arcot	Tripati	1,000	Middling.
25th „ „	„	Chandragiri	300	„
„ „ „	„	„	58	Indifferent.
26th „ „	„	Trituni	600	Middling.
„ „ „	„	Puthoor	950	„
„ „ „	„	Kalustri	600	Bad.
27th „ „	Nellore	Goodoor	200	Middling.
„ „ „	„	„	650	„
28th „ „	„	East Coast Canal — Maipad	1,000	Good.
„ „ „	„	East Coast Canal — Korutoor	5,000	„
„ „ „	„	East Coast Canal — North of Maipad	2,000	Middling.
„ „ „	„	Anicut at Nellore	870	Indifferent.
1st March „	„	Nellurpalem (Atmakoor)	4,560	Good.
„ „ „	„	Nandeveram	950	Middling.
„ „ „	„	Murripad	1,300	Indifferent.
2nd „ „	Cuddapah	Sidhout and Budr	850	Good.
„ „ „	„	*En route*	700	Middling.
4th „ „	North Arcot	Ranipett (relief camp)	300	Bad.
„ „ „	„	„	500	Middling.
„ „ „	„	Arni	500	„
„ „ „	„	„	1,000	Good.
5th „ „	„	Near Keniembady pass	500	„
„ „ „	„	Vellore	600	Middling.
„ „ „	„	„ (relief camp)	200	Bad.
6th „ „	Coimbatore	Perandooray	963	Middling.
„ „ „	„	Ootakally	1,456	„
„ „ „	„	Somanoor	2,000	„
„ „ „	„	Coimbatore	1,100	Good.
7th „ „	„	„	200	Indifft. (on strike).
„ „ „	„	Avenashay road	2,400	Middling.
„ „ „	„	Erode	1,300	„
8th „ „	Salem	Salem	300	Good.
		„ (relief camp)	200	Bad.
		Total	35,127	

Analysis.—Physical condition.

Good.	Middling.	Indifferent.	Bad.
14,330	17,069	2,428	1,300

No. 156.

Nos. 157, 181.

No. 727R., dated 13th March 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department (Railway).

Accumulation of grain on East Indian Railway.

Referring to your No. 121 of 29th January and telegrams of 2nd and 3rd February 1877, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Government of Bombay, copy of a note,* dated 13th February 1877, on the accumulation of grain at stations on the East Indian Railway.

2. It is evident that up to the date of this report the East Indian Railway was tendering to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Jubbulpore more waggons than the latter could take away. So long as this continues to be the case there can be no ground for intervention on behalf of the Great Indian Peninsula Company and its traffic in the manner desired by the traffic authorities of that line. The East Indian Railway meantime finds full use for its stock in transporting grain to the seaboard for export, and there is no apparent ground for the idea that this traffic has been favoured at the sacrifice of that to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. To lock up an indefinite number of waggons at Jubbulpore waiting on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway would reduce, in this emergency, the useful effect of the East Indian Railway as a whole very materially.

3. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company returns the East Indian waggons within the limit provided in the working agreement.

* No. 83.

Grain accumulation on East Indian Railway.

4. For the accumulation at Jubbulpore and the long delay in clearing that station (paragraph 12) the Great Indian Peninsula is responsible.

5. The Government of Bombay will observe that it is reported that the strictest impartiality was being exercised in the despatch of consignments for the several stations of the East Indian Railway.

No. 181.

No. 157.

No. 728R., dated 13th March 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department, to the CONSULTING ENGINEER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA for Guaranteed Railways.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your No. 440 of 23rd February 1877, submitting a note on the accumulation of grain at stations on the East Indian Railway.

2. It is evident that up to the date of this report the East Indian Railway was tendering to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway at Jubbulpore more waggons than the latter could take away. So long as this continues to be the case the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company can have no just ground of complaint that its traffic is not fairly dealt with. The East Indian Railway, meantime, finds the fullest use for its stock in transporting grain to the seaboard for export, and there is no apparent ground for the idea that this traffic has been favoured at the sacrifice of that to the Great Indian Peninsula Railways. To lock up an indefinite number of waggons at Jubbulpore waiting on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway would reduce in this emergency the useful effect of the East Indian Railway, as a whole, very materially.

3. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company returns the East Indian waggons within the limit provided in the working agreements, and it has been confirmed from Madras that very few East Indian waggons have passed on to the Madras Railways. On the 21st January it had 21.

4. The accumulation of grain at Cawnpore, both for the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and for Howrah, was very large. At Atawa and Delhi also there were large accumulations. Goods registered at Jubbulpore so far back as the end of November were being sent off on February 4th; and at Jubbulpore, as also at the four adjacent stations of the Jubbulpore line of the East Indian Railway there were large accumulations. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway is apparently entirely responsible for the state of affairs at Jubbulpore.

5. It is reported that the heavy traffic on the East Indian Railway is being conducted with regularity, and that the strictest impartiality is being observed in the despatch of consignments from the several stations individually. This is satisfactory. It is presumed that the claims of all stations receive fair consideration in turn, even though in the case of some this may involve a very short lead.

6. The waggon mileage rate (paragraph 15) on the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula lines is irrespective of the capacity of the waggons. This point was reserved for consideration at the conference, but should probably receive earlier attention.

7. The accumulations on the loop line are considerable. The Nulhatti State Railway appears to have been subjected to summary, if not arbitrary, treatment in the matter of its through booked consignments.

No. 181.

No. 158.

LXVII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madras, 13th March 1877.

Grain trade from Bombay to Madras.

I desire to invite the attention of the Government of Bombay to the following remarks regarding the grain trade from (and through) the Bombay Presidency into the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency.

2. In the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, where the recent failure of harvests has been extreme, cholum (or jowari) is the staple food of the people. During the month of December cholum was, in those districts, selling, at times, as dear as $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers (15 lbs.) per rupee, or even at still dearer rates. At that time the Madras Railway was not able to dispose promptly of all the grain which the Great Indian Peninsula Railway delivered at Raichore. During January much improvement was effected in this respect; and throughout the month of February an average of 105 waggons (about 683 tons) of cholum was daily carried from Raichore into the Madras Presidency. One result of this large and steady importation of food was that the price of white (*i.e.*, northern) cholum became much cheaper in the ceded districts, and was ruling at $10\frac{1}{2}$ to 12 seers (21 to 24 lbs.) in the markets close to the railway.

3. During the last ten days, however, the smaller despatches of grain through Raichore have attracted attention. And one consequence of this decrease in the importations is that the price of cholum is already beginning to grow dearer. The decrease in the importation is not due to any shortcomings on the part of the Madras Railway, for that company is now carrying away promptly all the grain waggons which it receives from the Great Indian Peninsular Railway. It was at first conjectured that the fall in prices at Bellary and Adoni might have left no margin of profit for importers. But on the other hand the excellent spring harvests, now coming under the sickle in Northern India, will throw an immense quantity of food into the market. And I am assured that there are still large stocks of jowari, rice, and wheat in the districts known as the Nagpore section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and that the dealers there would send off much more jowari (as much as ever), if only they could get waggons to carry it.

Grain trade from Bombay to Madras.

4. The season of greatest pressure in the famine-striken districts of Madras is now approaching. The best estimate I have been able to make shows that from 75,000 to 90,000 tons of imported grain per month may be wanted by those districts during the worst time. And it will be quite impossible to maintain that rate of supply if the grain traffic from the west should remain at an average of 85* waggons (550 tons) a day. I consider that for the due safety of the country the grain imports from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway should not permanently fall below 130 waggons a day, while they ought at the worst time to reach 150 waggons a day.

* This is the average number of grain waggons taken out of Raichore during the first ten days of March.

5. I am aware that there may at the present time be much pressure on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to carry cotton, seeds, and other commodities down to Bombay for export by sea. But I am confident that the Governments of India and Bombay will be pleased to approve of the view that the safety of the lives of the people, and the food supply which secure that safety, is of paramount importance. And I would urge that such steps as the Government of Bombay may deem right be taken to secure that sufficient waggons be allotted to the grain traffic as will secure the delivery of at least 120 waggons of grain (on the average) daily at Raichore, so long as dealers may be ready to send food grains into the distressed districts of Madras. If it should hereafter appear that dealers do not come forward to fill with grain all the waggons allotted to the Madras grain traffic, then the position can be reconsidered. But so long as grain dealers are ready to send their grain, a sufficient number of waggons ought in my judgment to be allotted to the grain traffic for the Madras districts. The contingency must be kept in view, that hereafter the average requirement of 130 waggons may have to be raised to an average of 150 waggons per diem.

No. 159.

No. 181.

LXXIII.—Memorandum by Captain Bisset on the present state of the engine stock of the Madras Railway, dated Madras, 13th March 1877.

I have to-day learnt from the Consulting Engineer for Railways the following about the engine-drivers and the engines of the Madras Railway.

Engine stock of Madras Railway.

2. Ten engine-drivers have been engaged in England and are expected to reach Madras by the 29th March. 34 engines now running are expected to require repairs during the year. Of these, 11 must be taken off work in the course of the month of March, and the others at intervals which cannot be specified.

3. Of the engines now undergoing repairs, seven will be sent out in March, one in April, and two or three in the following months. Of those to be sent out in March one is a shunting engine.

4. Twelve of the borrowed engines have arrived, and are probably now at work, but the six engines got from the East Indian Railway Company are old and are expected to need frequent repairs.

5. Colonel Shaw-Stewart believes that an application has been made on behalf of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company for the use of the six State Railway engines which have yet to be received from Bombay.

6. On these points I would submit the following observations :—

There is already a clear gain of about seven engines, and it may reasonably be expected that when the remaining six engines arrive the clear gain will remain at from 10 to 12 engines.

Engine stock of Madras Railway.

7. As far as engine power is concerned, the estimate submitted with my note of the 7th March can be worked up to almost at once, and certainly after the arrival of the engine-drivers on the 29th March.

STATEMENT showing in parallel columns the present working (week ending 3rd March), and that which is possible with the additional engines:—

Despatched from	Present number of Waggons a Day.	Probable number of Waggons a Day.
Madras { to North-west line	73	90
Madras { to South-west line	68	90
Raichore - - -	104	140
Beypore - - -	45	60
Erode - - -	—	
Total - -	290	380
Or total tons a day -	2,030	2,660

8. With reference to the supposed proposal to divert the six engines from Madras for the use of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, I have already represented that, while the engines of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company are worked very hard, the work on that railway is not, as on the Madras Railway, almost entirely grain traffic for the prevention of famine, and that even with the six engines there will be no more than sufficient power to carry the requisite amount of grain, even if the daily supply from all sources remains uniformly up to the full amount of the estimate.

9. It is true that 10 powerful engines have been ordered by the Madras Railway Company from England, but these cannot be expected to be at work here till the end of June at the earliest.

And up to that time, to be really secure against the fluctuations in traffic which leave trains empty one week and crowd them in the next, it is necessary in my opinion to have six powerful goods engines in addition to those already arrived and the six daily expected.

And the explanation of the need for these is as follows:—

The heavy goods engines now on the line are nearly all fully occupied on the numerous severe gradients on the north-west and the south-west lines, and on the Bangalore branch. And there are but a few of them left to work the trains on the Madras to Arconum section. It is only in Madras that stocks of grain exist large enough and near enough to the affected districts to meet a sudden demand, and until the line from Madras to Arconum is doubled (which I cannot consider possible before the 15th of June), it is only by running heavier trains on this section that supplies to the famine country can be largely increased. There is not the same immediate necessity for additional waggon stock, but if the supplies of grain in through waggons at Raichore are not more fully maintained, it will not improbably be necessary hereafter to borrow waggons also.

No. 181.

No. 160.

Dated Madras, the 13th March 1877.

DEMI-OFFICIAL from the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the COLLECTOR OF CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT.

Land revenue remission.

I have received an official letter from you yesterday (it seems to have been waiting some time at the Madras Club), saying that your views as to the possibility of collecting in future years part of the uncollected land revenue of this year had been misapprehended.

I append extract copy of the memorandum on Chingleput affairs which was published in the "Gazette of India."

That extract represents correctly, so far as the memory of Sir Richard Temple, Bisset, and myself serve us, the answer you gave to the question whether, if succeeding seasons were good, it might not be possible to collect a part at any rate of this year's arrears. Of course Sir Richard knew (and the fact has frequently been noticed in his minutes and memoranda) that it would be contrary to the customs of the Madras revenue system so to collect arrears. But it was not necessary to repeat that general fact in each successive district memorandum.

If you are certain that you never gave any such answer as we understood, and if you feel satisfied that no collection of any part of this year's arrears would under any circumstances (even if the system were changed, which the Government of India have decided to be unadvisable), then it would seem that we may have been under a misapprehension. And I will take Sir Richard's orders as to the way in which he wishes the misapprehension to be corrected, as soon as I receive your reply to this.

No. 161.

No. 12,699-G. 188, dated Bangalore, 13th March 1877. No. 221.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, printed copies of the correspondence noted in the margin, which has recently passed between the Madras Government and the Chief Commissioner, on the subject of the migration of the people residing on either side of the frontier between this province and the Madras districts in search of relief. Nos. (1, 6, 14. 35, 69, 91, 131, 142–3.) (103, 127.)

From the Government of Madras, No. 508, dated 10th February 1877.
To the Government of Madras, No. 11,606–40, dated 15th February 1877.
From the Government of Madras, No. 767, dated 1st March 1877, with order thereon, No. 12,327–243, dated 6th March 1877.
To the Government of Madras, No. 12,335–44, dated 6th March 1877.
Chief Commissioner's Proceedings, No. 12,053–G239, of 27th February 1877.

No. 162.

No. 66, dated Hyderabad Residency, 13th March 1877. No. 181.

From Colonel Sir R. J. Meade, K.C.S.I., the Resident at Hyderabad, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

I have the honour to forward for submission to his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council a summary of information furnished to me by the Nizam's Government on the state of affairs in those portions of the Hyderabad territory which are more or less affected by scarcity, together with a memorandum* embodying the same. Hyderabad State. *No. 163.

2. It will be seen from these papers that the want in his Highness' dominions has never risen to a condition of actual famine, and that the area within which it prevails is much more circumscribed than was thought to be the case when the apprehensions of Government and the public were first excited on the subject.

3. So far as I can judge from the information now submitted, and from that I have from time to time verbally received from the Minister, there appears to be every reason to believe that the measures adopted by his Highness' Government for the relief of those needing assistance from the State are well adapted to the object in view, and will prove fairly efficacious.

4. His Excellency in Council will be gratified to learn from the enclosures that the conditions of the rabi harvest, now in course of being gathered, is generally fairly favourable, though there is more or less failure of the spring crops in all the affected taluks, and that no further extension of the area in which distress has hitherto prevailed is apprehended.

5. The maximum number of persons for whom it is estimated that relief will be required from the State during the remaining period of the scarcity is confidently limited to 43,000 per diem, and for that number the sanctioned relief works will probably provide ample employment.

6. The supplies of grain in the country are described as fully equal to all probable requirements for a lengthened period, and these will be largely supplemented by the out-turn of the present harvest.

7. The water supply is already very short in many parts of the country to which the scarcity of food-grains has not extended, or in which its effects are only felt from the great rise in prices of food that has taken place more or less throughout Hyderabad, and there is a good deal of anxiety as to how it may be further affected by the coming hot season.

8. Lastly, while there is, no doubt, a great want of fodder for the cattle in the taluks in which the monsoon failed, and it is deficient and high priced generally throughout the territory, the Government does not appear to entertain any serious apprehension as to the effect of this want or deficiency on the agricultural stock of the country.

9. It only remains for me to state for the information of his Excellency in Council, that the views and measures of his Highness' Government in connexion with the subject under report, so far as they have come to my knowledge, since the alarm of pending scarcity and famine was first raised, have been based on sound and liberal principles and have been directed with energy and judgment.

10. In all his proceedings on this occasion the able Minister, Sir Salar Jung, has acted in accordance with the principles enunciated by the British Government, as those by which its own officers should be guided in times of scarcity, and though, fortunately, the calamity has only extended to the districts under his administration in a comparatively

Hyderabad State.

mild and mitigated form, his Excellency is, I venture to think, entitled to every credit for the measures that have been actually adopted, and for the manner in which his Highness' Government was prepared to grapple with the difficulties of the case if they had assumed the serious character that was at one time anticipated.

11. It is but right that I should add that the central committee and the State officials employed in the affected districts appear to have carried out the duties entrusted to them with much zeal and energy, and to have laboured earnestly to give full effect to the Minister's wishes and instructions. I have every reason to believe that Sir Salar Jung is well pleased with their conduct generally in this respect.

A.

STATEMENT showing EXTENT of FAMINE and NUMBER of FAMINE-STRICKEN PERSONS in the NIZAM'S TERRITORY.

Division.	District.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Estimate of famine-stricken persons requiring relief.	Remarks.
Southern division -	Gulburgah - -	3,456	198,023	—	There is no famine in this district. State of crops generally fair.
Ditto -	Shorapur - -	2,112	272,345	6,000	Distress in this district is confined to the western portion of it.
Ditto -	East Raichur -	2,752	295,848	10,000	Famine exists only in the Alpur taluk ; prices high in other taluks.
Ditto -	Western Lingsugur	2,264	251,911	12,000	Crops scanty in taluks Sindnur and Kushtagi. Ryots and others suffering from famine.
Eastern division -	Khamam - -	7,808	270,250	—	Neither famine nor distress at present exists.
Ditto -	Nulgunda - -	7,424	226,619	5,000	Crops scanty in taluk Nalgunda, cultivators suffering. Grass, either green or dry, for cattle scarcely to be had.
Ditto -	Nagar Kurnool -	5,184	157,184	—	In none of the taluks in this district is there distress from famine, but high prices of grain prevail.
Western division -	Beder - -	4,288	212,001	—	The rabi crops in good condition. The kharif crops above the average, and the cultivators considerably benefited.
Ditto -	Nuldroog - -	3,420	267,180	10,000	In taluk Nelinga, the rabi season is good and the kharif also good, and according to expectations. In taluk Turjapur there is distress from scarcity of water, but no famine. In taluk Wasi, there is a scarcity of forage for cattle from want of rain. In taluk Nuldroog, season very favourable. In Dharaseo, grain plentiful, but cattle suffering. In Parenda, owing to an almost total failure of rain, distress is felt from want of water, but there is sufficient supply of grain.
Northern division -	Nandair - -	3,456	347,612	—	No famine. State of rabi and kharif crops fair.
Ditto -	Meduck - -	4,032	156,080	—	No famine. Season good.
Ditto -	Indore - -	3,328	243,298	—	State of agriculture very satisfactory, but apprehension entertained of high prices from exportations of grain and possible occurrence of famine. The state of this district, however, is better than all others.

STATEMENT showing the Extent of Famine and Number of Famine-stricken Persons in the Nizam's Territory—*cont.*

Hyderabad State.

Division.	District.	Area in square miles.	Population.	Estimate of famine stricken persons requiring relief.	Remarks.
Northern division -	Yelgundal - -	6,400	460,610	—	No cause of complaint whatever. Grain plentiful.
Ditto -	Sirpur Tandore -	Not given.	147,973	—	Crops flourishing.
North-western division.	Aurungabad -	5,824	331,702	—	In some villages of taluks Baizapur and Kanhar crops failed from drought, but on the whole famine does not exist, though high prices of grain prevail.
Ditto -	Beer - - -	4,096	258,338	—	Famine does not exist in any of the taluks of this district; but in taluk Ashti distress is apprehended from failure of crops. There is, however, a sufficient quantity of grain in this taluk.
Ditto -	bhani - -	3,520	276,620	—	No cause of complaint whatever.
		69,364	4,373,594	43,000	

No. 163.

No. 181.

MEMORANDUM concerning the scarcity in his Highness the Nizam's Territory.

His Highness the Nizam's territory is divided into 17 districts, of which a list is given in the margin.* The pressure of want has been felt in seven taluks only of the districts, numbers 1 to 5. In four very severely, namely,—

(1.) Alumpur in Raichur, south.
(2.) Sindnur in Lingsugur, south.
(3.) Parainda in Nulgunda, east.
(4.) Ashti in Bheer, north-west.

And in three partially, namely,—

(1.) Kustagi in Lingsugur, south.
(2.) Indola, in Shorapur, south.
(3.) Dewar Konda in Nulgunda, west.

*1. Raichur.
2. Lingsugur.
3. Shorapur.
4. Nulgunda.
5. Bheer.
} Affected districts.

6. Gulburgah.
7. Khanram.
8. Nagar Kurnool.
9. Beder.
10. Nuldrug.
11. Nandair.
12. Meduck.
13. Indore.
14. Elgundal.
15. Sirpur Tandur.
16. Aurungabad.
17. Parbani.

NOTE.—The relief works in progress are shown on the map by red lines.

In the first-named faur taluks, the average crop was one of 4½ annas, while in Alumpur it was of 2 annas only. In the last-named three taluks the average crop was as high at 10¾ annas. Over the rest of the country the harvests for the last year were fair, and though the partial failure of the monsoon may cause some distress during the ensuing hot season, there can be no doubt that, with the exception of the taluks above specified, no other part of his Highness' dominions has any cause to dread scarcity of a nature likely to cause serious distress.

The total area of the districts affected by the scarcity may be roughly calculated at 3,400 square miles, with a population of 360,000, or about 106 human beings to the square mile.

When the first reports of an approaching famine began to spread some six months ago, considerable alarm was manifested in the city and at the head-quarters of the Government, and relief measures were authorised, that have since, under the guidance of experience and a more intimate knowledge of the facts, been considerably modified. The whole of the relief proceedings are now entrusted to and directed by a central committee established at Hyderabad, under the presidency of the Revenue Minister, Nawab Mukarrum-ud-Dowlah, nephew to Sir Salar Jung. This committee is composed of men of all classes, creeds, and professions. It receives periodical reports of what is going on in the famine districts, and takes measures and issues orders accordingly. Its proceedings up to the present time appear to have been conducted with prudence and judgment, and to have inspired a general feeling of confidence.

Hyderabad State.

The measures which the committee has principally addressed itself to have been the institution of relief works and the necessary arrangements for the supply in connexion therewith of a sufficient quantity of grain to feed the distressed and suffering poor seeking employment on these works.

Of actual starvation, no case has been reported to the capital, and it may be hoped that, however distressing the suffering inevitable from the high price of grain, death from sheer want of food will be warded off.

The relief works have been divided into two main heads, viz.:—

(1.) The construction of roads and the repairing of tanks and canals; and

(2.) The construction of new or the repair of old wells.

The total amount sanctioned for expenditure on relief works up to the 6th February 1877 was 4,22,021 H. S. rupees. The central relief committee is, however, authorised to recommend that an increase should be made to this grant if found necessary.

Of the above sum close on 1,20,000 H. S. rupees had been spent up to the 6th February, the total number of persons relieved being 941,377. The Minister's report only gives the daily average number relieved for the one week ending 6th February 1877, when it amounted to 26,558.

The wage allotted at the relief work is as follows per diem:—

	Rs.	A.	P.	Cts.	
A man 9 dubs =	0	1	8	$\frac{53}{100}$	Government coin.
A woman 6 dubs =	0	1		$\frac{9}{100}$	,,
A child 4 dubs =	0	1	10	$\frac{26}{100}$	,,

A male adult can purchase at the works about 1 seer of jawari with his day's wage as above.

The Government has not up to the present interfered in any way with the grain trade, and it is not probable that it will be called upon to do so. The trade in all species of grain is particularly lively. From the Southern Railway Station, between Gulburga and Raichur, in his Highness' dominion, no less than 40,000 tons of grain were exported within the five months up to February 1877, and those and the other stations along the line are still crammed with grain waiting to be removed. During the four months immediately preceding the commencement of the present year, the grain exports were 4,79,483 maunds against 1,57,676 maunds imports, while for the preceding year the figures show for the same period 2,13,601 maunds exports and 83,926 maunds imports, or less than half the quantities that have lately been transported under pressure of the existing partial scarcity. The grain, it may be mentioned, has up to the present time found its way into the affected districts by the ordinary modes of transit, carts, and brinjarah bullocks. The only complaints that have been made have had reference to the delays that have unavoidably taken place on the railway, and these complaints the railway authorities have ever done their best to rectify.

The system of transport by brinjarah bullocks works well, and will doubtless continue to do so should the very scanty fall of rain in many parts of the country not render the main lines of communication impracticable to beasts of burden from want of water.

The Government has not considered it necessary to issue any special instructions with the object of endeavouring to save the best of the stock of agricultural cattle in the affected localities. It is found that precautionary measures are generally taken by the owners themselves in behalf of the more valuable animals, and that Government interference is not needed. The value of the prickly-pear as an article of fodder has however been made known as widely as possible.

The state of the water supply in the various districts has not received the special attention of Government, beyond the issue of injunctions to the district officials to have wells dug and to improve the appliances at command for increasing the supply of water wherever feasible, and they have been authorised to spend money as required for this purpose at their discretion.

The measures taken for the preservation of health at the various relief works appear to be as satisfactory as circumstances will admit of; some few cases of cholera and small-pox have been reported, but there has been nothing like an epidemic, and the rules in force for the prevention of the spread of disease are satisfactory, and will doubtless prove effective if properly carried out.

Much care is now enjoined by the rules that have been laid down to obviate any individuals finding employment on the relief works who are not in actual want. The distribution of relief from private sources is as yet very limited, but may be expected to increase as the season advances.

His Highness' Government proposes, with the help of private aid, to establish generally throughout the affected districts poor-houses where relief may be distributed locally to such sufferers as are either unable to reach, or are not fit for employment on, the relief works, but from whom light labour will be taken, when found practicable. Hyderabad State.

On a rough estimate it is calculated that up to the 6th February 1877 the total number of the Nizam's subjects that had passed from Hyderabad territory into British limits aggregated about some 10,000 persons, and that this efflux was counterbalanced by an influx of no less than 29,000 emigrants from British territory, while it is also represented that over 11,000 of the latter were employed on the relief works in his Highness' territory during the week ending 6th ultimo. The extraordinary rise in the number of this class of persons from 1,663 in the week ending 29th January, to 11,149 during that ending 6th February is worthy* of attention. It should, however, be added that it is acknowledged by his Highness' officials that these figures cannot be depended on, and that nothing in the nature of a complaint regarding the advent of immigrants from the British districts in search of employment has been made by his Highness' Government.

*NOTE.—Inquiry has been made on this point.

In the parts of his Highness' territories most affected by the famine, the prospects of the crops now in the ground are generally good, and in some few places unusually so, and it may, indeed, be stated generally that the grave apprehensions of famine in his Highness' dominions which so generally existed some months ago have not been realised, either as to the intensity or extent of the threatened severity. It has been ascertained beyond a doubt that there is far more than sufficient grain in the country to meet any want that the Government is now likely to have to deal with. The scarcity is in fact well in hand, and the Government entertains, it is believed, a well-founded confidence that the measures that have been organised will suffice to stand the strain that may be put upon them, and that these measures are meeting the difficulty in as efficacious a manner as could have been looked for. The estimate of the maximum number that may have to be provided for on the relief works during the coming hot season does not exceed a daily average of 43,000 persons, and his Highness' Government appears to be satisfied that that estimate may be accepted as reliable.

The accompanying abstract statements of information supplied by his Highness' Government give full information on the several points briefly touched on above. They also include a list of the various prices of grain ruling in the capital and the districts.

No. 164.

No. 181.

No. 766R., dated 14th March 1877.

MEMORANDUM from the UNDER-SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The undersigned is directed to forward copy of a note,* dated 13th February 1877, by Lieutenant D. A. Scott, R.E., Officiating Deputy Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways at Calcutta, on the accumulation of grain at stations on the East Indian Railway, together with copies of letters addressed to the Government of Bombay and to the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways at Calcutta on the subject, Nos. 727 and 728R.† of the 13th March 1877.

*No. 83. Grain accumulation of East Indian Railway.

†Nos. 156-7.

No. 165.

No. 181.

LXVIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, reviewing DR. CORNISH's objections to the REDUCED SCALE of WAGES.

Madras, 14th March 1877.

In my minute dated 6th March, I refrained from commenting on the scientific argument used by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, Dr. Cornish; but having since had the opportunity of making some inquiry on the subject, I have to make the following remarks, The reduced scale of wages.

The reduced scale of wages. Sir Richard Temple in reply to Dr. Cornish.

2. Dr. Cornish's scientific propositions are as follows :—

That (paragraph 4) the carboniferous and nitrogenous principles of food should be in the proportion of three of the former to one of the latter.

That (paragraph 6) according to all scientific investigators, 140 to 180 grains of nitrogen are required, in a state of rest, to oil the human machine, so to speak, while it is not working.

That in ordinary labour 300, and under great physical exertions 500 to 600 grains of nitrogen will be necessary.

That if such quantities are not provided under the corresponding circumstances, "the body must prey on its own tissues so long as any remain to be preyed "upon."

That (paragraph 13) "in regard to this question of a pound of grain being "enough or not enough, we should never know the result until the mischiefs "resulting from a deficient supply of nitrogenous food have gone so far that a "retracing of our steps would be powerless to save life."

3. This last statement is made with much confidence. From its nature it can hardly be disproved, but it seems to me that it may be regarded as a mere expression of opinion, if we can show that Dr. Cornish's other propositions given with equal precision and arguable, perhaps, in theory, are not applicable, or but very partially applicable, to the circumstances of Native life and Native diets.

4. In the Madras Manual of Hygiene, compiled under the orders of Government, and published in 1875, the main parts of Dr. Cornish's theories are adopted. It is stated, page 96, "The unavoidable internal work of the body of an adult human being, that is, "the movements necessary for respiration, circulation, and digestion, require a minimum "of 138 grains of nitrogen in 24 hours for their maintenance. In a state of idleness of "mind and body, the least amount compatible with health may be stated as 200 grains "for a man and 180 for a woman. In the ordinary circumstances of the soldier, the "artizan, the field-labourer, and the prisoner in most of our jails, 300 grains will be a "fair minimum. Very great physical exertion will demand 500 grains or even more."

5. Sir Robert Christison's theory, founded, as I understand, on careful experiment on Scotch labourers, and possibly applicable to them, is therefore adopted in its entirety by the Sanitary Commissioner, and by the author of the Madras Manual of Hygiene, as applicable to the natives of Southern India. It is on this assumption that Dr. Cornish's whole argument is based, and in the Manual it is expressly applied to the "prisoners in "most of our jails." Its application, in fact and in practice, has now to be considered.

6. The opinion that 1 lb. a day of grain might suffice for a relief labourer, together with some allowance for condiments and the like, or some nutritious substance, was not, indeed, based on scientific theory. It was founded rather on probabilities practically deduced from the condition of the poorer classes in ordinary times, and on the results of general experience. It was not put forth with absolute confidence. It was to be subjected to trial, not by theoretical data, but by the observation of its actual results.

7. Dr. Cornish protests against this opinion as "in direct contradiction to the accumu-"lated testimony of scientific observers in every country in which this question of the "quantity and variety of food essential to keep a labouring man in health and strength "has been the subject of investigation."

8. Certainly this opinion was not based on so called scientific evidence, apparently taken as proved on the strength of experiments made on men of different race and habits, living under different circumstances, in an altogether different climate, and probably exceeding by a third in average weight the people to whom the results of the experiments are with such confidence applied. For administrative and financial purposes I should not base my recommendations on such data, inasmuch as the question must be one extremely difficult of scientific ascertainment, and in respect to which even the best conducted experiments, if made in different parts of the world, might lead to varying results. And in order to show how little these data can be accepted for these purposes, it is sufficient for me to refer to the Madras Manual of Hygiene itself.

9. In an appendix from pages 361 to 380 are given the whole range of Madras dietaries for soldiers, sepoys, and prisoners, military and civil, under various circumstances, in sickness and in health. The quantity of each food is given, together with an elaborate analysis of its composition, and the proportion of each of the physiologically essential elements, one column showing the amount of nitrogen, another the quantity of carbon in each diet.

10. Had those quantities corresponded to, or even approximated to, the amounts so authoritatively declared to be necessary, it would still have been open to me to say that

the dietaries have been decided by European committees by the advice and with the assistance of Sanitary Commissioners; that they are intended for persons from whom full work is demanded, and who receive in return not a subsistence allowance, but a full ration; that rations are avowedly fixed on a liberal scale so as to suffice for persons who consume more than the average; that it is matter of common reproach, both in this country and in England, that prisoners are better fed than paupers, whose poverty is their only crime; and that it is absurd to suppose that the poorer classes in this or any country get as much to eat as prisoners or soldiers, or that they cannot live on much less.

The reduced scale of wages. Sir Richard Temple in reply to Dr. Cornish.

11. All these arguments might, however, be set aside, for an examination of the dietaries in the book itself prove conclusively not only that the theories advanced by the Sanitary Commissioner have very little application in practice, but that the reduced scale of wages suffices to supply the relief labourer with more than sufficient nitrogen and carbon to keep him in health. They prove, first, that, as regards Natives of this country, the carboniferous bear to the nitrogenous elements of food the ratio of about 7 to 1 instead of 3 to 1 as in the English dietaries [in the ration of the sepoy on foreign service the proportion is 10 to 1, 26·70 oz. to 2·68 (page 3,791)]; and as the absolute weight of food taken daily by Natives and Europeans is probably about the same, it follows that the amount of nitrogen required by Natives must be much less than that required by Europeans; and when the diets are examined, this is found to be the case. The Madras sepoy, when ordered on foreign service, during which he may be, and often is called upon to undergo severe physical exertion, receives a full ration from Government. According to the theory he requires a minimum of 300 grains of nitrogen when performing ordinary duties, but when marching or undergoing severe labour he needs 500 or 600 grains. As a matter of fact he gets (page 379) only 178 grains, little more than half the minimum required, and only about a third of what is declared necessary to support him when called upon to do strenuous work. According to this theory, then, the Madras sepoy would be undergoing starvation at the hands of the Government which employs him. But in fact, he is not so reduced physically, nor does he fail that Government when it calls on him for exertions compared to which the labour demanded from most of our relief labourers is as nothing. This case, I submit, makes very strongly against Dr. Cornish's theory, but a still stronger one yet remains behind.

12. The British soldier, to whom if to any one the theory should apply, requiring, like the sepoy, 300 to 600 grains under like circumstances, receives 242 grains of nitrogen in his full ration, that is, 25 per cent. less than the minimum required to keep him in health when in garrison, and less than half what he ought to have when marching or on service. But this is not all, for when his ordinary work is not demanded of him, as when he is in prison or at sea, he receives only a reduced ration, and singularly enough, though the details of the two rations are altogether different (Madras Manual, pages 364 and 369). The amount of nitrogen contained in each is identical, namely, 155 grains, about half of the amount declared to be the minimum necessary to maintain him in health, a quarter of what he should have when on service, and considerably less than the least amount compatible with health in a state of rest of mind and body, as laid down in the quotation from the Madras Manual already cited. According to this theory, we should have to imagine that the British soldier is half starved on boardship, or that he is landed in India in a reduced condition physically, or in a state of health which could hardly be restored by subsequent nutrition. The actual fact is, of course, the reverse.

13. This instance appears to be a crucial one. This British soldier is not reduced by a diet containing 155 grains of nitrogen. His average weight is probably a third greater than that of the average relief labourer, and it would seem to follow that the relief labourer could be maintained in health by the same proportion, *i.e.*, two-thirds of the absolute quantity of nitrogen required by the European soldier. But 1 lb. of the cholum contains, according to Dr. Cornish (paragraph 7), 100 grains of nitrogen, therefore, a pound of cholum should suffice to keep him in moderate condition when something in the way of condiments and nutritious substance is added.

14. I need not press the argument so far, however. The labourer's allowance is not a pound of cholum, but a pound of grain *plus* half an anna, or in practice $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, in cash. Taking grain at an anna a pound (it is 25 per cent. cheaper in many places), he can buy with this amount as much nitrogenous food as is allowed to the British soldier on board ship. According to the facts furnished by the Madras Manual (but not its theories), the above allowance would appear sufficient to keep him from starvation.

15. With regard to the carbonaceous element of food, the result is the same. The Manual lays down (page 98) that 3,500 grains of carbon are required in a state of rest,

The reduced scale of wages. Sir Richard Temple in reply to Dr. Cornish.

and that 5,000 "may be safely taken as a maximum under any circumstances of "exertion." The dietaries show that the European soldier gets 4,307 grains in his full ration, and 2,986 when on board ship, while sepoys get 6,659 when on foreign service, and Native prisoners 5,616, or rather less, according to the particular constituents of their diet. A pound of cholum contains 2,764 grains (page 376), so that on a pound a day the relief labourer gets much more in proportion to his weight than the soldier on board ship, and can purchase with the wages given him almost as much as the soldier gets in his full ration.

16. These statements and estimates of the chemical constituents of the military rations, both for European and Native troops, are not (be it remembered) made by me, but they have been furnished by the Madras Manual of Hygiene; they are put in the simplest possible form, and can be verified by any one though he may not be versed in the chemistry of food or the data on which the calculation are made. And I submit that they prove conclusively that the theories enunciated by English authorities, however eminent, and apparently adopted without additional experiments by the Manual, do not apply to Natives of this country; only, in fact, apply in the most general way to Englishmen themselves, and cannot be at all accepted as valid reasons why Government should desist from a trial suggested by experience, which, if successful, will conduce to saving the people on the one hand, and to preventing unnecessary expenditure on the other.

17. I should not have discussed this matter at all had not the scientific theory been propounded with so much precision, and with so strongly-worded remonstrance against the disregard of it. But we see that the theory is not applicable, and cannot be implicitly accepted. If, as stated in my minute of the 6th current, it is found on a deliberate and dispassionate trial that the new scale is insufficient, and that the labourers do not maintain their health, it can, of course, be revised. I have sufficiently shown that this is a matter which may be left to careful observation of the condition of the people, and not deduced, *á priori*, from theoretical considerations which break down when subjected to plain criticism, and are shown to be inapplicable to the case in hand.

18. Though constrained to demur to the manner in which the Sanitary Commissioner applies certain theories to the proposed practice in our relief operations, I am fully conscious of the benevolent and charitable motives by which Dr. Cornish is actuated, and of his meritorious labours for the welfare of the people in this presidency.

No. 181.

No. 166.

MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD and CAPTAIN BISSET on the points raised by HIS GRACE the GOVERNOR OF MADRAS respecting Mysore grain supply.

Madras, 14th March 1877.

Mysore grain supply.

According to the best computation that we can make, the Mysore country ought to get and actually requires * 500 tons of grain a day at stations on the Bangalore branch. This quantity will suffice for the wants of the Mysore districts of Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, and part of Chitaldroog, containing about $2\frac{1}{4}$ millions of people. Part of the Chitaldroog district with a population of perhaps 350,000 persons will and now does draw its supplies of foreign grain from Bellary. But then, as a compensation, the taluks of Pennekonda, Hindupore, and part of Madaksirra in the Bellary district now get and will continue to get their supplies from Bangalore. The population of these two taluks and part of the third may be about 200,000 persons. The districts of Shimoga, Hassan, and Kadur, with a population of $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions, are said to be living on their own produce, eked out by food imported from the western coast. Shimoga and Hassan, with a population of 1,170,000 between them, had an 8-anna and 9-anna harvest. Kadur had only a 4-anna harvest. When the monsoon closes the ports on the western coast, then these three last districts cannot draw supplies from the seaboard, and we do not know how far the stocks of Canara and Malabar can afford to contribute to the support of Western Mysore. Looking to the Board's returns of grain imports into the western ports and to the large railway despatches from Beypore, we cannot think that any very large quantity of grain from beyond the sea has hitherto regularly found its way into Western Mysore. Much of the import shown in the margin goes to Coorg and the Mulnaad coffee districts. We should not put

NOTE.—Hitherto the daily deliveries have averaged about 440 tons during the last six weeks.

Rice importations into West Coast ports other than Beypore and Calicut—

September 1876	-	2,000 tons.
October „	-	3,800 „
November „	-	4,100 „
December „	-	2,800 „
January 1877	-	7,000 „

the demand of these districts for foreign grain at above 1,500 to 2,000 tons a month, or say about 50 tons a day. But of course this estimate is little else than a guess, and may be beyond the truth. Mysore grain supply.

2. According to the estimate in the foregoing paragraph, the demand of Mysore may be summarised thus :—

Bangalore branch demand - - -	500	tons of grain daily.
Western Mysore demand which, after the 15th May, may have to be drawn through Bangalore.	50	„ „
Chittaldroog demand on Bellary for 350,000 people, less the Bellary supply for 200,000 people now drawn from Bangalore.	20	„ „
Total - - -	570	

3. His Grace the Governor asks for an opinion whether there is in Mysore any accumulation of imported grain sufficient to enable the province to tide over a short interruption of imports such as any accident might cause. To this question we can give no precise reply. But we note the following points as bearing upon this subject: the Bangalore traders told Sir Richard Temple early in February that their demands would continue constant until next crop came in; they told Captain Bisset that they now had to refuse grain orders from the interior, because they could not get enough grain from Madras; and they said they could take 100 tons a day more than they now receive, if only it could be carried to them from Madras by railway. On the other hand there are certainly considerable stocks in the country, which will begin to come out into the market as soon as the tanks fill and next season's crop is tolerably secure. The net result is that there is not, so far as we believe, any considerable accumulation of imported grain in the Mysore markets. And a daily supply nearly equal to the total given at paragraph 2 ought to be regularly carried into Mysore.

4. The question then arises whether this full supply of * 570 tons can or cannot be maintained. And the answer to this question involves the general question of the demand of, and supply to, all the Madras famine districts. We think that for the purposes of the present question we may reckon that the districts of Nellore, Chingleput,† South Arcot, Trichinopoly, Madura, part of Kurnool, and Tinnevelly, will get what foreign grain they may require without throwing any work on the Madras Railway. There remain, then—

* 500 tons from East coast.
50 „ West „
20 „ Bellary.

† NOTE.—Parts of Chingleput may perhaps draw their supplies from the railway. But then parts of North Arcot may be supplied from the sea.

	Population.
Class A.	
Bellary - - - - - -	3,800,000
Cuddapah - - - - - -	
Kurnool ($\frac{4}{5}$th of) - - - - -	
Class B.	
Coimbatore - - - - - -	5,500,000
Salem - - - - - -	
North Arcot - - - - -	

According to the estimate made in the memorandum of the 27th January, the districts in Class A. will require :—

	Tons.
Imported food for two-thirds of their population, or per diem	1,040
While the districts in Class B. will require imported food for one-half their population, or per diem.	1,100
Add the Mysore demand as previously worked out - -	570
	2,710

5. This total quantity is, so far as we are able to judge, the largest quantity which will be required, and we believe that this quantity can and will (if the grain comes

Grain supply.

forward) be carried by the railway. The subjoined table of Captain Bisset's explains this :—

	Number of Waggons despatched daily.	
	Present Working.	Probable or Promised Working.
From Madras to North-western line	73	90
„ „ to South-western line	68	90
„ Raichore, south-east ward	104	140
„ Beypore	45	—
„ Negapatum and Erode	—	60
Total	290 waggons.	380 waggons.
Or in tons a day	2,030 tons.	2,660 tons.

6. Thus the Madras Railway can, if it works well, send into the distressed districts daily the full amount of grain which they could according to our estimate require. But it is to be noted that the famine districts have as yet never received, and presumably have not absolutely required the full amount of grain shown in the estimate. The spring crops in irrigated lands of Kurnool, Cuddapah, and North Arcot do, no doubt, to some extent supply the wants of their immediate neighbourhoods. And perhaps the full demand shown in our estimate may be required only for a very short time, if at all.

7. The statement in paragraph 5 (above) provides for working to their full power all the 18 borrowed engines, but does not reckon on the 10 new engines ordered by the Madras Railway coming into work before the 15th June. Also, it does not reckon on the Madras to Arconum length being doubled before the 15th June. The doubling of the line to Avady, 13 miles from Madras, may however be done by the 1st April, and will considerably facilitate the grain traffic on the Arconum section. Still if our estimate of the possible demand be accepted, then it seems necessary to have some reserve of engine power available. For this purpose it will be necessary either to borrow, or to have power to borrow, six heavy engines able to draw trains of 30 waggons each on the Arconum section.

P.S.—We have not discussed in detail the way in which the Negapatam and Erode route ought to take the place of the Beypore route when the monsoon breaks, because Captain Bisset's Negapatam notes and Sir Richard Temple's minute thereon go fully into that question.

No. 181.

No. 167.

LXXII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Madras, 14th March 1877.

Necessity for reserve of carrying power. Madras Railway engine stock weak.

The amount of sea-borne grain remaining in Madras is so great, and the existence of large surplus stocks of food-grains in the Berars and in Hindustan is so well known, that no anxiety exists about the sufficiency of the distant markets to provide the necessary supplies.

2. But while well-founded hopes exist that with an absolutely regular traffic the necessary amount of food may be carried to the people, it cannot be forgotten that both from variations in prices and from irregularities or mishaps on the railways themselves, this perfect regularity cannot be attained.

3. To provide against these irregularities a reserve of power is absolutely necessary. And on the Madras Railway the condition of much of the engine stock is doubtful, and the number of engines, and particularly of goods engines is small, so that even after the receipt of the 18 borrowed engines there is no such reserve of power.

No. 159.

4. The accompanying memorandum * by Captain Bisset, which has been prepared under my instructions, embodies the result of his inquiries into the present state of the engine stock of the Madras Railway, and into the amount of grain which these engines, with the 18 already borrowed, can carry from all sources into the distressed districts.

5. A consideration of the facts and opinions recorded in this memorandum leads me to recommend earnestly that arrangements be made by the Government of India for borrowing and placing at the disposal of the Madras Railway Company six of the most powerful goods engines which can be found in India.

6. Since recording the above remarks I have had the advantage of discussing the question of railway carriage with his Grace the Governor of Madras, and of ascertaining that the foregoing recommendation meets the views which his Grace had already taken of the further requirements of the Madras Railways.

No. 168.

No. 181.

LXXIV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, on the Red Hills and Palaveram Relief Camps.

Red Hills and Palaveram Relief Camps.

Madras, 14th March 1877.

Having inspected the relief camps at the Red Hills at Yerroocancherry and at Palaveram, I desire to record the following observations :—

2. The improvement in the appearance and physical condition of the inmates of the Red Hills camp, since my first visit at the end of January, is very marked. On the day of my visit about 2,000 of these poor people were so far recovered as to be able to work, and were about to be drafted on the relief works in the neighbourhood.

3. Among the new arrivals I observed some from the north-east portions of the North Arcot district, especially the zemindaris of Kalustri and the eastern part of Karvátnagar, and from the Nellore district, especially the zemindari of Venkutgiri. This circumstance affords additional proof of the necessity of the increased precaution for ensuring house-to-house visitation, village to village, which necessity was mentioned in my minutes of the 5th March and the 6th March regarding those districts, and which is, I believe, now practically recognised and acted upon by the district authorities themselves.

4. Though the same facilities for such visitation exist in the zemindaris as in the regular ryotwari tracts, yet my visit to those zemindaris compels me to report to the Madras Government that the zemindars are either not able or not prepared to do all that is needful, unless further pressure be put upon them. I have suggested that in such zemindaris the Collector should depute some trustworthy and experienced official, European or Native, to see that this visitation is so conducted that all persons in distress are really brought forward for relief. If this were done, then these wandering poor would not be straying away from their homes, and finding their weary way to the relief camps near Madras itself. So long as new arrivals at the Red Hills camp are people of the Chingleput district in which the camp is situate, there is no occasion for remark; but when they hail from North Arcot or from Nellore, then occasion arises for inquiring as to how and why they left their homes, and why they were not picked up near their own villages, or cared for in their own districts. The occurrence of such cases is calculated to throw doubt on the arrangements for charitable relief in those districts. I trust, however, that it will be found that recently these arrangements have been so far perfected in both these districts that no more people will come from there, at least no appreciable numbers, to the relief camps near Madras.

5. At the Yerroocancherry camp I observed a system of housing and lodging different from that in the other relief camps. In those camps the people are accommodated in long barrack-like rows of huts. In this camp, however, there are separate huts for each group of two or three families. And there was an air of cheerfulness about the inmates, several hundreds of whom were paraded for my inspection, very different from the air which is generally to be perceived in those camps. Evidently this sort of camp is much more popular with the poorest classes than the other camps. And the cause appears to lie in the plan of having separate family huts. Inasmuch as the rendering the relief camps less distasteful than they now are to the poorest classes and to the destitute wanderers,—who still have some pride of caste remaining—is one of the problems in the organisation of charitable relief, I would commend the practice of the Yerroocancherry camp to the consideration of the Government of Madras.

6. The Palaveram camp appeared to me to be in very fair order, and the separation of those who have caste from those who are pariahs and below caste, was more complete than in some of the camps which have been visited, though even here the arrangements might in this respect be improved.

No. 169.

No. 181.

No. 142, dated Sholápur, 15th March 1877.

From C. E. Buckland, Esq., Private Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

Taluks and zemindaris visited by Sir Richard Temple.

I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the list of taluks and zemindaris visited by Sir Richard Temple in the districts of the Madras Presidency and in the Mysore State between the 14th January and the 14th March.

List of the Taluks and Zemindaris visited by Sir Richard Temple in the districts of the Madras Presidency and of the Mysore State.

Month.	From 14th January to 14th March 1877.	Condition of affairs at time of visit, as observed by Sir Richard Temple.
	In the Karnool District (8 *taluks*).	
January - -	Ramalkota taluk - -	Relief works excessive and beyond control, but being brought under. Tehsildar and Deputy Collector moderate in ability.
February - -	Pattikonda ,, - -	Relief works in fair order; tehsildar of good ability.
	In the Bellary District (15 *taluks*, 1 *zemindari*).	
January - -	Gooty taluk - -	Relief work not well in hand.
Ditto - and February -	Bellary ,, -	Relief work open to objection during my first visit; better during my second visit.
February - -	Alur ,, - -	Relief work not under control; great want of discrimination; tehsildar indifferent.
Ditto - -	Adoni ,, - -	Relief work excessive and uncontrolled; but reform being introduced by Mr. Glenny, C.S., and Captain Hamilton; tehsildar pretty good.
Ditto - -	Hospett ,, - -	Relief operations in fair order; Native Deputy Collector and tehsildar good.
Ditto - -	Tadputri ,, - -	Ditto ditto; tehsildar good.
Ditto - -	Anantapur ,, - -	Ditto ditto; Native Deputy Collector and tehsildar good.
Ditto - -	Dharmaveram ,, - -	No particular remarks.
Ditto - -	Pennekonda ,, - -	Under Mr. Ross, C.S.; relief operations had been much out of control, but were improving.
Ditto - -	Hindupore ,, - -	Relief operations not well in hand; tehsildar very indifferent.
Ditto - -	Sundoor zemindari - -	Under Mr. Macarthy; relief works fairly under control.
	In the Cuddapah District (11 *taluks*).	
January - -	Cuddapah taluk - -	Relief operations had been somewhat out of hand, but were improving.
March - -	Sedhout ,, - -	Relief works under control; tehsildar good.
Ditto - -	Budnail ,, - -	Relief works appear to be in control.
February - -	Madnapalli ,, - -	Under Mr. Gribble, C.S.; relief operations had been out of hand, but were fast improving.

Month.	From 14th January to 14th March 1877.	Condition of affairs at time of visit, as observed by Sir Richard Temple.	
	In the Nellore District (9 *taluks*, 4 *zemindaris*).		
February - -	Nellore taluk - -	Relief operations chiefly confined to East Coast Canal.	Taluks and Zemindaris visited by Sir Richard Temple.
March - -	Atmakur „ - -	Relief works fairly under control; tehsildar good.	
Ditto - -	Udayagiri „ - -	Under Mr. Underwood, C.S.; signs of poverty; doubtful whether village relief sufficient.	
February - -	Goodoor „ - -	Tehsildar moderately good; doubt about sufficiency of village relief.	
Ditto - -	Venkatagiri Zemindari -	Relief apparently not sufficient; three zemindars not doing enough.	
	In the North Arcot District (9 *taluks and* 13 *zemindaris*).		
February - -	Chandragiri taluk - -	In good case, save one corner which was bad but under relief; tehsildar good.	
January - -	Chittore „ - -	No particular remark.	
Ditto - -	Palmanair „ - -	No particular remark; tehsildar good.	
February - -	Gourittam „ - -	Not in bad case.	
January - -	Wallajah „ - -	No particular remark.	
Ditto - -	Arcot „ - -	Tehsildar good.	
Ditto - -	Vellore „ - -	Town relief in a doubtful condition.	
Ditto - -	Poonganoor Zemindari -	Relief operations well under control; zemindar good.	
February - -	Carvátnagar „ -	Western part pretty good; eastern part bad.	
Ditto - -	Kalustri „ -	One of the worst parts; relief insufficient, but further orders issued by Collector.	
March - -	Arni „ -	No particular remark.	
	In the Chingleput District (6 *taluks*).		
January - -	Sydapet taluk - -	Village relief apparently not adequate.	
Ditto - -	Chingleput „ - -	No particular remark.	
Ditto - -	Conjeveram „ - -	Ditto ditto.	
	In the Trichinopoly District (5 *taluks*).		
January - -	Trichinopoly taluk - -	No particular remark.	
Ditto - -	Kullitalel „ - -	Ditto ditto.	
	In the Madura Distriet (6 *taluks*, 26 *zemindaris*).		
January - -	Dindigul taluk - -	Drought; some relief operations.	
Ditto - -	Madura „ - -	Drought; relief kept down, as not yet needed.	
Ditto - -	Tiroomungalum taluk - -	Ditto ditto.	
	In the Tinnevelly District (9 *taluks*, 22 *zemindaris*).		
January - -	Tinnevelly taluk - -	Drought; but relief very moderate.	
Ditto - -	Ottapadaram „ - -	Ditto ditto.	
Ditto - -	Suttoor „ - -	Ditto ditto.	
	In the Coimbatore District (10 *taluks*).		
March - -	Perundoria taluk - -	Relief work satisfactory; good tehsildar.	
Ditto - -	Palladum „ - -	Ditto ditto.	
Ditto - -	Coimbatore „ - -	Ditto ditto.	
January - -	Kunoor „ - -	No particular remark.	

	Taluks.	Zemindaris.
In the 10 districts named there are - -	88	66*
Sir Richard Temple has visited - - -	42	6†

* Many of these are petty.

† The visited are all large and important.

	Month.	From 14th January to 14th March 1877.	Condition of affairs at time of visit, as observed by Sir Richard Temple.
		IN THE MYSORE STATE.	
		In the Bangalore District.	
Taluks and Zemindaris visited by Sir Richard Temple.	February - -	Bangalore taluk - -	Relief works well under control; doubt only about village relief.
	Ditto - -	Dooda Bullubpore taluk -	Ditto ditto.
		In the Kolar District.	
	February - -	Chik Bullubpore taluk -	Ditto ditto.
	Ditto - -	Baggapally taluk - -	Ditto ditto.
		Grand total of 46 taluks - } Visited by Sir Richard Temple.	
		„ 6 zemindaris }	

No. 239.

No. 170.

No. 15 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Calcutta, 16th March 1877.

Reviewing Sir Richard Temple's minutes

We enclose copies of minutes and memoranda which we have received from Sir Richard Temple during the past week, regarding various matters connected with the famine in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies.

* Nos. 138–9.

2. Among these papers will be found an interesting report on the district of Nellore,* together with a separate minute proposing the early commencement, as a famine work, of an irrigation work in that district known as the Sangam project. Nellore is a large district on the east coast, of which the southern boundary is about 50 miles to the north of Madras. Its area is 7,150 square miles, and its population, according to the last census, 1,374,012. During the 10 months ending with the 31st January last, the rainfall was only 11 inches 35 cents. In the previous year, 1875–76, the rainfall had been scanty, amounting to 26 inches 49 cents., against 37 inches 40 cents., the average rainfall of the preceding four years. In 1874–75 there had been heavy floods, and many important tanks and channels had been breached. Two years of drought following a year of floods had greatly tried the resources of the district. The total yield of the crops of the district for the present year is estimated at less than one-fourth of the average out-turn, although the people with commendable industry have in some parts of it dug temporary wells and deepened old wells, and thus raised a spring crop. The drought was worst in the western taluks, at the base of the Eastern Ghâts, and adjoining the district of Cuddapah. The number of persons on the relief works at the time of Sir Richard Temple's visit was 85,000, or about 6 per cent. of the population of the district. Sir Richard Temple inspected about 17,000 labourers, and found very few who appeared to be in a condition to sustain themselves. He considered that much more discrimination had been exercised by the Nellore authorities in admitting persons to the relief works than had been the case in the ceded districts; but that the depressed condition of some of the persons he had seen on the works, indicated the necessity of a house-to-house visitation more systematic than had been as yet introduced. Some of the relief works were useful, but many were of doubtful value, and task-work had often been little better than nominal. The small local works, in fact, had been made too easy and too attractive, and as we noticed in our last Despatch, great difficulty was in consequence experienced in inducing the people to go to the one large relief work, the East Coast Canal, which runs through the district, and which Sir Richard Temple describes as the very best relief work in all Southern India. The markets are well supplied with grain, coming both by inland and by water routes.

Sangam project.

† No. 135.

3. Of the Sangam project, Sir Richard Temples writes † that the plans and estimates are ready, and the work could be put in hand at once. Its estimated cost is 27 lakhs, the irrigable area 94,000 acres, and the estimated return from water tax 2½ lakhs. Sir

Richard Temple considers, from the information supplied to him by the District Engineer that, of the entire project, works estimated to cost 19 lakhs, and to yield an annual revenue of $1\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs, might be executed in a great part, at all events, by relief labour. He has suggested the work to the Madras Government as one which is deserving of consideration, at a time when so much stress is laid upon the expediency of employing relief labour upon really good and reproductive works. The suggestion is doubtless receiving the consideration of the Government of Madras, with whom we shall communicate upon the subject. Sangam project.

4. Sir Richard Temple has paid a third visit to the district of North Arcot,* having received conflicting accounts regarding the degree of distress in certain parts of it, and having had reasons to fear that in other parts, and especially in the zemindari tracts, chiefly in the north-east of the district, the distress might become serious. The results of his inspection appear to have been more satisfactory than he had anticipated. In a great part of the Chandragiri taluk the spring crops were good. The Kárvetnagar zemindari, with the exception of the eastern portion of it, had not suffered from drought. The autumnal showers had given it a fair winter crop. Irrigation from wells and from watercourses was giving it a good spring crop. In Kálahasti, on the other hand, which is the other great zemindari in North Arcot, the drought had been exceptionally severe. Sir Richard Temple made suggestions for improving the system of gratuitous relief, and extending that of house-to-house visitation, and also for arranging some light textile work on which the distressed weavers (a numerous class in the North Arcot district) might be employed. North Arcot. * No. 137.

5. The results of Sir Richard Temple's visits to North Arcot are summarised in the following terms:—

"I find that distress does not threaten the mass of the people; that the numbers on relief works will probably not much exceed the comparatively small number now employed, if only the usual showers of April shall last; that the numbers on charitable relief will probably increase considerably as the season advances; that in the old towns scattered over the district, in the sacred haunts so much frequented by pilgrims and beggars from distant places, and in the jungle tracts fringing the edges of the district, there are classes among whom many cases of individual distress are to be expected; that on the whole the relief measures taken in hand are sufficient to meet that degree of distress which is to be anticipated; that the relief works are of a small description, the number of able-bodied relief labourers not being large enough to justify their congregation upon large works, but if such large works should be wanted, there are many tanks to be repaired; that in some particular places the delay which at one time occurred was owing to technical and other reasons beyond the control of the local authorities; that the arrangement for house-to-house visitation in every village (save the zemindaris, which are being separately arranged for) are very systematic and satisfactory. I have discussed with the Collector ever measure of relief which I can think of. My impression is, that he is now doing everything which ought to be done in this respect."

6. Among the enclosed papers will be found a review by Sir Richard Temple † of the objections advanced by the Sanitary Commissioner at Madras to the reduced scale of wages lately prescribed for the relief works in that presidency. The gist of Sir Richard Temple's remarks is, that the present rate of wages appears, so far as experience goes, to be sufficient to maintain in health people employed on the very light work which is enforced on most of the relief works in the Madras Presidency, and provides as much food as the labouring poor in rural localities get in ordinary times; that it is not possible to determine *à priori* on scientific data what amount of food is necessary to sustain the particular classes who come to the relief works; that the effect of the present rates should be tested by careful practical examination of the people themselves; and that, if it should appear that there is a change for the worse in their physical condition, the rates should be raised, but not otherwise, and that wherever really hard labour is exacted a higher rate of wages should be given. This is practically what is now being done in the Bombay Presidency. Sir Richard Temple has, within the last few days, had a personal conference on this subject with the Government of Madras; and from a telegram from his Grace the Governor which reached us on the 14th instant, we learn that "the "Governor in Council having considered various reports" (from district officers) "has "decided to defer the consideration of the general adequacy of the scale for further "report; the special attention of officers being directed to securing that labourers "receive full benefit of allowances, and to scrutinising all cases of apparent weakness; "children under 10 being relieved from test work, and weakly persons being formed "into special gangs with special nourishment where necessary." The reduced scale of wages. † No. 144.

Insufficient grain transport.

7. In our Despatch of the 9th instant we adverted to the insufficiency of the means at present available for transporting grain from Madras into the interior, the Madras Railway not being able to carry more than 700 tons a day. The subject has been engaging the careful attention of our Public Works Department, and arrangements have been made, which it is hoped, will have enabled or will speedily enable the Madras Railway Company to carry 1,400 tons a day. Satisfactory arrangements have been made for sheltering and housing the grain, both public and private, on the Madras beach.

Estimated cost of famine.

* No. 140–1.

8. In his Minute of the 6th instant, No. 54,* and the memorandum * annexed to it, Sir Richard Temple has furnished a revised estimate of the expenditure on and loss of revenue from the famine. The result is a total estimated loss of five crores and Rs. 281,000. In the financial statement made yesterday in the Legislative Council by our colleague Sir John Strachey, the net cost of the famine is set down at five and a quarter crores of rupees, or five millions and a quarter, according to the old calculation of 2*s.* for the rupee, of which sum 3,100,000*l.* will fall on this year, and 2,150,000*l.* on 1877–78. This estimate does not take into account future recoveries of land revenue suspended for the present, which Sir Richard Temple estimates at the considerable sum of Rs. 1,29,50,000 out of Rs. 1,87,96,000, which must for the time be left uncollected. The question whether these balances should be held in suspense or entirely remitted, is one which, as stated in our Despatch of the 16th ultimo, we have deemed it proper to leave to the unfettered discretion of the Local Governments. Sir Richard Temple states in his present minute (paragraph 19) that many of the most experienced Collectors in both the Madras and Bombay Presidencies are in favour of the plan of suspending only, and not entirely remitting, the land revenue on the dry or unirrigated lands. These opinions and the grounds upon which they are based will doubtless receive due consideration from both the Governments concerned. For the present, however, we have deemed it safer to exclude from our calculations any reduction of the cost of the famine from this source.

9. We have this day received the following telegrams from Sir Richard Temple:—

Telegram, dated 15th March.

"I proceed for few days to Bombay Presidency. Throughout Madras Presidency the relief works are now fully controlled and carefully restricted to dimensions of actual distress. Much credit due to local officers in districts. The organisation of charitable relief not equally successful, but further efforts being put forth. Destitute people often unwilling to resort to relief camps. Some casual deaths near Madras itself still happen, chiefly owing to insufficiency of measures in three large remindaries. Remedy being applied. Reduced wages still being tried. Spring crops good in many parts of distressed districts; prices somewhat stiffening. Condition of people good generally, but cholera breaks out temporarily in many places. Large accumulation of grain at Madras well housed. Anxiety about railway arrangement on Madras and Bombay lines. Still hope that these two lines will supply the large and active demands of inland grain trade. Markets continue well supplied."

Telegram, dated 16th March.

"In continuation of yesterday's telegram for mail. It was ordered a month ago throughout Madras Presidency that if any children below seven years of age, belonging to persons employed on relief works, cannot be supported, they shall receive special relief. This is being carried out with my full concurrence. Children above seven have from beginning received relief wages. It has also been ordered, with my full concurrence, that if any relief labourer shall be found to suffer physically from reduced wages, he shall receive special allowance, or else be put to light work. Have complete evidence that most of the large gangs are standing the reduced wage without suffering. Whether they can bear it, as the season advances, remains to be seen. Having inspected in the presence of many officers about one hundred and thirty thousand relief labourers in scattered gangs throughout Madras Presidency, I have reason to believe the physical condition of these people to be generally good. I picked out in every gang every person who seemed below par, and suggested special measures regarding each individual."

10. There has been a further decrease in the number of persons on the relief works both in Madras and Bombay. In the former presidency the number, according to the latest return, was 657,365 against 667,443, the number for the previous week. In Bombay the number was 223,865 against 263,053, the total reduction in the two presidencies

being thus 49,266. In Bombay, however, there were also children under seven years o age, and women in charge of them, to the number of 44,150.

In the number charitably relieved there was an increase of 10,226 in Madras, and a decrease of 999 in Bombay, the totals for the two presidencies being 58,317 and 5,566 respectively.

The Mysore returns give 38,808 persons as employed on the relief works under civi officers, in addition to 30,794 employed by Public Works agency, and 30,097 in th receipt of charitable relief, making a total of 99,699.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 171. No. 181.

No. 131, dated Sholapur, 16th March 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to submit a minute * recorded by Sir Richard Temple regarding the need for maintaining a steady and sufficient importation of northern grains into the famine districts of the Madras Presidency. * No. 158. Grain supply from northern India.

2. Sir Richard Temple has directed Captain Bisset of the Railway Department, who is attached to his staff, to visit Bombay and the Nagpore section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, with a view to consulting with the Consulting Engineer of the Bombay Government, and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway authorities as to the best means of securing the result to which Sir Richard Temple attaches such great importance.

No. 172.

LXX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Sholapur, 16th March 1877.

When I was at Madras this week, his Excellency the Governor expressed anxiety as to the requirements of and the supply of grain to the province of Mysore. His Grace was apprehensive lest, if any accident should temporarily arrest the daily supply of railway-borne grain to My ore, the demand of the Mysore population might cause sudden depletion and dearness in the bordering districts of the Madras Presidency. His Grace therefore asked me to let him know whether Mysore had any accumulation of imported grain and to review my calculation on the Mysore supply question, and to consider whether that calculation was ample, and whether it was within the power of the railways according to the practical working thereof, at the time when the western ports shall have been closed by the monsoon. Mysore grain supply.

2. I have caused the appended memorandum † to be drawn up, stating in detail how matters are, according to the latest available information, believed to stand. I do not think there is in Mysore any considerable accumulation of imported grain. Such grain as comes to the railway stations is either consumed or despatched into the interior. I estimate the outside Mysore requirement at about 570 tons of imported grain per diem; and I believe that the railways can maintain this supply together with sufficient supplies for the Madras districts, even after the western ports are closed, provided:— No. 166.

(1.) That the Negapatam route is fully worked.
(2.) That six additional goods engines can be borrowed and placed upon the Madras Railway.

Regarding these two provisoes, I have recorded separate minutes, and I therefore need not dwell upon them again.

3. A copy of this minute will be laid before the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, with my recommendation that his Government should investigate the accuracy of the estimates offered in the enclosed memorandum; should watch the importations closely so as to take steps in case they decrease; and should urge very strongly on Bangalore dealers the need for employing the Negapatam route.

Nos. 189. 13.

No. 173.

Dated Elphinstone Park, Madras, 16 March 1877.

DEMI-OFFICIAL from the COLLECTOR OF CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT to the SECRETARY TO SIR RICHARD TEMPLE.

Land revenue remissions. * No. 160.

In reply to yours of the 13th,* I would observe that, when I conversed with you and Sir Richard Temple, I was unaware that it was even in contemplation to suspend collections, and had no idea whatever of being "able to realise much of the balance due on "dry crop lands next year if the seasons are favourable." I have since on the 1st February 1877 requested the Board of Revenue to remit all dry waste absolutely.

As to the possibility of collecting such arrears "under any circumstances," I do not recollect expressing an opinion; but if I did, it would have been that to do so would entail coercive process, was unadvisable, and would ruin the ryots already impoverished by an almost unprecedented succession of bad seasons.

No. 181.

No. 174.

LXIX. — MEMORANDUM by MR. C. E. BUCKLAND, Private Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, on the CONDITION of the ALUR and TADPATRI TALUKS of the BELLARY DISTRICT in the latter part of February 1877.

Alur and Tadpatri Taluks. Bellary.)

About the middle of February Sir Richard Temple was much struck with the excessively large numbers of relief labourers in the taluk of Alur in the Bellary district, in which 47,000 persons were receiving relief out of a total population of 95,000. He had a conversation with Mr. Glenny, the Sub-Collector, who stated that the number was apparently much too high, but that Mr. Maltby, the Relief Officer, and the tahsildar, would endeavour to reduce the number, and to limit relief to those who really needed it. Sir Richard accordingly made inquiry from Mr. Maltby and the mamlatdar, and ascertained the following facts.

2. There had been no rainfall in the taluk since last July, only a few showers; many of the cattle were dying. There was plenty of grain throughout the taluk, and no need to import any in behalf of Government. There were stocks in the country, though the amount could not be stated. Every market-day some 50 cart loads of rice and cholum are brought in. The price of cholum was 8 seers (of 80 tolas) the rupee; on market-day 9 seers. Rice was $7\frac{1}{4}$ seers the rupee; on market day $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers. The ordinary food of the people is cholum.

Alur.

3. On the 10th February the then last returns showed 46,643 on the relief works out of a population of 94,995, viz., 19,206 men, 20,277 women, and 7,160 children, distributed on six roads thus: (I.) Alur-Bellary, 6,117; (II.) Alur-Auspri, 8,264; (III.) Alur-Goondakul, 14,212; (IV.) Alur-Adoni, 4,599; (V.) Alur-Sirgoopa, 4,803; (VI.) Adoni-Sirgoopa, 8,648. The road from Auspri to Alur had lately been closed under orders from the Sub-Collector, who had directed that only two roads should be open in the taluk, viz., (I.) from Alur to Goondakul, and (II.) from Alur to Sirgoopa (*viâ* Raveri on the Haggari River). About 1,500 relief labourers on the Auspri-Alur road had lately "struck"; they were inhabitants of neighbouring villages, and said that they could not go to the Goondakul road. On the Goondakul road there were at that time from 15,000 to 16,000 labourers, chiefly of the Chukla, Bhoya, and Pariah castes, most of whom had been for three or four months on the works and were said to have improved in appearance during that time. The daily wage had lately been reduced from 2 annas, 1 anna 6 pie, and 9 pie, to 1 anna 6 pie, 1 anna, and 6 pie, for a man, woman, and child respectively. The numbers were gradually diminishing on account of the closing of all but two roads. Orders had some time before been received in the taluka to turn off coolies who had got landed interests, ornaments, or grain. Orders to admit no new labourers, except those who appeared to be really in need, had also reached the tahsildar.

4. The numbers on relief works had risen from 20th to 27th January from 38,528 to 49,257 in consequence of the transfer from the Adoni taluk of labourers on the Adoni-Sirgoopa road, which took place on the 15th January, but was then first brought into account.

5. The sum of Rs. 2,49,268 had been spent on relief works, and Rs. 347 on gratuitous relief up to date. Task-work was not exacted. Government tools were supplied, but apparently not in sufficient quantities.

6. For famine relief work the tahsildar had under him one sheristadar, three famine inspectors, one revenue gomashta, five paymasters, and throughout the taluk 132 mistries (gangmen) at Rs. 8 a month, and 1,015 kolkars at 4 annas a days. The coolies were paid twice a week, and did no work and received no pay on Sundays. They were supposed to work from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., stopping for an hour during the day. They declined to bivouac out at night. Cases were known of people going 20 to 25 miles to work, and the refusal of the labourers on the Auspri-Alur road was recognised as a sign of their being in no great want. Two months before orders had been received to stop the small works, such as the small tanks and wells; also the orders to make the labourers bivouac near the roads had reached the tahsildar. Alur and Tadpatri taluks.

7. No death from starvation had been heard of. One hospital assistant had been specially sent, and there was previously one hospital assistant. There was no cholera prevalent and very little small-pox. There had only been eight cases of cholera since the 20th January.

8. Gratuitous relief was being given at seven places in the taluk, viz., Hoolagundy, Teddahotoor, Auspri, Alur, Nuggurdroog, Santicooloor, Halhuroy, each of them the centre of a circle containing about 20 villages. There was a reddi in charge of each poor-house. The Alur poor-house had been open some two months; the others had recently been opened. There were altogether on gratuitous relief perhaps 150 persons, of whom some 75 were in Alur. The orders of Government to the effect that the village authorities were responsible for relieving any person found to be in a badly reduced condition had been received in the taluk two months before, and the reddies were said to be aware of their duties.

9. There had been no dacoities since last September, and crime hardly existed. The people were quiet, as the road-works were open; if they had not been opened there would have been many crimes.

10. On the whole, looking at all the facts, Sir Richard Temple was of opinion that the numbers in this taluk were excessive as compared with any standard of relief that had been allowed in the Madras Presidency; that the excess was calculated to demoralise the peasantry of the taluk; that the main causes were the non-exaction of anything like real task-work, and the employment of the people too near to their homes, they being employed on lines of roads running through their own villages; that the judicious orders given by the Sub-Collector, Mr. Glenny, had not been carried out by the tahsildar, and Mr. Maltby, though willing to do his best, was not sufficiently experienced to be able to keep the tahsildar in order; that Mr. Glenny was himself aware of these defects, and would doubtless take the earliest opportunity of rectifying them after personal visitation.

11. At Tadpatri Sir Richard Temple ascertained the following facts:—The population of the Tadpatri taluk is 115,000. About 12,000 persons were on the relief works, and 1,565 in receipt of gratuitous relief. On the 17th February there were 10,501 on relief works; on the 19th there were 11,600; the increase had taken place on the Yadaki and Bellary roads, under the orders of Mr. Sharkey, the Deputy Collector, and two road superintendents. On the tahsildar's roads, those to Cuddapah and Anantipur, there had been no increase. Tadpatri.

Two months previous there were 13,000 persons on the works. On the 2nd February orders were received to turn off all respectable people, pattadars, those with ornaments, on which 2,000 had been rejected.

12. On each of the Anantipur and Cuddapah roads there were about 2,500 relief labourers, for the most part engaged in stone-breaking, as they sat in gangs under the trees, while a number of them collected the stones from the fields. There was a kolkar in charge of each gang. Since the 17th of February the men had been receiving 1 anna 6 pie, the women 1 anna, the children 6 pie, instead of the 2 annas, 1 anna and 6 pie, and 9 pie they obtained formerly. On the Cuddapah road there had been 4,000 labourers in January. The gangmen had been directed to take on nobody without the tahsildar's orders. No child was admitted to the works under seven years old, nor to the poor-house if they had parents alive. Up to the 19th February Rs. 2,500 had been spent on gratuitous relief, and Rs. 80,000 on works in the taluk. There were 351 recipients of gratuitous relief.

13. There was plenty of grain in the markets in the taluk. Jowari was at $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 seers the rupee. In November it was at 7 seers (never less), and the owners were disposed to hold their stocks; but importations made them produce the grain, and the prices fell. There were no crops on the dry land, and not more than 4 annas on the wet. There were two inches of rain in August and one inch last September.

Tadpatri taluk.

14. Under the tahsildars there were four revenue inspectors and four paymasters in the taluk, one for each road, the four roads being (1) to Anantipur, (2) to Cuddapah, (3) to Bellary, (4) to Yadaker.

15. The tahsildar was aware of the necessity of simultaneously enforcing their responsibility for the villages on the reddies, and he expressed himself as able to manage the people without difficulty.

16. On the whole, Sir Richard Temple was of opinion that the tahsildar's proceedings were fairly satisfactory, but that Mr. Glenny might with advantage inquire why the number increased on Mr. Sharkey's road when there was no increase on the tahsildar's road. This might have occurred through Mr. Sharkey's want of local experience.

Nos. 179. 181.

No. 175.

Telegram, dated 17th March 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta.

Government grain reserve.

Government consider it imprudent to vary distribution of reserve grain at well-considered places. Suggested sale of grain now remaining in Madras would necessarily interfere with trade, and would be a breach of faith after public pledge that it was strictly held for emergencies. Government, therefore, cannot accept either of these suggestions, and have announced this decision, as publication of suggestion in Gazette has much unsettled trade. Your announcement of this decision to Calcutta and Burma will be useful to re-assure trade.

No. 213.

No. 176.

LXXVII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, respecting the present condition of Relief Operations in Kurnool.

Sholapur, 17th March 1877.

Relief operations in Kurnool.

In my minute dated the 20th January last, it was mentioned that Mr. R. Davidson, who had recently been appointed to the Kurnool district, was doing all he could to bring affairs into order; but that before his arrival, relief operations must have passed beyond control locally, and had been apparently conducted in a manner calculated to cause a heavy drain upon the Treasury and to render the people too dependent upon the State.

2. I have recently ascertained the condition of relief operations and the character of relief administration, as they now exist in the Kurnool district. I find that matters have very greatly improved, and the present state of affairs is as follows: Order and system have been introduced, a competent and energetic officer has been placed in full relief charge of every taluk, the gangs of relief labourers have been concentrated on a few works, and task-work is in many cases exacted; persons who could support themselves have gone to their homes; the revised wage rate, with the prescribed allowance for the infants of workpeople, has been fully adopted; the total numbers on relief works have fallen from 330,000 to 195,000; from five to eight relief houses have been opened in each taluk, whence cooked food is distributed to about 4,500* destitute people; these relief houses are inspected by the taluk relief officer, and abuses are prevented; the village officers are sending paupers into the relief houses, and the village relief organisation is being roused into activity by the constant supervision of European officers. So far as the local officers can ascertain, deaths from starvation are not occurring in the villages. The physical condition of the people on the relief works continues fairly good; private trade continues to be active, and the supply of imported grain is more plentiful than it was in January. System and economy were not enforced so early in the Cumbum division as elsewhere; but even there, also, matters are now brought into conformity with the instructions of the Madras Government. The local officers expect that the numbers on relief works and on charitable relief may reach 250,000 and 25,000 respectively, as the season advances and pressure on the people increases.

* Note.—The 2,200 persons who receive gratuitous relief in Kurnool city from private sources are outside this number.

3. Much of this result is due to the exertions of Mr. Davidson, the Collector, who, since the middle of January, has visited every part of the district, and has seen matters with his own eyes. Mr. Davidson is assisted by an efficient staff of Civil, Military, and Native assistants; he appears to be employing his assistants to advantage; but he asks

for additional engineering subordinates, and also for the services of selected officers and men of the Native army. The officials of the engineering staff are now co-operating with the relief officers. Relief operations in Kurnool.

4. Although much improvement has thus been achieved, and though the Madras Government has been so far well served by Mr. Davidson and his assistants, yet I am not able to report that every economy which, under other circumstances might be practicable, has been attained in Kurnool. It is noteworthy that the proportion of the population receiving relief is now much higher in Kurnool than in either Bellary or Cuddapah.

5. In my minute of the 20th January, I drew attention to the contrast between relief operations as conducted in Kurnool, and as conducted in the similarly circumstanced Bombay district of Sholapur. A renewal of the comparison between these two districts makes me believe that the relief operations in Kurnool may still be beyond the actual necessities of the case. I do not say that the scale of relief in Kurnool can, after all that has been done and permitted, come down to the Sholapur scale. But still I think the contrast is, both for our present information and for our future guidance, worth making, thus:—

——	Proportion of Crops saved in 1876–77, according to the Collector's Estimate.	Total Population.	Number of Persons on Relief Works.		Number on charitable Relief on 1st March.	Number of Relief Works opened 1st March.
			10th January.	1st March.		
Kurnool	1½ annas out of 16	917,000	330,000	194,000	3,651	About 24 works.
Sholapur	1 anna out of 16 -	718,000	93,000	48,000	500	16 Public Works Department works, besides 45 works for the 4,000 civil agency relief people.

A much wider and more general private charity is practised by the people of Sholapur and its towns than has been shown by the people of Kurnool and its towns. But, with this exception, I am unable to point to any sufficient explanation of the very great difference between the extent of relief operations in the two districts. Probably there may be some undetected differences in the circumstances of the two districts; still I cannot think such difference could be sufficient to account for the great excess of Kurnool relief expenditure over Sholapur. In the Sholapur district the staff of relief officials is very ample; each village has its patel (headman), and its kulkarni (accountant); over each circle of 10 villages has been placed a special relief inspector; and in every taluk is stationed a European or Native assistant and a mamlutdar (tahsildar), whose whole time is given to relief work and to village inspection. On the information furnished by this chain of relief officials, the Collector is able to say that the condition of the village people is (17th March) fair everywhere, and that the people are not starving at their homes. It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the Sholapur relief operations suffice for the necessities of the case.

6. I believe one great cause of the difference in the numbers on relief works in the two districts is, that for several weeks work has not been offered to Sholapur villagers close to their homes; while in Kurnool everybody could at first, and very many can even now, find easy relief work at fair wages close to their homes. The attention of the Collector might still be given to this point. It is probable that when the Kurnool relief officers pick out gangs of 20,000 stalwart relief labourers for transfer to Nellore, many may decline to go, and in this way the numbers will decrease by the act of the people themselves.

7. It may be well to draw attention to the necessity for keeping one point in view. The Government grain reserve in Kurnool amounts, so far as I could ascertain, to from 10,000 to 12,000 tons. This grain is being housed and protected, and it is not now being used at all. Grain for relief-house expenditure is bought in the local markets. But it will have to be considered at what season and in what manner this grain ought to be disposed, so that large quantities may not be kept on the hands of Government when the next season's crop ripens.

No. 177.

No. 181. LXXV.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, on the Labour Test and the Wage Test.

Sholapur, March 18, 1877.

Labour test and wage test.

I desire to offer certain remarks on the labour test and the wage test, which remarks are suggested by my experience of two months spent amidst the thick of the relief operations in the Madras Presidency.

2. At the outset of the affair, that is, in the last week of December and the first week of January, there was an extraordinarily large number of persons of both sexes on relief works in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah; about 950,000* persons out of a population of four millions, or about one-fourth of the whole people. No doubt the failure in 1876 of the south-east or later monsoon, following a failure of the south-west or earlier monsoon, did cause distress to come on with unusual rapidity, and, as it were, precipitated the outbreak of famine. Still, in reference to the early period of the season, to the length of time which had to run before the next coming rains of 1877, the accession of such great numbers was calculated to excite surprise and alarm. If these districts, it may be asked, showed as many as 950,000 persons in the first or second week of January, what would they be showing in March, and still worse, what might they show in May?

*Bellary - -	420,000
Kurnool - -	320,000
Cuddapah - -	210,000
Total -	950,000

3. At the beginning of January 1874, the relief works in the worst districts of Bengal, Behar, showed hardly more than a few hundreds, or at the most but a very few thousands. The numbers remained low till the middle of March. They reached their culminating point hardly before the end of April. If then Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah had nearly a million by the middle of January, what, it was anxiously inquired, would be the enormous muster roll of April and May? No doubt there is a difference of at least one month of season between these districts and Bengal, which difference might bring on the outbreak of famine a month earlier in these districts than in Bengal. Still this would not fully account for the remarkable haste with which the famine seemed to be approaching in the Madras Presidency. There must have been something in the system which had begun to be pursued to encourage people to resort to the relief works.

As a matter of fact, the numbers on relief works in these three districts have fortunately not gone on rising and rising in the manner which was to have been feared; on the contrary, they have been falling and falling. The necessity of additional precautions was immediately represented to the Madras Government, who promptly took various measures accordingly. The execution of these measures has since been diligently watched. The total for the three districts is now under 500,000, thus:—

Bellary - - - -	240,000
Kurnool - - - -	195,000
Cuddapah - - - -	58,000

And it may now be said (though with various qualifications), that the relief works in these three districts are on the whole supervised tolerably well, and that the numbers are reduced in a manner partly in some degree (though far from exactly) proportionate to the dimensions of actual distress. So far the Madras Government may be congratulated on the result. But the ideas in the minds of the people, which produced the original excess in numbers, are still existing, and would again burst into activity, if vigilance were to be relaxed even for a moment. It is therefore practically useful to consider what those causes were, and how they have been or are to be remedied.

5. The causes were—

Offering of work close to the homes of the people;

Rendering the work light and easy;

Making the wages worth having irrespective of bare subsistence;

Admitting all comers, without any question as to whether they were able to sustain themselves for a time;

Allowing all applications for employment without exception.

These several concessions are deemed by the rural country people to be considerable advantages.

6. The remedy has been, withholding these advantages, making the scene of work more distant from home, causing the labour to be more hard and irksome, rendering the wage less advantageous, and besides, rejecting all those who appeared able to support themselves for a time, at least.

7. It was at the outset held in the Madras Presidency that the wage offered, though liberal enough in ordinary times, would be thought low in reference to the high prices of scarcity time, and that the rural and agricultural classes would not resort to the works

under such circumstances unless really pressed by want. It was doubtless hoped that the works would be so distributed as not to be too near and handy to the relief labourers, and that task-work would by degrees be enforced. It was probably difficult, under the pressure of last December, to fulfil this hope. At all events, from one cause or other, it was not fulfilled; the works were easily accessible, and the task-work was nominal. Labour test and wage test.

8. Then an important circumstance became observable, namely, this, that rural classes who are not yet pressed by want, who are able to sustain themselves, and to live without Government aid, will largely resort to relief work so long as those works are close at home, as the labour is easy and the wage worth having, and in the rural classes I include not only the menial servants in the villages, the beggars who subsist on village charity, the professional workpeople, the field labourer, the feudal serfs, but also the "pattadar" ryots (technically so termed), that is, the peasant proprietors, ryots having a beneficiary interest in the soil under the ryotwari settlement, and paying land revenue to Government. In some populous tract it came to this, that relief road ran through the middle of the villages, and the peasantry living on either side of the line within sight of it sauntered leisurely on to the works.

9. On or about the 1st of January there were some persons in all these classes who, even at that early date, really needed relief, and would have submitted to much trouble in order to obtain it. There were, however, many who would gladly take relief if they could get it without trouble, but who would prefer to dispense with it rather than submit to such trouble. There were thousands and thousands of powerful men, representing what would be termed a fine peasantry, whose physical condition would be called splendid, who thus got State wages for some few weeks, under the name of relief, though to them it really was gain. This has been indeed checked. But that this should be the view taken by so many of the peasant proprietary (as it was actually taken by tens of thousands of them) is a circumstance to arouse reflection.

10. It was natural enough, indeed, that such a view should be taken by the rural classes. A man and his family are not in actual want; they are not prepared to interrupt their domestic arrangements or to undergo severe toil; they are not willing to encamp out, perhaps to bivouac, to be on the work all day in inclement weather; still the times are hard, and may become harder, their ordinary work is slack, they have nothing in particular to do, they would be glad to make a little money, which would come in usefully, would replace dead cattle, would help to pay for deepening the well for irrigation, would reduce the debt to the village banker, and so on. And at that time (January) a man might have thus earned Rs. $3\frac{3}{4}$, his wife Rs. $2\frac{3}{4}$, and say his two elder children Rs. $3\frac{1}{2}$ more, in all Rs. 10 in a month; in four months (probable duration of distress) Rs. 40 would be obtained, which is really a consideration to a rustic family. If, then, the relief works suit this idea, they afford a temptation to tens, even to hundreds of thousands. Thus it is that resorting to relief works is *not* necessarily a test of distress. Thus it is that State charity becomes indiscriminate and superinduces a certain sort of demoralisation. That some demoralisation was beginning to creep into the rural community in these districts I distinctly apprehended, though we may now trust it has been checked. And the State, however much it may be bound to save life and to prevent extreme distress, is not bound to allow this; on the contrary, is bound to set its face against everything of the sort.

11. When, therefore, the numbers on the relief works became so much reduced during February, the main causes were the distribution of the works so as to render them more distant from the homes of the workpeople and the augmenting of the task. Instance after instance has occurred of gangs, some thousands strong, being told that the road on which they were engaged was sufficiently finished, and that they must march on to another road ten miles, even five miles off, and then melting away or never mustering again; or being told that they must do such and such a task, and rejoining that they did not like this, as it would involve so many hours a day, and then ceasing to appear. This is not, of course, the demeanour of persons who are in real need. And yet it has been exactly the demeanour of a large part of the million of relief labourers in these three districts during January.

12. When, therefore, it is sometimes asked how such large numbers were turned off during February, the answer is that for the most part they turned themselves off, and that they chose to be at rest on finding that they could not get relief on their own terms.

13. A certain number no doubt were picked out to be discharged, under the rule that those were to be rejected who seemed able to sustain themselves for a time, at least.

14. The reducing the wage, also, is calculated to keep people away from the works by diminishing the inducement, but it has not been long enough in operation to produce any marked effect.

Labour test and wage test.

15. As a remarkable example in a district adjoining these three districts, I may cite the case of the East Coast Canal, an excellent work under professional supervision. Labour is sorely needed for this work. The district all around it (Nellore) is much distressed, and might well send, say, 30,000 labourers to it (in addition to the few thousands already sent). But the rural poor of Nellore were at the outset comforted by convenient village works, and they refuse to leave these works to go to the canal; if pressed to go they strike work and decline relief altogether on such terms. Similar efforts were made, under stringent orders of the Madras Government, in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, to induce relief labourers to go to the canal, but with very little success.

16. I distinctly apprehend that thousands and thousands of stalwart relief labourers in these several districts will leave the little village works and refuse relief altogether sooner than go to the canal or to any large public work under professional supervision, at any, even a moderate distance from their homes. I should even fear that they will undergo some distress and privation before they will yield, if indeed they ever do yield. It is indeed manifest enough that people who thus behave cannot be in severe want, nevertheless, the test of going away from home ought to be persistently applied to able-bodied applicants for relief. This can be done by concentrating operations as much as possible on larger works which have been or may yet be suggested. In my minute of the 14th February was said all that then occurred to me regarding these larger public works in the Madras Presidency.

17. I have never been insensible to the objection that these larger public works might cause extra expense in one particular way, namely this, that professional labourers might be engaged for them on account of their skill and efficiency, who might not be in absolute need, or who might have been able to obtain private employment; for experience shows that even in the distressed districts the practised and efficient labourers can generally find work for themselves; it is rather the inferior labourers, and they are legion, who suffer. But when a work of this description is opened, not primarily for the sake of material improvement, but for the purpose of relief, it is easy and necessary to order that no person shall be employed who is believed to be in any way able to sustain himself, for a time at least, or who lives so near that his attendance only shows that he is making a convenience of the work in order to earn a little money. And when this is ordered, then the only objection which exists to these works being undertaken for relief is removed.

18. On the other hand, the advantages of these professionally-controlled public works for purposes of relief are absolute. These works being at some distance from the homes of the people, involving some hardship and exposure, requiring people to camp out or to bivouac, exacting labour under engineering supervision, which cannot be cheated or evaded, restricting remuneration to work done according to "task" or "piece" and "measured up" professionally, supply a labour test, which assays the character of the relief-seeking classes, just as money is assayed at a mint. Those who are really in need must submit to all this. Those who are not in such need, but who would be glad enough to avail themselves of relief, that is, of State charity, if easily and conveniently obtained, will not submit. In the Madras Presidency the process of examining gangs of relief labourers, rejecting those who are well-to-do, and retaining those who are not, is described by an expressive phrase, "shroffing," in allusion to the manner by which a "shroff," or money-changer, tests the intrinsic value of the coins presented to him. The simple order to the able-bodied among the relief gang to proceed to one of the larger public works at a distance has immediately caused thousands of thousands to "shroff" themselves, that is, to take their discharge from the relief department altogether. And I apprehend that a similar order, if given even now, to many of the strongest gangs in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah would cause tens of thousands more to do the same. If indiscriminate charity by the State is to be avoided, if the charity is to be truly discriminating, relieving only those who are in want, and doing that effectually, then these larger public works afford a self-acting test.

19. The primary importance, therefore, of having large public works of this description ready beforehand for all districts where scarcity or famine is to be expected, becomes manifest. Even at this comparatively advanced season the plan may be still further worked with much effect in the Kurnool and Bellary districts especially.

20. It is to be remembered, of course, that there are many classes among the distressed poor who could not labour on these larger public works. For the employment of these people petty works must be provided close to their homes, and with but a very light task. But such works should be begun sparingly and as slowly and cautiously as possible, they should not be scattered all over distressed tracts until the famine has pronounced itself and the season of trouble has advanced, and none should be admitted

to them who could be reasonably expected to resort to the larger public works. The excess which occurred in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, and which in the middle of January threatened, if not checked, to be overwhelming, arose because easy works close at home were opened all over these districts at the very commencement of the scarcity, and because there were hardly any large public works ready to which the able-bodied applicants for relief could be sent, under penalty of being discharged from relief if they should refuse to go. Labour test and wage test.

21. Besides the petty relief works in the villages, there is the charitable relief to be administered by searching out every distressed person (even those who may fail to complain) by a house-to-house visitation throughout the country. But this important topic need not be pursued here.

22. Most or all of the considerations set forth in this minute are doubtless already known to the Government of India and to the Government of Madras. But the experience gained recently in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah affords such striking confirmation of the view, that I have deemed it my duty to record that experience while it is still fresh.

No. 178.

LXXVIII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, recommending that immediate sanction be given to the Commencement of the Repairs to the Begum Talao in the Kaladgi district. No. 213.

Camp Wortee, Kaladgi district, 20th March 1877.

During my visit to the northern taluks of the Kaladgi district I had the advantage of visiting the large tank known as the Begum Talao, near the ruined city of Beejapur, in company with Mr. Molecey, the Executive Engineer, and Mr. Silcock, the Assistant Collector. This interesting reservoir was one of the sources of the prosperity of the city of Beejapur in the celebrated time of its Mahomedan sovereigns. If, as I learn to be the case, there is an intention of transferring the civil station of Kaladgi to Beejapur, which is centrically situated for the district, then the restoration of the great reservoir would be essential to such a plan. Begum Talao Tank, near Beejapur, recommended for relief work.

2. I understand that a project has been prepared in the Irrigation Department, and approved by the Bombay Government, for putting this tank into order at a cost of about Rs. 50,000. The work to be done consists mainly of earthwork and of rough stone pitching. The Government have, however, directed that the work should not be begun as a relief work until there is absolute need for more relief employment in that part of the country.

3. Looking to the merits of the project itself, I find that this tank has an ample catchment area; that it can contain a very large supply of water; that its water used formerly to (and can again) irrigate a considerable area, and that it can supply drinking water to a great city; looking also to the fact that the embankment, more than one mile in length, is breached in two places only; that the silt, which has collected in great quantities at the bottom of the tank, can be easily excavated for the repair and heightening of the embankment; looking to all these considerations, I think that the repairing of this ancient reservoir is worthy of consideration.

4. From a relief point of view also, I should think that the work might well be undertaken. In that case its early commencement would appear to be very desirable. The situation of the work is salubrious. The numbers on relief works in the Kaladgi district have indeed fallen from 49,973 during the first week of February to 22,584 during the second week of March. But the local authorities anticipate that the numbers will again rise. Nearly all the road work that can in future years be maintained by the local funds has in this (the northern) part of the district been completed. And my inspections of about 6,800 relief labourers and of about 3,500 poor persons who are not in receipt of relief, satisfies me that, for the present at any rate, there is need for another large relief work in the Beejapur and in the south of the Indee taluk. On both grounds, therefore, the great usefulness of the undertaking and the ascertained necessity for more relief work, I would recommend to the Bombay Government that sanction be given to the immediate commencement of the repairs of the Begum Talao as a relief work.

No. 179.

Nos. 180–1.

Telegram, dated 21st March 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras.

Grain reserve of Madras Government, disposal of.

Your telegram regarding grain reserve. Have you made the public notification requested in paragraphs 3 and 4 of our letter of the 9th instant, except that relating to the removal of Government grain to places 60 miles from railway. If not, please explain why? With regard to distribution of reserve grain, we request you to inform us as soon as possible what are the places less than 60 miles from the railway where reserve of Government grain are stored; what is the quantity so stored in each such place; and what your reasons for retaining it in a locality which, *primâ facie*, ought to be easily reached by private trade. Telegraphic answer to these inquiries and early written reply to our letter of 9th instant are requested. The Government of India also request that all important announcements made, or decisions arrived at, by the Madras Government regarding the famine may be promptly telegraphed to Supreme Government. The public announcement, that the Government would hold the stock of grain at Madras in reserve, was not communicated to us at the time.

No. 180.

No. 181.

No. 313, dated 23rd March 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Grain reserve of Madras Government.

I have had the honour to receive your telegram of the 17th instant, in answer to my letter, No. 276, of the 9th instant.

2. In reply, I am directed to state that before coming to a final decision on the subject of the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th paragraphs of that letter, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council will await the result of the further reference which was made to the Government of Madras by telegraph yesterday.

3. The proposal in paragraph 5, that the reserve of grain now held by the Madras Government should be gradually sold off in small quantities at fixed intervals, was, I am to explain, intended to relieve the mercantile community from the standing menace which seemed to be involved in the existence of a stock of grain in the hands of the Government, liable to be despatched into the distressed districts, or to be thrown on the market at any time. From such inquiries as the Government of India have been able to make, it appears that at Calcutta there is considerable difference of opinion on the subject; although some of the leading merchants consider that the sales contemplated would tend to confirm the confidence of the mercantile community in our policy of non-interference with private trade, and that if conducted in the manner, and at the intervals proposed, they would not be of sufficient importance to have any serious effect upon prices. As, however, the general opinion of the trade at Madras appears to be adverse to the measure, and as his Excellency the Governor in Council has given a public pledge that the grain shall be retained in reserve to meet future emergencies, the Government of India will not press its suggestion further. I am, however, to add that the reserve should not be moved or utilised in any way without the permission of the Government of India, which, in case of necessity, may be applied for by telegraph, with a full explanation of the necessity of the case.

Not to be utilised without permission of Government of India.

No. 181.

No. 16 of 1877. No. 244.

From Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the Secretary of State for India.

Calcutta, the 23rd March 1877.

We enclose, for your Lordship's information, copies of minutes and memoranda which we have received from Sir Richard Temple during the past week, referring to the following subjects :— Reviewing Sir Richard Temple's minutes.

1st. The utilisation of the Negapatam port and route for the supply of grain to Bangalore and the Mysore country. Nos. 132. 136. 149.

2nd. The employment of weavers on some light work suitable to their physical condition. No. 151.

3rd. The expediency of making some concession to the caste-feelings of the people in the arrangements of the relief camps. No. 152.

4th. The present condition of the districts of Coimbatore and Salem. Nos. 153–4.

5th. The condition of persons on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief recently inspected by him. No. 155.

6th. The question of the sufficiency of the reduced rate of wages. No. 165.

7th. The relief operations in the taluks of Alur and Tádpatri, in the Bellary district. No. 174.

8th. The need for maintaining a steady and sufficient importation of northern grains into the famine districts of the Madras Presidency. No. 158.

9th. The causes which led to the enormous influx of persons to the works in the ceded districts during the earlier months of the present famine. No. 177.

10th. The expediency * of employing European and Native officers and privates of the Madras Army on the relief works. No. 97.

11th. The relief camps at the Red Hills and Palaveram. No. 168.

12th. The taluks and zemindaris in the Madras Presidency inspected by Sir Richard Temple between the 14th January and 14th March. No. 169.

2. We also submit a letter† from the Resident at Hyderabad, forwarding a report on the present condition of those districts in the Nizam's country which are more or less affected by scarcity, and the measures which have been taken for the relief of distress. † 162–3.

3. None of these papers call for lengthened remarks from us; but in all of Sir Richard Temple's minutes suggestions are made, which appear to us to merit, and which we have no doubt are receiving the careful attention of the Government of Madras. The question which still causes us the greatest anxiety is that of the transport of grain by railway into the ceded districts both from the north-west and from Madras. Every effort is being made in the Railway Branch of our Public Works Department to overcome the difficulties which at present impede the transport with sufficient rapidity of the supplies which are considered to be necessary; but at least six heavy goods engines are needed, in addition to those at present available in this country, to meet the requirements of the grain traffic. We have requested your Lordship by telegraph to arrange for this number of engines being sent to Bombay by way of the Suez Canal with as little delay as possible. Grain transport causing anxiety.

4. The facts stated and considerations urged by Sir Richard Temple in his minute of the 18th instant, regarding the causes which led to the enormous influx of persons to the relief works in the ceded districts and in Kurnool in the earlier months of the famine, indicate the urgent necessity of so arranging the works as to render them as little attractive as possible to those who are not in absolute need. Sir Richard Temple shows that whereas in December the number on the relief works in those districts amounted to 950,000, it has now been reduced to 493,000. The relief works were close to the homes of the people; the work was light and easy; the wages were more than sufficient to afford a bare subsistence; all comers were admitted, without any question as to whether they were able to sustain themselves, and the consequence was that thousands and thousands of powerful men, representing what might be called a fine peasantry, whose physical condition was excellent, and who were really in no need of relief, received State wages as relief labourers. This was the state of things in January. The reduction in the numbers which has since taken place is mainly attributable to the relief works having been so re-arranged as to render them more distant from the homes of the workpeople and to augmenting the task. Sir Richard Temple states that "instance after instance Causes which have produced diminution of numbers on relief works.

* The original of this minute appears to have miscarried in the post. The copy which reached us on the 22nd instant is a duplicate.

" has occurred of gangs, some thousands strong, being told that the road on which they " were engaged was sufficiently finished, and that they must march on to another road " ten miles or even five miles off, and their melting away or never mustering again; or " being told that they must do such and such a task, and rejoining that they did not " like this, as it would involve so many hours a day, and then ceasing to appear." Other causes which have contributed to the diminution of numbers are the reduction of the wage and the discharge of persons who seemed able to sustain themselves; but in Sir Richard Temple's opinion, the main causes were the re-arrangement of the works and the enforcement of heavier tasks. Both these remedies, he considers, should be still further enforced in the three districts above mentioned, and if combined with petty relief works with light tasks for weakly persons, from which able-bodied labourers should be excluded, and by a searching house-to-house visitation systematically arranged, there need be no apprehension of the distress being inadequately dealt with.

* No. 175. Grain reserve of Madras Government, its disposal.

5. We enclose a copy of a telegram* which we received on the 18th instant from the Government of Madras with reference to the instructions conveyed and the suggestion offered in our letter of the 9th instant, regarding the stock of grain now in the hands of the Government in that Presidency, to which allusion was made in the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs of our Despatch of the same date. Copies of a telegram† which we have addressed to the Government of Madras, calling for further information on certain points, and of a letter‡ expressing our acquiescence, under the circumstances, in the decision arrived at by the Local Government, not to sell for the present the reserve of grain now in their hands at Madras, are also enclosed. Your Lordship will observe that in suggesting the sale to the highest bidders of the stock of Government grain now at Madras, in moderate specified quantities, at specified intervals, our object was to confirm the confidence of the mercantile community in our policy of non-interference with private trade, and to remove the standing menace to the trade which seemed to be involved in the existence of a stock of grain in the hands of the Government, liable to be despatched into the distressed districts or to be thrown into the market at any time, to the serious derangement of the calculations of private traders. From the inquiries which we have been able to make here, we find that at Calcutta there is considerable difference of opinion on the subject, although some of the leading merchants consider that the sales contemplated would tend to remove the uncertainty and distrust which have been felt regarding the action of the Government, and that if conducted in the manner and at the intervals proposed they would not be of sufficient importance to have any serious effect upon prices. At Madras, however, the preponderance of mercantile opinion appears to be adverse to the measure; and as it appears that his Grace the Governor in Council has given a public pledge that the grain shall be retained in reserve to meet future emergencies, and will not be utilised so long as private trade meets the requirements of the distressed districts, we have not deemed it advisable to press our suggestion further. We have desired, however, that the reserve should not be moved or utilised in any way without the permission of the Government of India, which, in case of necessity, may be applied for by telegraph, with a full explanation of the nature of the necessity.

† No. 179.

‡ No. 180.

6. We have much satisfaction in reporting that there has been a good fall of rain in several of the distressed districts, including Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Trichinopoly, and Tinnevelly. It has also extended to Mysore. The particulars have not yet reached us.

7. Sir Richard Temple telegraphs as follows on the 21st instant:—

"I have during past week visited districts of Sholapur and Kaládgi in Bombay Presidency, and inspected in these districts 19,000 relief labourers, most of whom employed on task-work, professionally supervised and measured up. Physical condition generally satisfactory. Gangs under civil officers much diminished in numbers. Efforts to prevent waste or abuse very creditable to local authorities. System of relief strict. Some doubt whether village relief and house to house visitation sufficiently effective. General impression of Bombay management favourable. Comparison between Madras and Bombay Presidencies thus: Principles now the same in both; but in Madras the management more indulgent to people, relief more freely allowed, and expense more liberal. In Bombay the management is more rigid, the system more exact, the economy more complete. In neither Presidency is there enough visitation from village to village to search out individual cases of distress."

8. There has been a slight decrease in the numbers on the relief works in Madras and an increase in Bombay. In Madras the number according to the latest return was 656,997 against 657,365, the number for the previous week. In Bombay the corresponding numbers were 226,841 and 223,865. The net increase in the two Presidencies was 2,608. There was, however, in Bombay a decrease of 11,947 children under seven

years of age and of women taking care of them, the number having been reduced from 44,150 to 32,203.

In the number of persons charitably relieved there was a large increase, amounting to 23,750 persons in Madras, the number having risen from 58,317 to 82,067. In Bombay the corresponding numbers were 6,135 and 5,566, showing a decrease of 569.

In Mysore the number on the relief works was 36,600, in addition to 30,794 employed by Public Works agency, and 37,361 charitably relieved, making a total of 104,755 against 99,699, the corresponding numbers for last week.

9. It will be seen from the Resident's letter, and from the papers appended to it, the opinion expressed in Sir Richard Temple's minute on the condition of Hyderabad, which was enclosed in our Despatch of the 9th ultimo, that the distress in that State was likely to be less than was at first apprehended, has so far been justified by the event. The condition of the rabi harvest, now in course of being gathered, is generally fairly favourable, and no further extension of the area in which distress has hitherto prevailed is apprehended. The maximum number of persons likely to be on the relief works is estimated at 43,000. The Resident bears testimony to the judgment with which Sir Salar Jung has dealt with the matter.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
A. HOBHOUSE.
E. C. BAYLEY.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.

No. 182.

MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding RELIEF OPERATIONS in the SHOLAPUR DISTRICT, as ascertained by Sir Richard Temple during his visit of the 17th, 18th, and 22nd March 1877. Nos. 186. 213.

Camp, Poona District, 23rd March 1877.

Relief operations in Sholapur district.

Sir Richard Temple met at Sholapur the Revenue Commissioner, Mr. Robertson, the Collector, Mr. Percival, and the Executive Engineer, Major Mathew. In his minute of the 12th January were offered some general statistics regarding the distress in the Sholapur district, and it will suffice to note here that the district comprises an area of 4,496 square miles, with a population of 718,034 persons; that the failure of the crops has been general all over the district; and that the average out-turn of the food-crops was estimated at one anna out of 16 for the whole district.

2. In the month of January there were 93,000 persons on the relief works in the Sholapur district, now (20th March) there are only 48,855. Of these about 4,500 (or 600 in each taluk) are on the works under Civil agency, the remainder being employed under the officers of the Public Works Department, by whom task-work is exacted and efficient supervision is exercised. The Collector, Mr. Percival, assigns several causes for the decrease in numbers; thus, he attributes it in part to—

(*a.*) The reduction in the rate of wages.
(*b.*) The concentration of the people on works at a distance from their homes.
(*c.*) The exaction of task-work.
(*d.*) The ability of the people to do without relief to an extent not previously believed.
(*e.*) The large charity still going on in all the towns and larger villages at the hands of Natives.

3. The rates of wage are 1 anna 10 pies for adult men on the Public Works, and 1 anna 3 pies for adult men on the Civil agency works. If persons or gangs on the Public Works do not perform the full tasks their wages are subject to deduction.

4. Regarding the condition of the people the Collector says that the gangs on the regular Public Works are in decidedly good condition; that the condition of the people on Civil ageney is fair at present; but that he is apprehensive about these people, and recommends that the wage rate should be raised to 1½ annas, or else that a Sunday wage should be given. The Commissioner, Mr. Robertson, does not admit that necessity has yet been shown for any increase in the rates. The Collector believes the condition of the people outside the works to be fairly good; he receives weekly diaries from relief officers, who get reports from relief inspectors and visit a great number of villages themselves. No single report of a starvation death has yet reached the Collector. He recently received a report from a single relief circle of 10 villages to the effect that

Relief operations in Sholapur district.

the condition of the people there was much depressed. The Assistant Collector has gone to visit this circle, and his report has not yet come to hand.

5. The charitable relief arrangements are on this wise: a relief house is established at every taluk head-quarters; each taluk is divided into eight or 10 circles of 10 villages each; over each of these circles is a relief inspector on Rs. 12 a month, whose duty is to visit every village in his circle twice a week; in every taluk there is a mamlatdar (Native subdivisional officer) whose full time is given to relief work; and over every taluk is a European or Native Assistant Collector, whose duty is to inspect villages and direct the subordinate agency. A register of paupers has been prepared and is periodically revised for every village; and every pauper who cannot support himself is expected to reside and be relieved at the taluk relief house, save in exceptional cases of infirm people who cannot travel and are relieved by the patels (village headmen) at the cost of the State. The relief houses are not popular with paupers, as they have to reside there. Only about 1,100 persons are now in receipt of charitable relief, besides some 6,000 young children whose parents are on the relief works. A very great deal of relief is being given by private charity; a Native charitable relief committee is doing good work in every considerable town in the district; in Sholapur town itself the committee spend Rs. 4,000 a month on distributing charitable relief to about 2,300 persons daily. The Collector has noticed with satisfaction the extent to which the helpless village poor are cared for by their own people, even in these hard times. Still he anticipates that larger numbers of these poor creatures must sooner or later come upon the Government for charitable relief.

6. Among other testimony given to Sir Richard Temple regarding the condition of the people in the Sholapur district may be mentioned:—

Lieutenant C. J. Dickson, District Superintendent of Police, who, in his last diary from tour, reports that he has visited many villages and found the state of the people to be good.

Lieutenant Christie, R.E., from the Midnapore district of Bengal, who has been employed for one month in the interior of the district. He has seen a great many of the workpeople. Last week he visited the Ashti tank, whereon 7,000 people were employed; and he was moving about among the people for two days. He found the workmen in "capital condition," and he considers them to be "as good coolies as one "could see anywhere." Among 7,000 labourers there were of course some few weakly people; but the hospital was almost empty.

Lieutenant Affleck Graves, Assistant Engineer from Agra, has been employed for one month in the interior of the district, and has under him now 43 miles of road on which 3,000 labourers are employed. The wage rate for adult male is 1 anna 9 pies; and the people have throughout been in good condition, better indeed than the gangs recently working under him on the Agra district roads. The children especially seemed to be in good case.

7. Sir Richard Temple inspected a considerable number of relief labourers and of other poor in the Sholapur districts; thus—

Moteebagh tank near Sholapur.—Four thousand labourers under Public Works agency, doing full task-work, on wages of 1 anna 10 pies a day for adult males; the condition of the gangs, men, women, and children was decidedly good; but it was said that, when this work was opened three weeks ago, many of the labourers were in a much reduced state. They had recovered their condition under the present reduced wages.

Kumbul tank, six miles from Sholapur.—Two hundred persons, all of the poorest classes, under Civil agency, on a wage of 1 anna 3 pie for adult males. These gangs were composed mainly of elderly persons, the able-bodied having been drafted on to the Public Works Department works. Their condition was fairly good, and Sir Richard Temple marked only one woman and one child as apparently suffering from want.

Another small tank, two miles further from Sholapur.—Three hundred labourers of both sexes on the Civil agency wage rate. These gangs, though composed of people from the very lowest classes, were generally in good physical condition, and did not appear to have suffered from the low rate of wages. Sir Richard Temple marked two men who ought to have been on charitable relief, and he marked four persons who were in a somewhat reduced condition of body.

The inhabitants of the village near the aforesaid tank.—All the people of this village (to the number of about 200) turned out for inspection. Sir Richard Temple found the condition of these people to be much the same as the condition of the people on the works, save that they wore better clothes. The only emaciated cripple was a man who, on inquiry, turned out to be a professional beggar whose trade paid better than State relief, for his family consisted of a sturdy, comfortable-looking wife and five well-

conditioned children, besides a sixth child who was said to be away begging in the streets of Sholapur. Relief operations in Sholapur district.

Beejapur road near Wurrukbal, ten miles from Sholapur.—Two thousand five hundred labourers under Public Works agency and on a wage rate of 1 anna 10 pies for adults. The general condition of these gangs was very good; several hundreds of the men and women were remarkably fine specimens of the Deccan peasantry, well set up and well nourished. Only a very few cases (one per cent. in all) of persons in an apparently reduced condition were marked by Sir Richard Temple. The condition of the children in these gangs was specially good, save in the case of a very few infants. In some of the cases on this road it seemed doubtful whether the people were not being employed too near to their homes.

8. The Collector cannot say what the total amount of land revenue to be remitted may be. The total of remissions will probably fall short of the first estimate. He is now, with the assistance of the subordinate revenue officials, dividing his district land revenue demand into three categories, viz.,—

(*a.*) Revenue that should now be collected;

(*b.*) Revenue that should be suspended and collected in future years, if the harvests are good;

(*c.*) Revenue that must now be remitted.

9. The Collector fears that cattle must have died in large numbers. During the last two months 30,000 hides are said to have come into the Sholapur market alone. But things are not quite so bad as they were; cattle which were selling in December and January for Rs. 2 now fetch Rs. 8. The people, too, seem to have more hope than they had; they are bringing back some of their cattle, so as to be ready for agricultural work directly the April showers come. Crimes against property have decreased since January last, and there was no perceptible increase in crime after (or in consequence of) the reduction of numbers on the relief works.

No. 183.

MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, of the facts concerning RELIEF OPERATIONS in the KALÁDGI DISTRICT, ascertained by Sir Richard Temple on his visit of the 19th–21st March 1877. Nos. 186. 213.

Camp, Poona District, 23rd March 1877.

On the 18th March Sir Richard Temple started from Sholapur for Beejapur, a central town of the Kaládgi district. He passed through the taluk of Sholapur in the Sholapur district, but on that day no workpeople were on the road. On the right bank of the Bheema he was met by the mamlutdar (Native sub-district officer) of Indee, the most northerly and most severely distressed taluk of Kaládgi. On the confines of the Beejapur taluk he was met by Mr. Molecey, the Executive Engineer, Mr. Silcock, the Assistant Collector, and Mr. Dunsterville, of the Survey Department, who is now employed upon relief work. Mr. Hogg, the Collector, had not received intimation of Sir Richard Temple's visit in time enough to enable him to attend. Relief operations in Kaládgi district.

2. The general statistics of the Kaládgi district were given in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 12th January, but it may be repeated here that the Kaládgi district contains 5,695 square miles and a population of 816,037 persons; that the rainfall over the whole district was short and the crops failed utterly in the north of the district; and that the failure was very great in the other taluks, so much so that the average out-turn of the season's crop is not estimated at above one anna out of 16. But Kaládgi is better off than the districts of Sholapur and Poona, in so far that its soil is better and its people are believed to possess greater resources. It is noteworthy that there was no increase of crime against property in the Kaládgi district when the numbers on relief works fell during February. There is now not more crime in Kaládgi than in ordinary years. In the months of November and December, on the other hand, crimes of violence and against property were very rife.

3. The number of people on relief works in the Kaládgi district was 54,000 during the first week of February, and it stands now (third week of March) at Rs. 27,000. Of this last total Rs. 22,500 are employed on works under the Public Works Department, and Rs. 4,500 are on works under the Civil officers. The great decrease in the number of people on relief works has been caused mainly by a strict adherence to the practice whereby gangs of labourers are shifted from one work to another and are employed at a distance from their homes. The enforcement of a moderate task-work has had some effect in keeping off the workpeople who could support themselves at home. The staff

Relief operations in Kaladgi district.

of engineering subordinates is quite sufficient to control and to enforce work from the comparatively reduced numbers now on the relief works. On the Civil agency works are taken infirm or weakly people, who could not do a good day's work; people on these works who grow strong are transferred to the regular engineering works.

4. The Executive Engineer, the Assistant Collector, and the mamlutdar were all agreed that, so far as their inspections and inquiries went, the people who had left the works were supporting themselves in one way or another at their homes. They did not believe that any people were dying of hunger away in the villages. The distressed taluks have not been parcelled off into circles, as has been done in Sholapur, but the mamlutdars are relieved of ordinary duties and are employed on relief work alone. They and the Assistant Collectors visit the villages and examine the lists, which every village headman (patel) has to keep, of persons requiring relief. These officers have therefore much though not such full means as in Sholapur of knowing the condition of the village people.

5. The wages paid on the Kaladgi public works are 2 annas per diem for an adult male; because the price of food (jowaree) keeps dearer than 9 seers per rupee. The Executive Engineer, Mr. Molecey, thinks that his wages suffice for the people who receive them. He regards the condition of his gangs to be various, though on the whole good. He thinks that the results of the shifting people to roads away from their homes must be carefully watched, as their reluctance to go far from home sometimes makes the people drift into danger. On the Civil agency works the maximum wage is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas for an adult male. The Executive Engineer and Mr. Silcock consider that these wages are sufficient, as the people appear to keep in sufficiently good condition. But it was understood that the Collector (Mr. Hogg) and some other of the Civil officers regarded the Civil agency wage as too low. No wages are paid for, and no work is done on Sunday. On both classes of works a subsistence allowance of 3 pie per diem is made to those children of persons on the works who may be too young to do any labour for themselves.

6. Sir Richard Temple inspected at Beejapur 1,120 labourers on the Executive Engineer's works, besides about 800 new applicants for work who had presented themselves during the last three or four days. These people are employed on a road outside Beejapur, and they for the most part sleep in temporary huts, which they have provided for themselves close to the road. There was a certain small number of sturdy, well-to-do men and women among the Beejapur gangs, who could probably have done without State charity for a time at any rate. Out of the 1,120 labourers Sir Richard Temple marked 11 who were in a very reduced physical condition, and he noticed 12 such persons among the 800 applicants. The local officers made inquiries into each of these cases.

7. Out of the town of Beejapur and from the villages round 2,300 persons of the poorer classes were collected for inspection, in order that Sir Richard Temple might form an idea of the condition of the poorer classes that were in receipt of no relief at all. These people were called together suddenly; they were to all appearance poorly off, and they were probably fair representatives of the classes regarding whose condition anxiety might be felt. Out of the total number (2,300) Sir Richard Temple marked 48 persons whose physical condition was apparently much reduced by hunger; some of these cases would, in all probability, be soon in a dangerous condition. These people are now being looked after by the Civil officers. Sir Richard Temple at the same time inspected the people (about 120) in receipt of charitable relief at Beejapur; all these poor creatures were decidedly fit recipients for this kind of charity.

8. At Wortee, 20 miles outside Beejapur, Sir Richard Temple inspected, in company with the Executive Engineer, the Assistant Collector, and the mamlutdar, 4,800 labourers who are now at work on the road from Wortee to Indee, and also 250 persons of the poorest classes from Wortee and the surrounding villages, who were receiving no relief at all. The Wortee gangs were generally in poorer condition than those inspected at Beejapur; and Mr. Molecey explained that they were the very poorest gangs in his district. Out of these gangs Sir Richard Temple marked 133 persons whose condition was low. A very few infants were in an emaciated state, either from illness or from failure of their natural supply of food; but with these exceptions the children of the Wortee gangs were well nourished and comfortable. Still the labourers in these gangs were almost all of them suitable persons to be upon the relief works. The representative poor who came from Wortee and the adjacent villages for inspection were clearly in very poor circumstances, and among them Sir Richard Temple marked three cases which were in a very reduced physical condition, induced apparently by want of food.

9. On the whole it appeared to Sir Richard Temple that the relief works were well managed and were restricted to persons in real need of State aid. The test of shifting labourers and employing them far from their homes had been properly and successfully applied. It appeared, however, to Sir Richard Temple that the system of village visitation and village relief is not sufficiently carried out or adequately supervised. Among the representative bodies of villagers which Sir Richard Temple examined, from one to two per cent. appeared to be in a really reduced condition, and it seemed that this condition was due to hunger. Many of such people, if not searched out and relieved, must die during the next two months. If the same per-centage of bad cases exists in the villages all over the most distressed parts of Kaládgi, then no time should be lost in searching them out and relieving them. Raising the wage rate would not meet the necessities of the case; real and active village visitation under energetic supervision is required. Relief operations in Kaládgi district.

10. The Asssistant Collector and the Executive Engineer appear to think that one or more additional relief works would be required in the northern taluks of Kaládgi now that the road-works, which could be usefully undertaken, were nearly completed. Regarding one of these works, the Begumtalao, Sir Richard Temple has recorded a separate minute. Mr. Silcock recommended strongly that four tanks in the Indee taluk, for which the Irrigation Department has plans and estimates ready, should be taken in hand and repaired. Mr. Burke, the Irrigation Engineer, informed Sir Richard Temple that he could begin these works at once; he considers them to be more useful than a continuance of road-works, though the tanks are not such as in ordinary years would be considered remunerative irrigation works. Some colour was given to Mr. Silcock's opinion that one or more additional works were required for the Indee taluk, by a representation made to Sir Richard Temple by the patels, koolkarnees (village officers), and ryots of the villages of Dhoolkheif, Chanégaon, and Sirnala, on the northern border of the Indee taluk. 450 persons of these and certain neighbouring villages were inspected by Sir Richard Temple; it was stated by the people, and affirmed by the village officials, that from 100 to 200 of these people had worked on the Sholapur road till work there was closed, and that they had afterwards gone to the Wortee road (distance 20 miles) for work, but they had for some reason or other been refused admission to the works. Among the people who said they had gone to find work at Wortee were four or five persons whose physical condition was low; but, on the whole, the 450 villagers inspected appeared to be in a fairly good physical condition.

11. Sir Richard Temple saw at Dhoolkhair 15 tons of Government grain (jowaree), which had been brought at the beginning of the scarcity when grain importations had hardly begun and supplies for the labourers seemed likely to run short. Other small parcels of Government grain are stored in different parts of the Kaládgi district. These stores have not yet been used, as the local markets sufficiently supply all wants. But as some of the grain is being destroyed by insects, and the supply in the local markets appears quite secure, the Bombay Government has ordered these stores to be sold by auction to the local merchants.

No. 184.

MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding RELIEF OPERATIONS in the AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT. Nos. 186. 213.

Camp, Poona District, 23rd March 1877.

Sir Richard Temple was not able to visit the interior of the Ahmednagar district; but he met Mr. Jacomb, the Collector, in company with Mr. Robertson, the Commissioner, at Dhond, and he inspected a gang of 4,000 labourers on the Dhond and Munmar Railway relief work near the Bheema River, just within the confines of the Ahmednagar district. Mr. Izatt, C.E., who is in charge of the works, with Mr. Vacher, the Executive Engineer, was present. Relief operations in Ahmednagar district.

2. The gangs of Ahmednagar labourers on the railway works were in very good condition. They are doing task-work on a wage rate of 1 anna 8 pie for adult men. At the outset they did not perform their full task; but now the engineers under Mr. Izatt get full work out of the people, who accordingly receive their full wage. Mr. Izatt reports that the disbursements on account of charitable relief (3 pie a head per diem) to young children amount to 10 per cent. of his whole expenditure for wages.

Mr. Jacomb's account of affairs in his district was briefly as follows:—

(*a.*) The north of the district in the Godavery valley has had fairly good crops. The bad parts are in the south, the Srigunda and Kurjut taluks, with parts of Nuggur and Parner. On the relief works there are now 11,800 labourers, as

Relief operations in Ahmednagar district.

against 26,000 in the beginning of February. Of this total only 900 are on the Civil agency works, where they receive a wage of 1 anna 1 pie for adult men. The Collector thinks this rate is too low, but he cannot say that he has found the people actually suffering in consequence of these low rates. Some of the poor of the district are wandering from their homes, but none are starving. No cases of starvation have ever been reported.

(*b.*) In the worst taluks and in parts of others the villages are divided into circles, with an Inspector over each circle. These Inspectors furnish diaries of their work and of what they see. Over them are the mamlatdars (Native sub-divisional officers) and the Assistant Collectors. The patels do really look up and relieve the village poor; save, perhaps, in the case of the Mhars (out-castes), regarding whom men of higher caste are very reluctant to exert themselves.

(*c.*) The supply of food in the local markets is everywhere ample, and will continue to be so.

(*d.*) In the Kurjut taluk only is there any real difficulty about water-supply. Wells are being deepened there, and also in other parts of the district.

(*e.*) There has not as yet been any very great mortality among the cattle. The great majority of the animals in the worst taluks were driven away to distant pastures. Possibly one third of the emigrant cattle may die; but nothing certain is yet known.

(*f.*) The Collector cannot say for certain, but he expects that out of the 12 lakhs of revenue demand from his district he may be able—

To collect 6 lakhs.
To suspend 4 lakhs.
To remit 2 lakhs.

In January last it had been estimated that 6 lakhs might have to be remitted.

No. 185.

Nos. 186. 213.

MEMORANDUM by MR. BERNARD, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding RELIEF OPERATIONS in the POONA DISTRICT, as ascertained at Sir Richard Temple's visit of the 22nd–24th March 1877.

Camp, Poona District, 24th March 1877.

Relief operations in Poona districts.

Sir Richard Temple met in the western or more distressed tracts of the Poona district—

Mr. Norman, the Collector.
„ Keyser, the Assistant Collector.
„ Fletcher, „ Holland, „ Symonds, } relief officers.

Major-General Kennedy, R.E., Secretary to the Bombay Government, in charge of the Famine Department, who was good enough to come to meet Sir Richard Temple.

Colonel Merriman, R.E., Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department.

Mr. Clarke, Executive Engineer.
„ Joyner, Executive Engineer.
„ Toogood, Assistant Engineer.

The distressed area of the Poona district comprises the whole of the Bheemthari and Indapur taluks, with parts of the Haweyli (head-quarters) and Poorandhar taluks. These tracts contain a population of about 320,000 persons, and the failure there has been so great that the season's out-turn is estimated at only 1 anna out of a 16-annas (full) crop.

2. In the month of January there were 54,000 people on relief works in the Poona district; now (20th March) there are only 42,000, of whom about 38,000 are employed on works under Public Works officers, who exact full task-work and exercise very thorough supervision over the workpeople. The full wage of an adult man on the works under Engineering officers is 1 anna 10 pies per diem; but the workpeople incur deduction if they do not perform the full task. On all the great works which Sir Richard Temple visited in the Poona district, most of the labourers had forfeited from one fourth to one sixth of their wages during the earlier weeks that task-work was imposed. But now all the gangs, with but very few exceptions, do their full task and get their full wage. On the works under Civil agency the wage rate is 1 anna 3 pie.

3. The peculiar feature of the Poona district relief is that the relief labourers are concentrated on a very few large and useful works, mainly under the Irrigation Department,

viz., the Moota Canal, the Nira Canal, and the great reservoirs at Mahtoba and Sirsophul. Some gangs, gradually increasing in numbers, are employed on the southerly section of the Dhond and Munmar Railway. On every one of these works the labourers come, for the most part, from a distance, and they live in temporary huts provided by themselves close to the works. Various accounts are given of the condition of the thousands who have left the relief works since January. And the outcome of all these accounts is that some of the people have emigrated to the Nizam's country or to the hill pastures with their cattle; some have gone to Bombay to get work; and some few are in their villages preparing for the coming agricultural season. All the inspecting officers who visit the interior are, however, agreed that comparatively few of the ordinary residents are left in the villages of the Bheemthari and Indapur taluks.

Relief operations in Poona district.

4. Sir Richard Temple was able to inspect a considerable number of gangs of relief labourers and of other poor in the Poona district. He visited,—

The Dhond and Munmar Railway Works, whereon are 2,800 labourers of the Poona district. These gangs were among the poorest Sir Richard Temple has seen in the Bombay Presidency, and some proportion of the men were below par. Their wages were 1 anna 9 pies per diem for adult men who did full task. It was explained that the men were in poor condition when they came to the work; during the first 10 days no deduction was made for short work; then deductions began, and the men for about 10 days earned little more than half the full wage; during the last week they have been doing three quarters of full work; and the engineers have, at the Commissioner's request, decided that fines for light task shall not reduce the daily wage below the subsistence rate allowed on Civil agency works. The reduced people in these gangs, who are more numerous than in any other gangs inspected by Sir Richard Temple, are now being looked after by the officers in charge.

The Boreebayal Tank, on which were 60 labourers under Civil agency. Most of these people were old and infirm; all were very poor; still Sir Richard Temple marked only four persons who seemed reduced by want; 40 children were here in receipt of the 3 pie charitable allowance, and were all in excellent case. The able-bodied people had been drafted off to the Public Works Department works, and there was nothing in the condition of the labourers left to warrant an apprehension that the Civil works wage was insufficient to maintain the people's strength.

The Sirsophul Tank, whereon were 3,200 labourers, out of whom Sir Richard Temple marked 11 persons who seemed to be in a reduced physical condition. The remainder were in good case, the younger men and women looking stout and well. All were on the Public Works Department wage, and lived in temporary huts close to the work. Some few of the people looked as if they could have managed for themselves without State aid. There were 1,160 children and 33 infirm paupers belonging to the workpeople, who were all in receipt of charitable relief.

The Patas Tank, 1,300 labourers on Public Works Department rates, besides 51 employed under Civil agency. The condition of these gangs was on the whole good; and the people appeared to be well nourished. Fifty-three persons belonging to Patas town, who were on charitable relief, were inspected and were seen to be fit recipients for such charity.

Patas Town Poor who were not on Relief.—Two hundred and fifty of the poor of Patas, who were receiving no kind of relief, were inspected. The people all looked poor, but Sir Richard Temple marked only two persons who were reduced in physical condition, and ought to be taken on charitable relief. One of the two, a Mhar by caste, entirely declined to accept Government charity.

Moota Canal Works.—Ten thousand and two hundred people are now employed along about 22 miles of this canal, which was the first large work begun in this part of the Deccan. At one time as many as 19,000 people were employed on the canal. The exaction of task work which has been enforced rigorously since January caused the reduction in the numbers. From the beginning the workpeople have lived in temporary shelter close to the works, and have been shifted 8 or 10 miles down the canal as the work went on. On this canal Sir Richard Temple inspected 4,764 workpeople, besides 1,370 young children and 137 infirm old people, making 1,507 in all who were receiving charitable relief on the works. The condition of these people was decidedly good. Sir Richard Temple marked only six persons who were apparently in a reduced physical condition. The children were in particularly good case. The wage on these works for an adult man who does full work is 1 anna 9 pies. During February the deductions on account of short work came to 9 per cent. on the total wages; but during the month of March 90 per cent. of the

Relief operations in Poona district.

gangs have earned full wages. Mr. Joyner, the Executive Engineer in charge of this work, makes careful inquiry into the case of each gang that comes under deduction, so as to prevent the possibility of any gangs losing strength by reason of insufficient food. When task-work was first exacted to the full extent in January last, some of the gangs fell for a time below par; but remedies were applied, and all are now in excellent condition.

Mahtoba Tank, also an Irrigation Department work, on which Sir Richard Temple saw 5,400 workpeople, besides 1,600 children on charitable allowance. The physique of these gangs was not quite so good as that of the people on the Moota Canal, where relief works were opened early in the season. Still the condition of the Mahtoba gangs was good; the children were plump and happy; less than $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the people were marked by Sir Richard Temple as in a reduced condition of body. The gangs were for the most part doing full task and getting full wage.

5. The supply of grain is ample in all markets of the Poona district. A village dealer whom Sir Richard Temple saw close to the Motee Canal was selling grain (jowaree) to the labourers at $10\frac{1}{2}$ seers (21 lbs.) per rupee. No one appears to have apprehensions respecting the sufficiency of the supply of grain, which private trade will maintain in all parts of the Poona district.

6. The numbers on charitable relief are :—

In villages - - - - - - -	3,042
On works, chiefly children - - - - - -	12,649
Total - -	15,691

The Poona system of giving charitable relief differs from that practised elsewhere. No regular relief houses are established whence cooked food is distributed. But the patels (village headmen) are authorised to give paupers, who are entered on the village lists, an order on the village corn-dealer for half a seer (1 lb.) of grain per diem plus 3 pie in cash per week. The village dealer issues this relief and sends his bill to the nearest relief officer. The European Civil officers who inspect the villages, the engineers who are constantly among the people, and the Native officials from the mamlatdar (subdivisional magistrate) downwards are all agreed that the relief so given suffices for the needs of the village poor, and that no people are starving, or are likely to starve, at their homes in the villages. Sir Richard Temple's inspections quite bear out these assertions of the local officers. A good deal of private charity is being dispensed in Poona city and other towns in the interior. And wherever a municipality exists the municipal committee discreetly administer charitable relief within their borders. It is creditable to the patels and to the supervising officers, as well as to the people themselves, that the State charity administered through the village officers is not abused. It seems that the people are very loth to receive charitable relief if they can help it. And a case was related of a Poona villager in receipt of charitable relief, whose son on his return home at once and of his own motion repaid to Government the full amount spent on the relief of his mother during his absence.

7. The water-supply in some villages is short, but it is nowhere absolutely wanting. In or near the larger villages where deficiency occurs the relief officers are deepening the wells. This is specially needed for the outcast tribes (Mahas, &c.), who are not allowed to drink from the ordinary village well.

8. It seems to be generally admitted that a great number of cattle have died, and that the greater part of the residue have emigrated, some of which will die in distant pastures. The mamlatdar of Bhimthari, an officer of experience, who is much trusted by the district officers, reports that out of 72,000 head of cattle in his taluk, 44,000 have emigrated, 20,000 have died, and 7,000 are left alive. He says, however, that the cattle left and those which may return will suffice to distribute supplies of food into the interior of the districts, wherever it may be wanted.

9. The Collector of Poona has, as yet, granted no remissions of land revenue. He will continue collecting all he can; he has already collected in several taluks more than he had expected in January last; and he will suspend the demand instead of remitting in cases where eventual collection of revenue may be impossible. But in Indapur and Bhimthari much remission will have to be given; and perhaps in the end, if next season is good, the Poona remissions of land revenue may reach $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs as compared with 6 lakhs named in the January estimate of remissions.

No. 186.

MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE. No. 213.

Camp, Poona district, 24th March 1877.

In forwarding the accompanying memoranda of facts ascertained during my present visit to the districts of Sholapur, Kaládgi, and Poona, in the Bombay Presidency (which are the three most distressed districts), I have to record some general observations. Sholapur, Kaládgi, and Poona districts.

2. It will be in the recollection of the Government of India that on my first visit to the Deccan districts of the Bombay Presidency on the 10th and 11th of January last, I submitted several recommendations, the principal of which was to the effect that the petty village works close to the homes of the people, with easy or nominal work, on which the great majority of relief labourers were then employed, should be generally discouraged and closed wherever possible; and that the relief labourers should be concentrated as much as might be practicable on larger public works, generally at some distance from their homes, with rigid tasks under professional supervision. This principle was thought likely to prove acceptable to the Local Government, which had evinced a tendency to proceed in that direction. It has since been declared publicly to be in accordance with these views. It has certainly been acted up to during the two months and upwards which have elapsed since the above-mentioned dates with a rigour and decision which leave little to be desired, and with a result upon which, after allowance for any slight drawbacks that may be found, the Government of Bombay may be heartily congratulated.

3. On the 12th January I found 331,447 relief labourers in all, of whom 136,629 were on petty village works and 194,818 on professionally supervised public works. On the 20th March there are 209,000 relief labourers in all, of whom 34,000 only are on village works, while 175,000 are on the larger public works. In other words, whereas a moderate majority were on public works and a large proportion on village works, now the vast majority are on public works, and only an insignificant minority on village works. Again, on the 1st January, I found an universal expectation that the then large number would increase by 80 per cent. before the end of March. I find on the 20th March that the January number instead of increasing has actually decreased by 64 per cent.

4. Although the tendency of our measures has been to transfer large numbers to the public works, still even on these works there has actually been a decrease. This has arisen from the enforcement of the task-work previously ordered. Many persons came to work on task so long as they found it easy, but absented themselves when they found it becoming harder. On the Civil works the manner in which the reduction of numbers occurred was in this wise. The Public Works Department (including its general branch and its special irrigation branch) has been strongly organised with a staff of officers and of trained subordinates in the distressed districts. Professional preparations for public works on a sufficiently large scale, consisting partly of main roads, but chiefly of irrigation reservoirs (tanks) were got ready. To these all applicants (save and except those who appeared to be able to sustain themselves, for a time at least, without Government aid) were admitted. To these also all the labourers who had previously been on village works were drafted, except those who from age, infirmity, or other good cause were unable to go. The able-bodied were informed that they could no longer be employed on the village works, but that employment was available for them on the larger public works; to every person some such work at a reasonable distance was indicated; he was also informed, however, that in event of his refusing this offer he would not be otherwise employed. Very many did in fact refuse, and by so doing virtually discharged themselves from Government relief, thereby affording proof that they were not in real distress and could afford to stay away. Many, however, accepted the offer and are still serving on the public works, proving by their industry and discipline that they really need the support thus obtained.

5. The number who discharged themselves from Government relief in the manner above described were about 102,000.* They did, indeed, at first show signs of some method and system in their proceedings. They liked the village works with a lax system from which they had been discharged. They disliked the public works with a strict system to which it was proposed to transfer them. They imagined that by throwing themselves suddenly out of employ, they virtually offered a passive resistance to the orders of Government. Many of them endured more or less of inconvenience and privation in furtherance of a plan whereby they hoped ultimately to regain their position on the easy going village works. For so favourable an object they deemed that some suffering might be borne. They counted somewhat on

i.e., difference between 136,000 on 12th January and 34,000 on 12th March as above stated.

Sholapur, Kaládgi, and Poona districts.

exciting the compassion of the authorities, and still more on arousing fears lest some accidents to human life should occur. They wandered about in bands and crowds seeking for sympathy. They probably did meet with sympathy, indirectly at least, in various quarters. They certainly had leaders both from among their own body and from among the employés, whose vocation had ceased from the contraction or cessation of the village works. Moreover, the village headmen (patels) are, as a class, much opposed to any system of relief works which takes the people away from their homes. This feeling may be natural on their part, but it cannot receive attention when it militates against so important a principle as the application of a definite test to a relief system in time of famine.

6. The Local Government, however, did not yield, though it did report the matter to the Government of India, apparently with a view to strengthening the position by eliciting further authoritative declarations. The Government of India, on two occasions, declared in effect that undue concessions must not be made to combinations of workpeople formed with sinister or self-interested objects; and that although Government was bound to do its utmost to save people from death by starvation, it could not always undertake to save them from death owing to their own obstinacy or misconduct. These views have doubtless helped to guide the thoughts of the people and to subdue any unreasonable hopes which may have been engendered.

7. Of those who thus deserted the relief works some returned to labour when they found resistance unavailing. But many after wandering about for a short time settled quietly in their own villages, where they still are (as I have myself seen them in several places) in a condition which, if not good, is yet not reduced. Of these it is thought that many must ere long be constrained to apply for relief.

8. On the other hand, while severity is deserved by those who try to resist the just efforts for reform and economy in the administration of relief, there are many poor ignorant persons misled by designing leaders. No exertion is spared to induce these misguided persons to accept the reasonable sort of relief which they are believed to need. To the village works only those are admitted who cannot be expected to perform the tasks set on the larger works. It was thought that these works would be more largely attended than they are. The authorities are ready to receive many more if they come, either on existing works, or upon other works which could be immediately opened. These works being of the simplest character can always be opened without any preparation. The gangs which I have inspected are exactly those whom we might expect to find, that is, they are people evidently needing assistance, strong enough to do light work near home, but not strong enough to perform the tasks of the public works.

9. For the larger works, as already stated, preparation is always needed. And this preparation has been made in case there should be any accession or influx of numbers as the season advances. After consulting the Public Works authorities I find that the works now open can accommodate 75,000 additional persons at the shortest notice. Here again, however, the rolls of the workmen do not fill as fast as was expected. Evidently the comparatively strictness of system is acting as a deterrent to keep away all save those who are truly in want.

10. Nothing can be more suitable than the character of the gangs on these works, whom I have carefully inspected in various places of these districts, numbering in all about 40,000 persons. By a suitable character I mean this, that the men and women belong to the labouring classes who are cast out of employ by dearth of employment, in consequence of the scarcity, and who really need assistance; they are able-bodied and fully equal to the hard task-work they perform; their physical condition is generally good, often it is very good, indicative of a fine peasantry which any Government may be proud to reckon among its subjects. There are some few exceptions indeed, but in almost every instance there is some satisfactory explanation as, for instance, a man is very thin, but then, though able to labour, he is suffering from some local disease, and he prefers for sake of keeping company with his relatives to be on this work rather than go to the easier village work, and so on.

11. Even to these larger works there are attached sets of weakly persons, and very young children, relatives of the able-bodied labourers, from whom they cannot well be separated. These sets receive special relief according to circumstances.

12. I have inspected many sets of persons receiving gratuitous relief from Government. These are truly miserable persons, and fit recipients of charity.

13. The same cannot always be said of the recipients of private charity in these districts, who are often persons hardly needing this form of relief. It were much to be desired that the charitable donors would consent that their charity should be administered on the same rules as Government charity.

14. The wage of 2* annas a day for an adult male (the wage of females being graduated accordingly) allowed on the public works is certainly sufficient; its sufficiency being attested by the fine physique of the majority of the labourers. Certainly, the task (slightly less than the rate for professional labourers in ordinary years) is not too much for these gangs. For some of the finest sets of these men, it is probably not quite hard enough. The wage allowed on the petty village works, equal to 1 lb. of grain a day plus ½ anna for adult male (the wage of females being graduated accordingly, which is at least 25 per cent. less than the wage on the public works, is probably sufficient, as is shown by the fact that the labourers are looking much as they look in ordinary years. There are, I know, opinions to the contrary, but these are based on general considerations and not upon the one real ground, namely, the actual condition of the labourers. The children of all ages, even the tenderest, of the relief labourers are receiving some allowance. Sholapur, Kaládgi, and Poona districts.

15. On the whole I feel sure that in the Deccan districts of Bombay no abuse of State charity is allowed; no appreciable amount of Government money is wasted; no demoralisation of the rural classes is going on; on the contrary they are being taught the hard but salutary lesson of self-help in time of danger.

16. With this rigidity of system, and this careful restriction of relief, there must be some anxiety lest individual cases of unrelieved distress should occur and escape observation. So far as my inspection of the poorest classes not on relief has gone, it is to be inferred that they are generally in tolerable condition. Occasionally, though very rarely, I have found instances of persons whose appearance would ensure to them relief immediately on their asking for it. No doubt there is much scope for incessant vigilance. I drew attention to this on the 12th January. Subsequently when representing the same thing to the Madras Government, I sent a copy of that representation to the Government of Bombay, who in reply acknowledged the correctness of the principle and expressed a belief that it had been already carried out. And certainly I find that in the Bombay Deccan, so far as orders go, such vigilance ought to be secured. All village headmen have been warned of their duty in this matter; they frequently do give temporary relief on their own responsibility pending orders of relief officers. Lists have been made out in every village of persons likely to come within this category. European officers are posted in each one of the many subdivisions (talukas) of the distressed districts; and they, together with their Native subordinates, are constantly patrolling the villages and seeing whether the village headmen really do bring forward every deserving case or not. In every subdivision (taluka) of every distressed district there is a relief centre for the reception of these cases. The number on charitable relief is large indeed; but looking to the circumstances of the country, I should be glad to see it larger. It is, however, remarkable that many of the destitute poor are reluctant to resort to the poor-house from a feeling of self-respect which is creditable to them. Here and there, however, I have discovered persons who ought apparently to have come under the operations of these rules; and I think that the local officers cannot be too often reminded of these excellent orders.

17. I have not received any trustworthy evidence whatever that any death from starvation occurs or is in danger of occurring in these districts. But I have received much excellent evidence to the effect that nobody is dying or likely to die of this cause. Statements of an opposite description are sometimes made, but they are merely general in their terms, and are manifestly advanced in support of the view that easier terms of relief should be offered to the people. I am unable, however, to discover upon what foundation any statements that the people are starving can possibly rest. If any instance has happened within the last two months it must be very exceptional. If any instance happens now, it must be owing to some extraordinary conduct on the part of the person concerned, certainly not to any want of means of relief at hand.

18. The number of relief labourers having fallen and continued comparatively so low, the question whether it will greatly rise again is much canvassed locally. If it should rise, then the authorities are ready. I am more concerned to verify this than to debate a matter around which much uncertainty hangs, but which will, by the event, soon be placed beyond doubt. Doubtless the liberal scale, as it is now thought the too liberal scale, on which relief was at the outset administered had the effect of putting money into the pockets of the people on which they are now living. To some extent, but to a slight extent only, this may account for the decrease in numbers. The people are now

* Note.—This is the wage so long as grain is not cheaper than 18 lbs. per rupee or dearer than 16 lbs. per rupee; when the price of food ranges beyond these limits, the wage is altered according to a sliding scale, so as to give the value of 1 lb. grain and one anna in cash to each adult male labourer who does full work.

Sholapur, Kaládgi, and Poona districts.

seen to possess some self-sustaining power which is difficult to be gauged beforehand, but which proves to be greater than was at first supposed. The peasantry of these Deccan districts may be poor (as is sometimes affirmed), but they apparently can for the most part support themselves for one year notwithstanding the loss of their crops. They may have fallen into indebtedness, but still they have credit enough to obtain advances of grain from the village dealers, or others who hold stocks of grain. The grain markets continue to be very well supplied. And the price of food still ranges at 20 lbs. for the rupee, which is cheaper decidedly than a famine price.

19. As the case stands at this moment there are in the Bombay Presidency—

	Persons.
On works - - - - -	209,000
On charitable relief - - - -	42,000
Total - - - -	251,000

20. The fate of the cattle in all this drought is sadly uncertain. That numbers have died or will die is certain; these are probably the inferior animals. The best have been sent to the pasturage grounds of the Western Ghât mountains. We do not know exactly how they are faring there, not very well in all probability, as even those uplands have but meagre pasture in a year like this.

21. If the numbers of relief shall not materially increase beyond the present total, then there will be a considerable reduction, even below the reduced estimate of expenditure recently furnished for the Imperial budget.

22. During my first visit I drew attention to the importance of using all fair means to collect the land revenue of the current year in all the distressed districts, so far as the people could pay without undue pressure. The revenue authorities seem to have recently made and to be still making successful efforts in this direction. The loss of land revenue by reason of this famine is not thought likely to exceed 54 lakhs of rupees, and may even be less than that. It will be in the recollection of the Government of India that in the beginning of January, when the loss of land revenue was estimated at 50 lakhs, I strongly represented the expediency of not promising remission, so long as any hope of recovering the revenue should remain. Though nothing specifically was settled at the moment, the representation and the consequent agitation of the subject has evidently been of service fiscally. Another cause, no doubt, is the general improvement of the situation.

23. If these favourable anticipations shall be in any degree realised, then the famine of 1877 in the Bombay Presidency will not be so financially burdensome as was once feared. But they depend (it must always be remembered) upon an early and propitious rainfall during the coming summer. If that unhappily were to be withheld, then a fresh conjunction of adverse forces would arise.

No. 187.

No. 213.

LXXXV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Camp Poona District, the 24th March 1877.

Relief labourers and others inspected by Sir Richard Temple.

I desire to record a brief mention of the several gangs of relief labourers and other poor people whom I have inspected during my present tour in the Sholapur, Kaladgi, and Poona districts, and in one corner of the Ahmednagar district. I note at the same time the general impression I received of the physical condition of each set of persons whom I inspected.

2. The gangs were as follows:—

Sholapur District.

Moti Bagh tank - - -	4,000	labourers under Public Works Agency; condition of gangs, men, women, and children, decidedly good.
Kambal tank, 6 miles from Sholapur	200	labourers under Civil agency; condition of all fairly good.
Second small tank, 8 miles from Sholapur - - -	300	labourers under Civil agency; condition toleraly good.
Poor of village near above-mentioned tank.	200	persons; middling condition.
Wurukbal road, 10 miles from Sholapur - - - -	2,500	labourers under Public Works agency; remarkably good condition.

	KALADGI DISTRICT.	
Beejapore road - - -	1,120 labourers under Public Works agency; good condition.	Relief labourers and others inspected by Sir Richard Temple.
The paupers of Beejapore town and neighbouring villages - -	800 new applicants for work; good condition. 2,300 persons not receiving any relief; several of these people were much reduced, rest very poorly circumstanced.	
Inmates of Beejapore relief house -	120 persons; infirm and old, but now fairly well nourished.	
Wortee road - - -	4,800 persons; about 2 per cent. of them were in reduced condition, 15 per cent. were indifferent, rest were middling.	
Village poor of Wortee - -	250 persons; not reduced by want, condition middling.	
Village poor of Dholheir and other villages on the Bheema - -	450 persons; a very few in indifferent condition; rest fairly good.	
	AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT.	
Dhond and Munmar Railway -	4,000 persons; all of whom were in good condition.	
	POONA DISTRICT.	
Dhond and Munmar Railway -	2,800 persons; most only middling, and about one-fourth in indifferent condition.	
Boreebayal tank - - -	60 persons; under Civil agency; middling condition.	
Sirsophal tank - - -	3,200 labourers under Public Works Department agency; good condition.	
Patas tank - - -	1,300 labourers under Public Works Department agency. 51 labourers under Civil agency; all of them in good condition. 53 on charitable relief; condition middling. 250 paupers of the town; condition good and middling.	
Moota Canal work - - -	4,764 labourers under Public Works Department agency; good condition.	
Mahtoba tank - - -	5,400 labourers under Public Works Department agency; good condition.	
Khairgaon village poor - -	200 persons; fair condition; only two marked as reduced by want.	
Total - -	39,118	
Add the children getting three pie a day charitable allowance on the works, all of whose condition is good, save a very few infants at the breast - - - -	5,600	
Grand total -	44,718	

No. 188.

LXXXIV.—MEMORANDUM by DR. HARVEY, on Special Duty with Sir R. Temple, on the PHYSICAL CONDITION of the PEOPLE in the DISTRESSED DISTRICTS of MADRAS and BOMBAY. No. 213.

Keirgaon, March 25, 1877.

Having accompanied Sir Richard Temple thus far on his tour, and had the opportunity of seeing the greater part of the persons inspected by him, I beg to record at his request my professional opinion on their physical condition. Physical condition of people in Madras and Bombay.

2. The persons seen have been—

I. Those employed on relief works;

II. Those in receipt of gratuitous relief;

III. Portions of the general population not in receipt of relief.

Physical condition of people.

3. I. Those employed on relief works may be subdivided into—

(*a.*) Those employed under the supervision of the Public Works Department; and

(*b.*) Those employed under Civil supervision.

During the last few weeks this subdivision has to some extent meant that persons in class (*a*) under the Public Works Department are receiving the old rate of wages, while those in class (*b*) are on the reduced scale. For some time, however, most of the persons on Civil works were receiving the higher wage, and the number of persons seen who have been long enough on the lower rate for its effects to be manifest has been very small.

(*a.*) *Persons employed by the Public Works Department.*

4. The immense majority of persons in this class—men, women, and children, have appeared to me to be in as good physical condition and health as the average population of Upper India in ordinary times. Occasionally, no doubt, individuals have been met with, who from one cause or another, generally age, sickness, or the fact that they were sustaining others than themselves, were below par, and showed more or fewer signs of poverty or suffering; but such cases have been quite exceptional. I should say of every gang in this class that so far as physique and condition are concerned, it was good; and almost of every individual in every gang that he had not seriously suffered, and was in no danger of dying of starvation. It occasionally happens that young children, and especially children at the breast, are brought to the works by their parents in an emaciated condition; but these have been comparatively few, and the condition of the children has on the whole been satisfactory.

(*b.*) *Persons on Work under Civil Agency.*

5. A very large proportion of the labourers in the Madras districts belongs to this class, and to a great extent the above remarks apply to them. The majority are in good condition, and in no danger of starvation; and it is surprising to see so many apparently well-to-do people on the works. The gangs have, however, been much less level, and during the fast few weeks a considerable number of the people have been receiving the reduced rate of wages. As yet, however, I have seen no signs of any general deterioration among the work-people in consequence of the reduction. The worst gangs seen were at Cuddapah on the 19th January, at a time when the full rate of wages were paid; the best were at Goondakal on the 22nd February, just after the new rates had been introduced, but before they had had time to affect the people. The difference between these gangs was considerable. The Cuddapah people evidently belonged to a much lower class than those at Goondakal, and were inferior in physique and condition. Few or none appeared to be actually starving, but a good many were thin and pinched, and all or almost all seemed to be very poor and badly off. The majority of the Goondakal people on the other hand belonged to a class above the lowest, and were almost without exception in a very fine condition, looking as if they had undergone no suffering, nor even missed a meal.

6. The gangs seen elsewhere have been intermediate between these two, the Bellary and Kurnool gangs generally approximating to those of Goondakal, while the people on the works in North Arcot, Nellore, Salem, Coimbatore, though superior to the Cuddapah gangs in physical condition, seemed to belong to a lower grade in the social scale than many of those in the Bellary and Kurnool districts. In these districts, as elsewhere, very many persons did belong to the lowest classes, but the presence of a better class of people in large numbers gave a distinctive character to the gangs, and made their general level considerably better than those of other districts. It is probable that in every gang a certain number of persons could have been picked out who were below the average, and showed some signs of being in poor health and condition, but such anæmic persons are to be found at all times in every village throughout India, and I do not think they were much, if at all, more numerous than usual.

7. Within the last 10 days I have seen many thousand labourers in the Bombay districts of Sholapur, Kaladgi, Poona, and Ahmednagar. The great majority were employed under the Public Works Department, and consisted of able-bodied persons, presumably fit to accomplish a fair amount of task-work. They are paid on the sliding scale, and receive the value of a pound of grain plus one anna for a male adult. The general condition of these people I consider to be excellent, but some of the gangs in the Poona district at work on the Dhond and Munmar Railway were decidedly inferior in condition to those in Sholapur and to the Nagar gangs on the same work. The rate of task exacted was higher than in Sholapur, and many of the men were not earning the full

wage, which may explain why some of them were weak and thin, but they had been but a short time on the works, and it was expected that they would improve. Some 4,500 people employed on the Motee Bagh tank near Sholapur, who are now in admirable condition, are reported by the Engineer officers to have been in very poor case when taken on the works three weeks ago. They had been out of work for some time previously. Physical condition of people.

8. The numbers on works under Civil agency in these Bombay districts are now very small, as all able-bodied persons are put on the regular works under the Public Works Department. All those seen by me were old or infirm persons not capable of doing hard work and all seemed to belong to the poorer classes. Many of them were old and feeble, some few were emaciated and seemed to have suffered from insufficient food before their admission to the works, but their general condition was satisfactory, and they did not seem to me to be worse off than such persons usually are.

9. *II.*—Those in receipt of gratuitous relief. People in this class are supposed to be unable to do any work; and the majority everywhere were the very old and feeble, the lame and the blind, lepers, and other sick persons. A considerable number were young children, and in most of the gangs there was a proportion of sturdy beggars and other persons quite able to work had they been so inclined. The general character of these gangs varied a good deal. In the majority there seemed to be little difference between the physical condition of the people and the usual condition of the same class of people in ordinary times. They were of course much below the relief labourers in physique and general health, but no special emaciation, or other sign of severe suffering was evident, save in exceptional cases. Many of the people at Vellore, however, and the great majority of them in the relief camps at Madras itself, were greatly emaciated and reduced, and had evidently endured great suffering. Many of the Madras people seen at my first visit were so far reduced that death was inevitable, but those seen at my last visit were not nearly so bad, and great improvement was evident in the general health and condition of those in the camps. Most of these poor people had not been employed on relief works, or been in receipt of relief until they arrived at the camps. They had left their homes without sufficient provision for the road, and had been wandering without proper food. Occasional isolated cases of a similar nature have been seen in almost every district.

10. *III.*—General population not on relief works. The poorer classes in various towns and villages have been paraded for Sir Richard's inspection. It has generally happened that a few persons have been found in poor condition and apparently distressed, who, for various reasons, have not applied for relief, but with these exceptions these people have seemed to be in much the same condition as those of their class on the relief works.

11. Speaking generally, and with reference to the distressed districts as a whole, I have been agreeably surprised and greatly pleased to find the people of all classes on the works, on gratuitous relief, and the poorer classes generally in much better physical condition than I expected, or than I imagined to be possible, considering the extent of the failure of crops, and the severity of the scarcity. I was at Bharatpur during the whole of the Rajputana famine of 1868–69, and although prices were very high, Bharatpur suffered so little compared to the rest of Rajputana, that it was considered to be outside of the famine limit. Yet even then the condition of the people was, I think, very decidedly worse than it now is in the distressed districts, except in the relief camps at Madras, and to a certain extent at Vellore. I have seen almost nothing to recall what were every day sights at Bharatpur in 1869. Isolated cases of severe distress have been seen, but I consider the general physical condition of the great bulk of the population throughout all the affected districts to be wonderfully good.

12. I have not seen enough of the operation of the reduced rate of wages to be able to give a positive opinion as to whether it is or is not enough to keep the people in health. I believe that it is so, provided always such person gets his own wages, and has not to share them with others. And I think the general satisfactory condition of the Bombay labourers, where the reduction is more stringently carried out than in Madras, and where more work is got out of the people, seems to show that it is so, and that no bad effects have followed its introduction.

No. 189.

No. 213.

No. 161, dated Adoni, the 26th March 1877.

From the Secretary to Sir Richard Temple to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

Land revenue remissions.

*p. 43.

†No. 130.

‡No. 160.

§No. 173.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to address you regarding paragraph 10* of the memorandum on relief affairs in Chingleput, where it was stated on the authority of the Collector that much of the arrear of land revenue of this season could be collected next year if the seasons were favourable.

2. Some time after the publication of that memorandum, I received a letter† from the Collector, stating that there must have been some misapprehension, as he had never proposed to suspend any of the land revenue, but had recommended the "absolute remis- "sion of all the revenue on dry lands" whereon there had been no crop. I then had the honour, by Sir Richard Temple's direction, of writing‡ to Mr. Barlow, the Collector, stating what had been the impression left on Sir Richard Temple's mind and my own by what passed when the question of land revenue remissions was discussed with Mr. Barlow, as it has been with every other Collector whom Sir Richard Temple has had the advantage of meeting. Mr. Barlow has now written§ to the effect that he was unaware it was even in contemplation to suspend the balances of land revenue; and that if he had expressed an opinion on the possibility of collecting arrears under any circumstances, his opinion must have been that such procedure was unadvisable and would ruin the already impoverished ryots.

3. In submitting these papers, I am directed to say that Sir Richard Temple has no doubt of the accuracy of the general impression left on his mind and my own by the conversation which passed with Mr. Barlow regarding the remission question. It was well known, and had been stated in previous memoranda, that it was contrary to the Madras revenue system and to the practice of Madras revenue officers to suspend instead of remitting balances of land revenue which could not be collected as part of the demand of the year. It was known that other Collectors, and it was supposed that Mr. Barlow would be adverse to changing the Madras system in this respect. But the question before Sir Richard Temple which (as it is believed) was put to Mr. Barlow, as well as to other Collectors, was this: If the seasons are good, could not much of the balance of this year be paid by the Chingleput ryots, whose assessment is on the whole very moderate? And to that question it was distinctly understood that Mr. Barlow gave an affirmative answer. Some such answer indeed must have been given, though it must have passed from Mr. Barlow's recollection, perhaps being given in conversation it may have been made without particular deliberation. Nor did Sir Richard Temple lay any stress upon it. Mr. Barlow's present letters make it clear that, when the answer was given as understood, Mr. Barlow would have wished to qualify it by a declaration of his opinion that the suggested procedure was unadvisable, or opposed to the Madras system.

4. As this question beween the policy of remitting and the policy of suspending, in part at least, the land revenue in famine years, will have to be considered and decided for the guidance of officers concerned with future famines, it would be well that there should be no doubt about the deliberate opinion of any responsible officer, who has expressed himself on the matter. And therefore Sir Richard Temple would be glad if the same publication could be given to this letter and its enclosures, as to the previous memorandum on Chingleput.

5. It may not be out of place to add here that in Bombay, where the system of land tenure is the same as in Madras, and where the land revenue presses, at least as heavily (if not more heavily than) in Madras, the question put by Sir Richard Temple has been decided differently. Bombay Collectors in the famine country are now engaged, with much fiscal advantage to the State, in dividing off the land revenue of their districts into—

(*a.*) Revenue that can be collected now;
(*b.*) Revenue that should now be suspended, and may perhaps be collected in future good years;
(*c.*) Revenue that must now be remitted at once.

No. 190.

Revenue, No. 27.

To his Excellency the Right Hon. the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, March 29, 1877.

The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 16th of February, No. 11 of 1877, forwarding a summary of the principal matters which have engaged your attention in connection with the famine in Madras and Bombay since the 9th February, has been considered by me in Council. No. 92.

2. Among the enclosures to the Despatch are minutes by Sir Richard Temple on the condition of Chingleput and North Arcot. In Chingleput the redeeming feature is that, in consequence of the presence of three railways in the district, the markets are well supplied with grain, but I regret to observe that the death-rate is very high in the relief camps, and that a heavy mortality among the cattle is expected, unless showers fall within the next six weeks. As this is the third bad season in the district, it cannot be regarded as matter for surprise that the Collector does not anticipate that more than half the land revenue will be realised.

3. In North Arcot, which Sir R. Temple has now visited for the second time, he found the condition of the district less favourable than he had hoped it would prove when making his first inquiries. I trust that the Government of Madras has disposed of the departmental difficulties which have delayed the commencement of certain relief works, by appointing a superior officer, as suggested by Sir R. Temple, for the general direction and control of all relief operations in the district.

4. I am glad to understand that Sir R. Temple considers the relief arrangements in Mysore to be "carefully and economically conducted," and that, in the Ceded Districts and Kurnool, "the condition of the people is fair and good, and the private trade in "grain extraordinarily active."

5. I concur in the opinion expressed by your Excellency in Council and by the Government of Bombay, as to the mischief of yielding to a strike on relief works attributable to combination.

6. The question of granting remissions of land revenue in Madras has been very properly left to the discretion of the Government of that Presidency.

7. It is satisfactory that the returns again show a decrease in the number of persons on the relief works in Madras, the aggregate number being, for the week under report, 876,000, as against 908,410 in the previous week. The number of persons receiving gratuitous relief is also reduced by more than 7,000, the figures being for the present week 53,287, and for the previous week 60,402.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 191.

LXXXVI.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE upon the Land Revenue Suspension Question. No. 213.

Gooty, March 29, 1877.

Land revenue remission question.

Since writing my minute, No. LIV. of the 6th March, in which I stated, among other things, that many Collectors in the Madras Presidency are in favour of the plan of suspending and not remitting the assessment on "dry" or unirrigated lands, I have seen that the Government of Madras observe in their Despatch of the 24th March that they have no knowledge of these opinions. This observation on the part of the Local Government has caused me to reconsider the statement made in my Minute above quoted, in case it should need any qualification or explanation; and I find that it does need to be further explained. If the statement were taken to mean (and it might be so read) that some Collectors appeared to me from their conversation to be in favour of suspending in the first instance the land revenue in distressed districts, leaving the question of remission for final decision when the coming season shall have declared itself—or to be in favour of making any substantial change of system—then it might need qualification. I did not exactly mean this, however, although the statement, made as it was in brief and general terms, might be so construed. I desire, however, to explain at greater length, and with more precision what I meant, and do still mean, which is this.

2. As regards what are technically called "wet" lands, that is, lands irrigated from tanks, canals, or water channels (but not wells) I never heard the Collectors express any opinion but one, namely, this, that in these cases there is a contract (which, if not expressed, is implied) between the State and the ryots to the effect that, the irrigation

Land revenue remission question.

work being under Government superintendence, there will be no revenue levied if the water be not supplied at all; if the water be supplied to a part of the lands, the revenue would be levied on that part only, and so on. But I understand that if, notwithstanding failure of the irrigation, some crop (perhaps an inferior crop) be raised on any portion of the lands in question, then such portion will be chargeable with dry or unirrigated rates.

3. As regards what are technically called "dry" or unirrigated lands (including, however, lands watered from wells), I understood and still understand that the Collectors regard the remission or suspension of the revenue in bad seasons to be a matter of grace, and not of contract at all, not even implied contract. Here, as elsewhere in India, there is a settlement of some sort; in some districts there has been a regular settlement after a professional field survey, in other districts the older settlements still run on, but in every district there is a settlement. The said settlement consists in this, that at the beginning of the agricultural year the ryot determines what fields he will give up or reap; upon those which he does keep he virtually engages to pay the settlement revenue rate. If upon the year the harvests turn out good, then the advantage is wholly his. If they turn out bad, then the disadvantage ought (in abstract justice) to be wholly his also; but practically, if the harvest is very bad, the disadvantage is partly borne by the State; in other words, is shared with him by the State. It is admitted, however, that he ought to bear as much of it as he reasonably can, inasmuch as he has enjoyed, and will enjoy, the entire advantage of good years without question or inquiry.

4. Now as regards the "dry" lands, the original estimates of remissions of revenue to be made in the official years 1876–77 and 1877–78, on account of the failure of harvests in the calendar year 1876, seemed to me to be very large, to have been framed at an early period of the distress, and to be susceptible of some alteration in favour of Government, as the out-turn of the season became more clear. And I perceived, or thought I perceived from the conversation of some Collectors, a hope that, when the actual out-turn of the whole of the crops came to be ascertained, and when the coming season (if happily it opened propitiously) should offer renewed prospects of plenty, the collection of the instalments of land revenue due on account of the winter and spring harvests of 1876 and 1877 might be considerably larger than the first anticipation, larger also than what was (as I supposed) the original estimate of the Board of Revenue. The remissions or suspensions would, in other words, be probably less than the first anticipations. Something considerable must, I knew, be remitted at the best; and this much of remission would be promised by an early date. But I gathered that some Collectors were disposed to hold in abeyance the remission of the remainder, refraining at present from collecting it and postponing decision as to its ultimate remission or collection until a future date.

5. It seemed to me to follow from this that there ought to be great caution exercised in promising extensive remissions at an early period, that is, until the summer of 1877. If a part of the revenue is not collected at present, and its ultimate collection is left undecided for some months (say till July or August next), then it is said to be suspended.

6. It was to all this that I meant to give brief expression in my minute above quoted. Whether, when conversing with the Collectors on a subject which is often obscured by technical or departmental phrases, I may have in any degree misapprehended local officers I know not. At all events, I submit that the view as above expressed was a reasonable one for revenue officers to hold. And if I supposed it to be held by the several Collectors, the supposition seemed to be consonant with the well-known rule of the Madras Presidency, which prescribes that in "dry" lands there shall be no remission save in very exceptional years, or in very exceptional cases. At present, indeed, there are many cases which come in this category. My apprehension was that (unless great circumspection be exercised) some cases might become included in this category which—in regard to the frequent occurrence of partial drought in Southern India—are not really so exceptional.

7. I quite understood that in a matter of this sort the several Collectors would look to the wishes of Government. If the Government thought that in justice to the general interests of the country and in reference to the circumstances of the ryot classes, reasonable efforts should be made to collect the revenue, notwithstanding the badness of the season, the Collectors would, I understood, be prepared to make such efforts. If the Government thought otherwise, then the Collectors would have no objection to spare the people accordingly. The case was not one for abstract opinion on the part of the revenue officers; it was rather one to be dealt with according to the view taken by superior authority of the fiscal obligation of the people and of their ability to discharge the same.

No. 192.

LXXXVII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple respecting the further Utilisation of the Department Public Works Agency in exacting Task-work from the Relief Labourers employed in the distressed Districts of the Madras Presidency. No. 213.

Gooty, March 29, 1877.

Task-work best exacted by Public Works Department agency.

It has been known from the first that the difficulty in exacting task-work is one of the points to which attention has most to be directed in the Madras Presidency. Notwithstanding the many improvements which have been effected in the management of relief, the defects in the exaction of task-work continue to be very considerable. And even now there is time to make further improvements in this direction, inasmuch as two of the worst months of the scarcity remain (April and May), if the Madras Government shall be pleased to issue further orders on the subject.

2. The main cause of the failure to exact task-work lies in this, that the Public Works Department in each of the distressed districts is not sufficiently employed—indeed is sometimes hardly employed at all—in the tasking, an affair which is of all affairs the very one which it is most competent to manage, and which can be thoroughly managed by it alone. In Bellary and Kurnool especially (which are the two most important districts) and in other districts, the number of relief works under the Department Public Works is very small, while the vast majority of the relief works are under the Civil officers. Although these officers doubtless endeavour to the best of their ability to exact tasks, yet they cannot do so properly. Their tasking is at the best but light; and when the supervision is Native only, the tasks are too often nominal. So long as the relief works are under Civil officers only, the tasking will not be really effective. This is of course much to be regretted: it must tend to demoralisation with such large numbers as those who (despite all reductions of numbers) still remain on the relief rolls of the Madras Presidency. While the numbers remain so large, this defect may to some extent be inevitable; it may be said that the professional agency available does not suffice for the departmental supervision of hundred of thousands of relief labourers. Nevertheless that it is no reason why the Department Public Works should not be regularly employed at all in this business. It might be employed to some extent which *pro tanto* would be beneficial. It is this point then which I would bring to the notice of the Madras Government.

3. I know, indeed, that the Department Public Works staff do render some professional assistance to the Civil Officers. But such assistance is general only and not specific. In few and rare cases only is this staff really in charge of a relief work from beginning to end. As a rule they help in laying out the work and in appraising its worth after completion and the like, but they do not at all enforce task, and they are not at all answerable for the conduct of the operation or for its cost.

4. I have just visited the ceded districts once more for the examination of this particular point, as Bellary and Kurnool are the two most important of all the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. In the Bellary district there are about 210,000 relief labourers, of whom very nearly all are under the Civil officers, and are often but inefficiently tasked, if tasked at all; but very few are under the Department Public Works, so few that practically we may say that there are none at all. Yet in that district there is an engineering establishment with officers and subordinates of various grades, who do not seem to be much occupied just now, and who are quite able, and doubtless would be most willing, to undertake the tasking of those relief labourers (within certain limits as to number) who may be made over to them. Surely, I submit, it is expedient to make use of this agency. The commencement of the earth-work on the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar is now under the Department Public Works, and the Civil officers are very properly selecting the strongest men and women from their relief gangs and making them over to Department Public Works for the railway work. These people then will be really well tasked.

5. But further I would suggest that in every taluk some particular work be selected and placed under the Department Public Works. For this work the Civil officers would pick out all the strongest men and men from the relief gangs, and these would at any rate be brought under real task. If the persons so picked out should refuse to go, they would of course be discharged. Those who were in real need would not refuse. The moral effect upon the relief labourers generally would be excellent. From local inquiry I am sure that such works could be immediately selected, and the plan could be

Task-work best exacted by Public Works Department agency.

carried out within a day or two from the receipt of the orders. And after making this inquiry, I would suggest the following works :—

(1.) The re-making of the road from Pennekonda to Gooty and Adoni, which would employ on task-work under Public Works Department officers 3,000 persons in each of the taluks of Hindupore, Pennekonda, Anantipore, Gooty, and Adoni - - - - - - - - 15,000 persons.

(2.) The road from Alúr to Goondacal, giving employment to 3,000 persons in the Alúr taluk - - - - 3,000 „

(3.) Certain tanks in Madaksirra for employing 3,000 persons - 3,000 „

(4.) The Húbli Railway, on which, with a special establishment, up to 30,000 men can be employed from the Bellary and the four western taluks - - - - - 30,000 „

I believe that these works will be found to be the most suitable for this purpose, but if there be any doubt regarding any of them, some other ones might be substituted. Opposite each work I have entered the number of relief labourers who could probably be employed. The total amounts to 51,000 out of the total of 210,000 relief labourers in the whole district. In other words, about one-fourth of the whole could be thoroughly tasked and superintended by the professional and engineering staff: the remainder continuing under the Civil authorities.

6. Similar remarks apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the district of Kurnool. In that district the Civil authorities indeed are beginning to make over a few out of the many relief works to the engineering staff, which will cause some very few thousands to be thoroughly tasked out of the total of 198,000 of relief labourers in the whole district. But this plan, excellent so far as it goes, needs, I would submit, to be further extended. And after local inquiry I believe that it might be so extended with the concurrence of the Engineer officers and their subordinates, and to the great convenience of the Civil officers. Over and above these advantages there is this cardinal advantage, that the strongest persons in the numerous relief gangs would be made over to be tasked by professional officers, whose profession includes the art and science of tasking. The moral effect of this will be salutary upon all the relief-seeking classes. After the local inquiry I believe that the following works might be thus treated, that is, made over absolutely to the Department Public Works. If there be doubt in any case, then some other work might be easily substituted. Opposite each work is entered the number of relief labourers who might be employed upon it; the total amounts to 52,000. In other words, more than one-fourth of the relief labourers of the district might be thoroughtly subjected to task by a professional establishment :—

			Labourers.
Ramalkota taluk - Pattikonda „ -	Gooty road repair - - - -	could employ	6,000
Ramalkota „ - Pattikonda „ -	Bellary road to Auspri railway station -	„	4,000
Ramalkota „ - Pattikonda „ - Koilkantla „ -	44 tanks requiring repairs, for 27 of which estimates are ready - - -	„	3,000
Koilkantla „ -	Rampore Pass road; new line sanctioned by Government - - - -	„	6,000
Nandial „ - Sirwell „ -	Trunk road No. 17 - - -	„	6,000
Nandial „ - Cumbum „ -	Trunk road No. 7, including Nundicunnamal Ghaut - - - -	„	4,000 8,000
Nundikotkoor „ -	Road from Kurnool to Atmakoor - -	„	3,000
„ „ -	Irrigation tank repairs - - -	„	2,000
Markapore „ -	Road from Cumbum to Doopal - -	„	8,000
„ „ -	Irrigation tank repairs - - -	„	2,000
			52,000

7. With this view, however, it would be necessary to concentrate some of the Department Public Works establishment which is somewhat scattered in this district. Individual Engineers are employed here and there in advising the local Civil officer and in helping generally towards the introduction of system in relief. They would, however, be more effectively employed, if they could be placed under the orders of their own department and upon particular works solely under their charge.

8. In my minute No. LXXV., dated 16th March, I discussed the very great advantages of professionally controlled relief works; and the object of the present minute is to show these advantages can, under present circumstances, be attained in the ceded districts. In representing this matter to the Government of Madras, I am not without precedent; for this very plan is in full force at this moment throughout the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency; and although it may not be possible to introduce it to the same extent in Bellary and Kurnool, yet even in these districts it might be easily carried out to some extent, and to that extent it would prove most beneficial.

Task-work best exacted by Public Works Department agency.

No. 193.

XCI.—Memorandum by Captain W. S. S. Bisset, on his visit to Bombay and the Nagpore District of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Nos. 210. 221.

Bangalore, 31st March 1877.

According to the instructions conveyed in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 13th March 1877, I visited Bombay on the 19th March, for the purpose of inquiring into the causes of the diminution of the supply of food grain from the north to the ceded districts, and I was present at a meeting held on the 20th March between the Consulting Engineer and the Agent and the General Traffic Manager of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Grain traffic arrangements.

At this meeting a resolution* was recorded to the effect that the grain destined for the famine districts should have preference to all other consignments, and that waggons for its conveyance should be provided to the full extent indicated in Sir Richard Temple's minute.

* A copy of this resolution has already been sent by Colonel Hancock for Sir Richard Temple's information.

2. I visited the Nagpore line of railway on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd March and made inquiries into the accumulations of grain at each station, and also about the urgency of the demands for carriage. My notes† are appended in detail.

† Not forwarded.

3. The accumulations of grain which existed in the month of January‡ had been cleared off by the middle of February; the fresh stocks§ now lying in the railway stations are much smaller than the previous ones, and they are to a larger extent than before destined for Bombay itself, probably for shipment‖ to the ports on the western coast. The detention of grain at the stations is not so prolonged as formerly, but owing to the uniform demand for carriage from all parts of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and to the large through traffic from Hindustan to Bombay, it has not been found possible to provide waggons or train-room to carry away the grain as fast as it is offered.

‡ On 19th January 1877 there were lying at Nagpore - - 8,500 tons grain.
At smaller stations - - 7,000 „ „
Total - - 15,500 „ „

§ On 21st March 1877 there were lying at Nagpore - - 1,500 tons grain.
At smaller stations - - 3,500 „ „
Total - - 5,000 „ „

‖ The shipments from Bombay to the Southern Mahratta ports amounted to nearly 9,000 tons in the first 15 days of March. The despatches to the more southerly ports are not abstracted.

The reduced accumulations at the railway stations seem to indicate some reduction on the demand for carriage, but there have been changes in the mode of receiving goods which have tended to limit these deposits; and there seems no doubt that large quantities of grain are from various causes kept back in the bazaars and in the villages.

The brokers in attendance at the minor stations say they keep much of their grain back rather than take the risks of exposure to the weather and to the ravages of white ants during the unknown period of detention at the smaller railway stations. And for these reasons I believe that the reduction of the demand for carriage is not proportionate to the reduction in the weight of goods awaiting despatch.

4. The system of registration of goods actually deposited in the Nagpore station yard is most carefully carried out, and it appears to give the greatest satisfaction. The merchants understand it thoroughly, and they look after their own and their neighbours' allotments very sharply.

At the smaller stations some of the consignors think their claims are postponed for the advantage of senders from other stations, but they have no grounds for this belief

Grain traffic arrangements.

except their annoyance at having to wait. The only important requirement is that more goods shall be carried away, and with the present extraordinary pressure on the railway, this is the cry from all sides, and it is not perhaps much satisfaction to the merchants who have to wait to know that their goods are having, or that they are likely to have in their due turn, their proper place in the largest traffic that has ever been carried on this railway.

I have, however, ventured to suggest that instead of an undefined date for clearing off the accumulations at the roadside stations, there should be a periodical clearance, any one day of the week being fixed for each small station on which goods might be received, consigned, and despatched to such extent as is practicable. On the motion of Colonel Hancock, Consulting Engineer for Railways, this proposal has already been taken into consideration by Mr. Conder, and a decision may be expected shortly.

5. A few of the consignors at the smaller stations were loud in their appeals for waggons, not, however, to take away grain, but mainly to convey linseed to Bombay to meet contracts made for the end of March.

In the grain trade there is not at present the same prospect of large profits that there was in January, and, although there appears to be abundance of grain for despatch, there is less speculation and less anxiety for immediate transport. The anxiety is proportionate to the anticipation of profit, and the present prices in the famine districts of Sholapur and Madras give a sufficient but not a very large profit.

6. And there is a heavy demand for grain from Bombay itself, apparently of equal urgency with the needs of the Deccan and Madras. This is evident from the figures in the margin, which show the despatches of linseed, grain, &c. from Nagpore during the seven days immediately preceding my visit. It may be necessary to explain that under the present arrangements for receiving and despatching grain at Nagpore station, these figures indicate very exactly the current demands of the several markets.

The shipments from Bombay to the Southern Mahratta Ports amounted to nearly 9,000 *tons in the first* 15 *days of March.*

EXTRACT FROM NOTES.

In the week from the 15th to 21st March the despatches from Nagpore are shown below:—

—	To Bombay.	To Poona and Sholapur.	To Raichore and Madras.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Linseed	493	—	—
Wheat	188	455	143
Jowari	219		
Rice	60		
Pulses	65		
Total tons	1,025	455	143

On the 22nd March the consignments were—

	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Linseed	80	—	—
Grains, &c.	180	176	66
Total tons	260	176	66

So that, although it is moderately certain that much more grain would have been despatched from Nagpore if there had been more waggons available, it is apparent that the merchants might have sent much more to the Poona and Sholapur Districts and to Madras if they had preferred doing so to sending linseed or grain to Bombay. And a very small rise in prices will again divert the flow of traffic to the south.

7. It is satisfactory to learn that although the deliveries of grain by railway have during the past fortnight been smaller than those which in the early part of the month excited some apprehension, the prices of grain have remained steady at Poona, Sholapur, and in the principal markets of the ceded districts of Madras. And it may be inferred that the requirements of grain have been estimated at too high a figure, and that the present importations are sufficient to meet the present wants.

8. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway has so much to do that it must sacrifice some of its Bombay traffic to carry more grain to Sholapur and Madras. The Government of India are arranging to augment the engine power of this railway, and in the meantime the Agent and Mr. Conder are prepared for the sacrifice, and they have arranged that the requisite number of waggons shall be provided as soon as the grain is presented.

The Madras Railway has, comparatively speaking, nothing but grain and salt to carry at present, and it is, I have good reason to believe, capable of carrying about half as much more grain as it has conveyed* during the month of March.

There is therefore every reason to hope that the railways will be equal to their share of the work, and from the evidence afforded by the recent reports there is little room to doubt the sufficiency of the means of carriage from the railways to the interior of the affected districts.

* Approximate total delivered by rail from all sources during March, 52,000 tons.

No. 194.

EXTRACT paragraph 7 from LETTER from GENERAL TRAFFIC MANAGER, to ACTING AGENT, Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, No. 1,040, dated 2nd April 1877. Nos. 211. 256.

With regard to Jubbulpore there are 18,212 bags at the station. This is a much larger quantity than it would otherwise have been, owing to the East Indian Railway having booked grain from stations on their Jubbulpore line to Jubbulpore which was intended for Bombay. In some cases they have invoiced it through to destination, unloading it at Jubbulpore, to be reloaded into our trucks there, and in other cases, as I am informed, they have booked it as far as Jubbulpore only, both plans being contrary to the agreement and injurious to the trade; and also complicating our arrangements and causing delay. I am communicating with the East Indian Railway authorities on this matter, and, if necessary, will refer the question to you for further action. Grain accumulation at Jubbulpore.

No. 195.

LXXXIX.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE regarding the Physical Condition of Relief Labourers with reference to the reduced Rate of Wages. Nos. 196. 221.

Bangalore, 3rd April 1877.

When questions arose as to the sufficiency of the revised scale of relief wages in both the Madras and the Bombay Presidency, the Government of India was pleased to depute, at my suggestion, Dr. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner, to visit the distressed districts and advise me whether the present rate of wages is sufficient to keep needy relief labourers in moderately good health. Dr. Townsend has now inspected more than 32,000 persons on relief works, of whom 29,000 were in the Madras Presidency; and he has drawn up a report stating his views and the grounds upon which he forms them. The reduce scale of wages.

2. I desire to lay this report of Dr. Townsend's before the Government of Madras. It will be seen that Dr. Townsend's experience and his knowledge leads him to lay little stress on the physiological argument that the reduced wage does not furnish the relief labourers with a sufficiency of certain elements of food. He prefers to decide the question, so far as decision is now possible, by investigating the physical condition of a large number of labourers of both sexes and all ages, who have been subsisting on the reduced wage for periods ranging from three to five weeks. His report and its annexure show that he found the relief gangs which he inspected to consist, in the main, of men, women, and children who were in good health and in moderately good condition. In nearly every large body of labourers he found some persons whose condition was below par. But in most of these cases he found that the sufferer's condition was referable to other causes than inadequacy of wages. Either the person had come very recently on the works—in some cases he or she was supporting others from the subsistence wage intended for one person's support only—or the person had recently suffered from fever or guinea-worm. In some gangs a very few cases remained of persons whose reduced physical condition was not due to any other causes. But Dr. Townsend considers that the number of such exceptional cases was hardly greater than that which would be found among ordinary workpeople in ordinary years. Though Dr. Townsend has no special knowledge of the Southern India races, he has a very extensive knowledge of all classes of the people in other parts of India.

3. I am able to say that Dr. Townsend's views on this important matter coincide with mine, which have been formed after inspecting nearly 200,000 people under relief in Southern India. And my impression is that the majority of the Civil officers, the relief officers, and the engineering officers, employed in supervising relief operations in the Madras Presidency, hold the same views. Yet these officers are in no way wanting in thoughtful consideration for the people, or in energetic care in watching their condition. Of the senior Civil officers, Mr. Price, the Collector of Cuddapah, is the only one who has, to my knowledge, reported an opinion that the reduced relief wage is generally inadequate. But that view is not borne out by Dr. Townsend's inspection of some gangs at or near Cuddapah. And from my own knowledge of the relief gangs in that district, I should not be disposed to concur with the Collector.

4. Every relief officer must occasionally, as Dr. Townsend did, and as I have often done, come upon cases of relief labourers who are really reduced and who require special treatment. But I see no reason for thinking that such exceptional cases require or warrant a general enhancement of the wage rate.

5. The orders of the Madras Government, dated the 14th March, which were passed by them after conferring with me, and in which I fully concur, direct that relief officers

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wages.

shall treat specially all cases of relief labourers who, from any cause, have fallen into a reduced condition of body. So far as my inquiries have gone, very few officers have found any cause to avail themselves of this discretion. But the humane instructions of the Government in this matter ought to be acted upon, wherever necessity arises; and if they are so acted upon, then I am confident that if the full wage* reaches punctually and not less than three times a week, then the present scale will suffice to keep in health relief labourers who do only a very moderate daily task.

6. I would therefore recommend the adoption of the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, Dr. Townsend, to the effect that there are not as yet any sufficient grounds whatever for any general raising of the relief wage rates in the Madras Presidency.

7. And I would again represent in the most earnest terms that, if unhappily some poor wanderers fall in a dangerously reduced condition and die, as has been the case in the relief camps near Madras, then such sad occurrences can be prevented and should be prevented, not by any general raising of relief wages, but by increased care and watchfulness in conducting house-to-house inspection, and in all the villages throughout the interior of the country, and in searching out all cases of poor creatures who wander away in search of charity and who never go upon the relief works at all.

No. 196.

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XC.—Report by Surgeon-Major S. C. Townsend, Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, on the Condition of the Famine Relief Labourers in the Madras Presidency.

Bangalore, 3rd April 1877.

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I was directed by the Government of India to proceed to Sholapur and put myself in communication with Sir Richard Temple under the following circumstances.

2. The Government of India in letter from the Additional Secretary in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce to Sir Richard Temple, No. 45, dated 16th January last, had laid down as the principle on which relief in the famine-affected districts of Bombay and Madras should be conducted, and while every effort should be made, so far as the resources of the State admit, for the preservation of deaths from famine, it is essential that the most severe economy should be practised, and moreover that, apart from financial considerations, it would not be just on the part of Government to attempt the task of preventing all suffering, and giving general relief to the poorer classes of the community, that indiscriminate charity on the part of Government would not only inevitably lead to the imposition of heavy and permanent burdens on the industry of the country, but would also tend to demoralise the people themselves.

3. In order to carry out the principle thus laid down, relief works were established of two kinds; one under the Department Public Works on which task-work could be exacted, and on which a full wage for a full task could be obtained by those who were able and willing to work; the other, works under the Civil administration established solely with the view of affording relief to persons who might be incapable of performing full task-work, or who in ordinary times would not undertake out-of-door labour. These Civil relief works have for the most part been established near the centres of population and conveniently near the homes of the people that would come on them. But while the Civil works form a very necessary part of the measures of famine relief, they are attended with the danger of creating difficulties in the labour market by withdrawing numbers of labourers from the usual occupation, and also of inducing a large influx of persons of both sexes who are not really in need of relief. In order to obviate this danger it was necessary to fix the rate of wage as low as possible, and to make it no more than is sufficient to maintain the applicants for relief in fair physical condition under the light amount of labour exacted from them.

4. Up to the middle of January the rate of wage in the ceded districts of the Madras Presidency was 2 annas per diem for a male adult and proportionately less for women and children. This rate was fixed on the supposition that it would purchase $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of grain per diem, a quantity which was deemed essential for a man while at work. But it seemed to Sir Richard Temple that this rate of wage was too high, and that it had the effect of inducing numbers to come on the works who were not really in want, and withdrawing many from their usual occupations which were still open to them. He

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* Note.—That is to say—

$10\frac{1}{2}$	annas for a	man,
$8\frac{3}{4}$	„	woman,
$5\frac{5}{8}$	„	working child,
$1\frac{3}{4}$	„	infant unable to work,

per week, when food is not dearer than 8 seers (16 lbs.) per rupee.

accordingly recommended in his minute of the 19th January that the rate of wage given on Civil relief works should be reduced from 2 annas to 1½ for an adult, which at the prevailing prices would purchase a pound of grain, and leave a margin for condiments, vegetable, and the like. This recommendation was in effect adopted, and a reduced rate of wages ordered in the Madras Government order No. 329, dated 31st January 1877.

Physical condition of labourers maintained on reduced scale of wages.

5. The reduced rate was fixed so long as grain could be bought at 16 lbs. per rupee at 1½ anna for adults, 1¼ anna for women, 9 pie or ¾ of an anna for children above seven years of age. This rate appears to have been brought into force generally on the relief works from the 15th to the 20th February. The practice is not uniform on all works with respect to payment for Sunday. On most of the works it is given; in some, as at Adoni and Cuddapah, it is not.

6. About the same time the allowance of 3 pie or ¼ of anna to children too young for labour was sanctioned, a measure which practically nullified the reduction in the case of married people with three or more children which they had been obliged to feed on the former rate of two annas.

7. In a letter to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, No. 115, dated the 13th February, Dr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, objected to the reduced scale of diet recommended by Sir Richard Temple, that it was not sufficient to maintain labouring persons in health, and that its adoption was fraught with great danger to the health of the people. Dr. Cornish's objection to the scale was founded chiefly on physiological grounds, that a pound of any of the grains used by the people did not contain the nitrogenous elements of food in sufficient quantity to supply the waste of the muscular and other tissues under labour. As Dr. Cornish's argument on this point seemed to Sir Richard Temple open to question, and as the conclusion arrived at, if acted upon, would involve a large increase of expenditure on famine relief, Sir Richard Temple deemed it advisable to ask for another opinion on the subject, and on the 16th of March I was directed to proceed to Sholapur and join Sir Richard Temple.

8. The point in question cannot in my opinion be decided on physiological grounds. It is true that some years ago the doctrine on the subject was, that muscular exertion entailed waste of muscular tissue, and that in order to compensate this waste, food containing nitrogenous principles must be supplied in proportion to the labour undergone, but later investigations have, I believe, tended greatly to modify this teaching, and certainly at the present time there is no theory on the subject so generally accepted or founded on data so incontrovertible that no economic question involving the expenditure of large sums of public money can be decided by it.

9. The question of the sufficiency or otherwise of any scale of diet can only be decided by observation of its effect on individuals and on masses of people, and observations of this kind in a time of scarcity like the present, if conducted impartially and without bias towards theories, cannot fail to contribute facts bearing on the question of the quantity of food of different kinds that is necessary to the support of the human system under certain conditions which would be of great value, from a scientific point of view, as well as for guidance in the conduct of measures of relief in future times. Observations of this kind, however, are beset with certain difficulties and sources of error, which have to be guarded against. Accurate information is wanting regarding the state of the people when they first came on the relief work, and again of their state when the rate of wages was reduced. Moreover, a knowledge of the aspect and condition of the poorer classes in ordinary times is requisite to enable one to form a just estimate of the effect that the prevailing scarcity may have had on them. I have no knowledge of the population of this Presidency, but considerable experience in other provinces leads me to believe that at all times signs of mal-nutrition are more or less visible among the poorer classes of the populations of India. A loose and shrivelled skin, a pale and anæmic aspect and emaciation will certainly follow privation and insufficient food, but the same appearances may arise from defective nutrition resulting from constitutional debility or disease. Again when famine presses hard on the population, diminutive and emaciated infants become numerous and form one of the most painful evidences of the prevailing distress; but in the best of times, if any large portion of the poorer classes were subjected to inspection, the number of these distressing objects would be considerable. Our statistics show that the rate of mortality of infants among the population of this country is as high or even higher than in the manufacturing districts of England, and it is more than probable that the number of women who are unable to nourish their infants is as numerous here as in other countries, while it is not the habit of the mothers to supplement their own defective supply by other food. In short, the scale of living among the population of this country is at all times low. Diseases resulting from mal-nutrition are common, and the rate of mortality compared with that of other countries is very high; therefore when inspecting masses of people

Physical condition of labourers maintained on reduced scale of wages.

collected from the poorer classes with the view of estimating the effects of abnormal scarcity among them, a very large allowance must be made for what may be called permanent poverty, and which it is beyond the power of Government to remove.

10. The want of accurate information as to the extent to which the people on the relief works possess sources of support, other than the daily wage given them, is another obstacle in the way of forming a correct estimate of the sufficiency or otherwise of that wage to maintain them in fair condition. Where the gangs are encamped on works away from their homes, and where the men are equal to or outnumber the women, it is probable that the majority are dependent solely on the wages they earn; but when the works are near the larger towns and the gangs are composed to a very large extent of women and children, it may be assumed that the men are earning wages in some form elsewhere, and that the earnings of the women and children are simply accessory to the ordinary means of support. On the other hand, inquiry will often elicit the fact that individuals on the works are supporting with their earnings a child or relation at home besides themselves.

11. But notwithstanding these difficulties it is possible by a careful scrutiny of large gangs of people in different localities, combined with information derived on the spot from the officers who have superintended the relief measures from the commencement and have watched the condition of the people, to arrive at a fair estimate of the extent to which the people have suffered and are suffering from the prevailing scarcity of labour and dearness of food, and how far the measures adopted for their relief have proved successful.

12. The appended notes give the details concerning the several gangs that I have inspected in the course of my tour. I will here only direct attention to the points more particularly bearing on the question of the sufficiency of the reduced rate of wage. The first bodies of relief labourers that I inspected were at Sholapur in the Bombay Presidency. Here there were two bodies of labourers, a large body of upwards of 3,000 employed under the Department Public Works, and performing about half the task ordinarily exacted from able-bodied labourers. The men were receiving $1\frac{3}{4}$ annas, the women $1\frac{1}{4}$, and the children $\frac{3}{4}$ of an anna. Here there was no question as to the sufficiency of the food. Men, women, and children appeared in good condition, and there was no doubt on the part of the officers superintending the works that the wage was quite sufficient for the support of the labourers in health.

13. The other body of labourers was employed under the Civil authorities and numbered about 300. A large proportion of them was above middle age, and they had come on the works in January in an enfeebled state. Some of these people had improved since they came on the works, but as a body they were much lower in condition than the gangs under the Department Public Works. The wage given was in both instances the same, with the exception that the men employed on the Civil works received only $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas instead of $1\frac{3}{4}$; in neither case was payment given for Sundays, when no work was done. The lower condition of the Civil gangs was no doubt due chiefly to the circumstance that they had become more reduced before coming on the work. The average age of the adults was greater, and it is probable that at the best of times they were below the average in physique.

14. At Adoni I inspected nearly 13,000 relief labourers, the greater majority of whom had been on the reduced rate of wage for above a month. The task-work performed was very light, not more than one-tenth of the task exacted from a coolie in ordinary times. The largest gang employed on the Yemmogamir road was composed chiefly of inhabitants of the town of Adoni; the other gang contained chiefly people belonging to the agricultural population. As a rule, all these people were in fair condition, and in the opinion of the relief officer they had not deteriorated since the reduced rate of wage had been in force. There were of course exceptions, and weakly and feeble people were here and there picked out; but these exceptions consisted of persons who have never been in good health and condition, or it was found on inquiry that the individuals shared their wages with a child or other relative.

15. At Bellary I inspected upwards of 10,000 relief labourers. At the Hiliyal road, where a large body of 7,500 was employed, the men considerably outnumbered the women. Task-work was exacted, and if the task was not complete, less wage was given; and the great majority were receiving less than the reduced rate. There was, however, no sickness among them. The number whose appearance called for inquiry was very small, and the impoverished appearance of the individuals lighted on was usually accounted for in much the same way as at Adoni. The relief officer stated that these gangs had improved greatly in appearance since the works were established, and they had certainly not fallen off since the reduced rate of wage had come into force.

16. In Cuddapah I inspected two bodies of labourers; one numbering 950, employed close to the town and station, consisted chiefly of the inhabitants of the town, and the women greatly outnumbered the men; and several of these women were the wives of syces and other servants of Europeans. The daily task exacted was light and was commonly completed. In my opinion these people were in appearance little, if at all, below the standard of health common in the town populations of this country. Some were no doubt thin and anæmic, but the number was small, and in the majority of these cases the individuals had only lately come on the works or had been suffering from fever. The other gang, 800 strong, that I inspected in Cuddapah was composed chiefly of agricultural population belonging to the surrounding villages. Here also the women generally outnumbered the men, who were said to find work elsewhere. The general appearance of these people was very good. A very large number of the men and women were as stout and healthy-looking as they could be in the best of times; here and there thin and weakly persons were observed, but on inquiry it did not appear that their weak condition was attributable to want of food. The relief officer stated that when the people received the higher rate of wages they did not spend more in food that they do now, but saved the difference, and they have not deteriorated in condition since the wage was reduced. Physical condition of people maintained on reduced wage.

17. At Vellore, North Arcot District, I inspected altogether about 3,000 people: 1,120 employed and 400 applicants for employment in the construction of an embankment on the Palaar River, may be considered as samples of the population who have not hitherto been on relief, for those employed had been collected some for about a fortnight, others for not more than a few days. The proportion of men employed here was small, being only 7 men to 28 women and children, and a very large proportion of the men were old or elderly. The task exacted here is 75 per cent. of the ordinary Department Public Works rates, and the people are paid at the following rates:—

Men - - - -	1 anna 11 pie.
Women - - - -	1 anna 5 pie.
Children - - - -	1 anna.

This is higher than the reduced rate given in other districts, and seven days' payment is given for six days' work. The elderly men were most of them of spare habit, but they were fairly muscular and their appearance healthy. The younger men were for the most part robust and in good condition. At the Sooriaghuta tank 1,600 people are employed, and here the proportion of men is very small, being only 3 to 35 women and children. This small proportion of men on the works is attributable to the circumstance that in this part of the country agricultural operations and other means of employment are not suspended to the same extent as in the ceded districts, and that the able-bodied men are for the most part employed in the occupations that engage them in ordinary seasons; but at the present prices of food their earnings do not suffice to maintain their families, and women, who in ordinary times would not undertake coolie labour, are on this account induced to come and earn additional means of subsistence on works which are conveniently near their homes. The gangs at the Sooria tank were first formed on the 24th November. From the 19th February to the 25th March they were on the reduced rate, but it has now been again raised to the same rate as on the Palaar Embankment, because the people did heavier tasks. As a body, these people were in fair condition, and so far as I was able to ascertain did not deteriorate or show signs of weakness during the five or six weeks that they were on the reduced rate of wages.

18. At the Vellore relief house 700 people who are incapable of work are fed. The proportion of men and women is about equal. Each adult male receives daily 1 lb. of dry rice cooked; 10 ozs. of this is given at 10 o'clock, and the remainder in the evening. To the evening meal is added half an ounce of dal mixed with vegetable and condiments in the form of curry. In many of these people the effects of famine are very evident, particularly among a number of people who have come in from the Kulhustri zemindari, but they are improving on the food now given them.

19. Taking the evidence that has come before me in the course of my tour, I can arrive at no other conclusion than that the rate to which the wage of the relief labourer was reduced on the recommendation of Sir Richard Temple is sufficient to support them in fair condition, provided that care is taken that the individual recipient is the only person who is supported on it. And I see no reason why the wage should be raised unless an equivalent amount of work is performed.

No. 197.

No. 221. NOTES by DR. TOWNSEND, Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, deputed at the request of SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to investigate and ascertain whether the Scale of Wages now given to the People employed on the several Famine Relief Works is sufficient to support them in fair health.

Bangalore, April 3, 1877.

Reduced scale of wages. Report by Dr. Townsend after inspection of people.

Sholapur (*Bombay*), *March* 20*th*.—Inspected a large body of people, about 3,000, including women and children employed under the Department Public Works in excavating a large tank (Moti Bagh). The men are employed on task-work, the daily task being 54 cubic feet, or about half the ordinary task for an able-bodied coolie; for this he receives 1 anna and 9 pie. The women and children employed to remove the earth excavated receive $1\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an anna respectively. No work is done and no pay given on Sundays.

Men, women, and children are in good condition. They exhibit no signs of being underfed, and there is no sickness among them attributable to insufficient food. I inspected the camps, and many of the people were preparing their evening meal; some had jowari, many wheat of a rather inferior quality, some Indian corn and jowari mixed; others bajra and toor. Salt, chillies, onions, were in common use. The young children were in very good case.

March 21*st*.—This morning rode out with Mr. Percival, the Collector, to visit a gang of labourers employed under the Civil authorities in excavating a tank about three miles from Sholapur. These were a much poorer lot than the gangs employed on the Moti Bagh tank. A very large portion of them were old and infirm, or in some way incapacitated for hard labour. Task-work is not exacted, and they accomplish very little in the day. The number employed here was about 300. The men receive $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, the women $1\frac{1}{4}$ annas, and the children 7 to 9 pie. The bigger lads are reckoned as women Children too young to work receive 3 pie each.

The greater number of these people had been on the work at the above rate of wages since the middle of January. Their condition varied considerably. Many were stout and in good condition; others were thin and weakly. The majority of the latter were old and infirm, but there were a few among the lads and young women who were undoubtedly suffering from the effects of insufficient nourishment. These cases, however, had come on the relief work very feeble and emaciated, and they had improved since. The young children were in very good condition and looked to be well cared for.

On the way back we inspected the charitable relief house, where about 200 people, old and infirm, or from other causes incapable of work of any kind are relieved. All were fit recipients of relief.

Adoni (*Madras*), *March* 26*th*.—Inspected with Mr. Oldham and Captain Hamilton.

1. Inefficient gang established 10 days and composed of persons who had previously been in receipt of charitable relief at the relief house, and of old and weakly persons drafted from other gangs. The number, including women and children, was 253. They were employed on light work, forming platforms for the sheds constructed near the railway station for storing grain.

Ration given—

To men	- - -	$1\frac{1}{2}$ annas.
,, women	- - -	$1\frac{1}{4}$,,
,, children on works	-	$0\frac{3}{4}$,,
,, young children	- -	$0\frac{1}{4}$,,

Only the inefficient gangs receive pay or relief on Sundays.

Many old people were thin and shrivelled by reason of age. Only two old women looked weakly. There were no symptoms attributable to insufficient food. The children as a body were in very good case. Two infants, very thin and miserable-looking, had been suffering from fever.

2. A body of people numbering nearly 700 wanting work. These were mostly people who had been employed on relief works, but who had been discharged in consequence of their refusal to shift to works not more than 10 miles distant. The condition of the people was generally good, especially the women and children. The people who looked in worst condition were a few who had not been on any relief work at all.

3. A gang of 507 workpeople.—These people have been on works for some months altogether, and for one month on the reduced scale above given. As a body they appear to be in good condition. No sickness among them, with the exception of small-pox among the children. A few that we picked out as looking rather weakly had been only a few days on the works. One man had been feeding two children who were not in receipt of relief. Practically task-work is not exacted.

Five hundred cubic feet of earth-work is assigned to 50 men, which is half the ordinary task, but on measurement it is found that they execute only one-fifth of the task assigned.

Reduced scale of wages.

4. Gangs from Sirgoopah Road, 1,208 in number, exclusive of very young children.—The condition of the women here was not so decidedly good as in the gangs close to Adoni. There was, however, nothing in their appearance to afford ground for fear that they were not now receiving sufficient nourishment. The condition of the men and the children on the other hand was very good. In some few cases men whom we lighted on as looking weakly, were found on inquiry to be sharing their ration with a wife or child at home.

Report by Dr. Townsend after inspection of people.

5. A gang of applicants for labour, 139 in number, who had struck work on being selected for transfer to a short distance 20 days ago.—All in very fair condition. In a similar gang belonging to the Aloor taluk, 220 in number, a few persons exhibited signs of having been insufficiently fed.

6. Gang of Madaveram, 3,100, inclusive of 400 young children.—As a body, men, women, and children in good condition. Here and there where a weakly-looking individual was lighted on, it was found that he or she was suffering from fever, or sharing his ration with a relation not on the works.

7. Yemmigenoor Road.—Gang 7,000 strong, including women and children.—The greater number of these people are inhabitants of Adoni, and come out daily to the work, a distance of four or five miles. The total population of Adoni is stated to be 25,000. As a body, men, women, and children are in good condition. The young men and women with few exceptions were plump and well nourished. The exceptions consisted of persons who at no time are in good health and condition; one youth, for instance, consumptive; another had the scars of old ulcers in the thigh, and was lame from this cause; a third had a withered hand. Among the older people many exhibited that shrivelled condition of skin which is common among elderly natives of this climate at all times; but in other respects they were in good condition and looked healthy. In cases exhibiting weakness and want of nourishment the same explanation was given as in the gangs previously inspected. Either the individuals had been suffering from fever, or a child or other relation was sharing their means of subsistence with them. This was particularly the case with some of the women, for the allowance of 3 pie to each young child had not been distributed to the full extent intended by Government. The Adoni relief officers are now remedying this shortcoming.

Bellary, March 27th.—Gooty Road.—Gangs assembled on the fifth mile. The whole number employed from the fifth to the tenth mile amounts to upwards of 7,000, but the order to bring them together for inspection did not reach the relief officer sufficiently early, and not more than half were collected for inspection. The wages here given are the same as at Adoni. As a body, the people were in good condition, and a large number of the men who were stout and able-bodied were selected as fit for transfer to the Nellore irrigation works, others for the earth-work of the line of railway to be constructed from Bellary to Dharwar. Of those selected for transfer to Nellore about 50 per cent. consented to go.

Bellary, March 28th.—Hiriyal Road, sixth to eighth milestone from Bellary.—Gangs numbering altogether 7,500 * have been established three or four months. The employment consists in breaking and stacking metal and in excavating gravel. Task-work is exacted at the rate of six cubic yards from each gang, consisting of 25 men, 20 women, and 5 children; and for this task the payment is $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas men, $1\frac{1}{4}$ annas women, and 9 pie children; but very few gangs not amounting to 500 people altogether complete this task in a day and draw the full wage. The great bulk receive only $1\frac{1}{4}$ anna men, 1 anna women, and 7 pie children. The young children are allowed 3 pie each.

* 3,750 men
3,000 women.
600 children above 7 years.
600 children under 7 years.

Rice is the food chiefly consumed by these people. Cholum is procurable in the shops where they purchase their food, but they buy rice in preference. The bazaar price of rice is 8 seers per rupee. Mr. Smith, the relief officer, showed great knowledge of the people under him and was able to give the history of a great number that we had reason to inquire about. As a body, these people are in very good condition. In walking down the long line the number whose appearance called for inquiry was very small, and in all or nearly all cases the impoverished appearance of the individual lighted on was accounted for:—

1st. A thin child through an oversight had not been registered in the list of those receiving the 3 pie allowance.

2nd. A very thin famished woman had only joined the work from a distant village two days previously.

Reduced scale of wages. Report by Dr. Townsend after inspection of people.

3rd. Another woman who gave the same explanation.
4th. Two brothers who had been on the work less than a week.
5th. An oldish man who had been on the work about a fortnight, and though thin had improved since he joined.

Mr. Smith, the relief officer, states that as a body these people have improved greatly in appearance since the works were established, and they have certainly not fallen off since the reduced rate of wage came into force. If on first arrival any of them are in a very bad state, they are first fed on cooked food for some days, but as soon as they are at all able they were allowed to wander on the works though without doing much, and they seemed to improve better on this plan than when kept altogether in the relief hospital. In some few cases the infants at the breast showed signs of being insufficiently nourished, but it was by no means the rule in their cases that the mother was in bad condition. At all times in a certain number of cases women will be unable to sufficiently nourish their infants.

Cuddapah, March 29th.—Inspected some gangs of labourers employed in excavation of a tank close to the town of Cuddapah. Dr. Cornish, Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, was kind enough to accompany me. They mustered 950 in all, arranged in gangs of 50, consisting of 20 men and 30 women and children. The number of children was small; the women greatly outnumbered the men, the people were chiefly the residents of the town and of villages within two miles, and the Civil Surgeon, Mr. Hyaswamy, stated that a very large number of the women were the wives of syces and other servants of Europeans. The wages given are:—

Men, 1 anna 5 pie.	Children above 7, $8\frac{1}{2}$ pie.
Women, 1 anna 2 pie.	Children under 7, 3 „

Payment is made on Sunday for six days. The daily task-work nominally exacted is 24 cubic yards of earth-work for a gang of 50. This task, which is very light, was commonly completed; but even if it were not, the wage above mentioned was generally given.

In my opinion these people were in appearance little, if at all, below the standard of health common in Native populations. Some were no doubt thin and anæmic, but the proportion in this condition was not great. In many instances individuals that struck us as being more enfeebled than others were found on inquiry to have been on the works a very short time. One of them had been on a fortnight, another came on only yesterday. A very thin weakly-looking woman had come on the works three days ago, another, a Brinjara, had been on only four days. A thin elderly man who looked weak was suffering from fever. One man, thin and anæmic, had been on the works from the commencement, but on either side of him there was a very stout strong man who had also been on the works for months.

I also inspected at Cuddapah a relief camp whereat persons coming in from the districts in a weak and enfeebled condition are supported until they become fit for work, when they are transferred to the works. The food here given is cholum and ragi mixed. Two meals are given daily at 10 and at 5, each meal consisting of 12 oz. of the above grain with condiments for an adult male. Women and children receive less. The greater number of these people were old and unequal to labour of any kind. It appeared that many of them were kept at the camp against their will; they would prefer being at large, picking up what they could by begging. No betel-nut being given was one reason why they disliked being detained in the camp.

Some of the people supported in idleness at the camp would, I think, have been more suitably provided for at the works. There was one woman, for instance, in very good condition with four children in equally good case; also a stout strong man with his family; the reason given for their being kept at the camp being that there was no one to look after the children while the parents were at work.

Cuddapah District, March 30th.—Booja road, three miles from Cuddapah.—Inspected with Mr. Macarthy 800 people divided into 16 gangs, each composed of 20 men, 25 women, and 5 children. The women generally outnumber the men, who find other work. The people all belong to the surrounding villages. They are employed in digging and stacking gravel. The daily task assigned is 18 cubic yards for each gang, a more severe task than is imposed upon the labourers at the tank inspected yesterday. It is, however, exacted without difficulty. The rate of wage is the same as the other gangs in the district. The labourers are paid once a week on Sunday for the six days. A considerable proportion of the people in these gangs, as well as in those inspected yesterday, belong to castes who eat meat. The Wudas kill and eat sheep and pigs but

not bullocks. The pariahs eat carrion or the flesh of bullocks and other animals that have died. The shepherds eat the flesh of sheep and goats that die.

Reduced scale of wages. Report by Dr. Townsend after inspection of people.

The general appearance of the people composing these gangs was good. A very large number of the men and women were as stout and healthy looking as they could be in the best of times. Here and there thin persons in weakly condition were observable, but their history did not prove their condition to be attributable to want of food.

Gang No. 1. Two thin men but not unhealthy looking.
„ „ 2. One spare weakly looking man states that he has been so for years.
„ „ 3. Two thin feeble men state that they have always been so; one sickly child has had fever.
„ „ 4. All in good condition.
„ „ 5. One feeble looking man states that he has always been so.
„ „ 6. The same.
„ Nos. 7, 8, 9. All in good condition.
„ No. 10. An emaciated boy has been on the works a fortnight and has improved since he joined.
„ „ 11. A thin weedy lad always so.
„ „ 12. All in good condition.
„ „ 13. A feeble man has a large spleen; is better now than he has been for a long time. Another sickly looking man has lately suffered from fever.
„ Nos. 14, 15, 16. All in good condition.

These gangs have been established from November last.

Mr. Quinlass, the relief officer, says that when the people received higher rate of wages they did not spend more in food than they do now, but saved the difference. They have not deteriorated in condition since the wage has been reduced. About 15 men who had been sent to Nellore returned again to these gangs. They said the place did not agree with them; that the water was bad and gave them dysentery. The task-work at Nellore appears to be harder and the maistries more severe upon people transferred from other works.

There were 26 applicants for work. Only one man among them, and he was a ryot, who had lost all his cattle, and having no other source of maintenance came on the works. He was a strong healthy man. The rest, all women and children, were in good condition.

Vellore, March 31st.

1. Relief gangs employed in constructing an embankment along the Palaar River, 1,120 people divided into 8 gangs of 32, in the proportion of 7 men, 16 women, and 12 children. Some of these gangs were formed on the 15th of March; others on the 21st to 23rd, and some as late as the 29th.

These people are employed on task-work, the task being 75 per cent. of the ordinary public works rates. And they are paid at the following rate:—

Men, 1 anna 11 pie.
Women, 1 anna 5 pie.
Children, 1 anna. No allowance is given to young children.

Payment is made once a week; seven days' pay is given for six days' work.

A very large proportion of the men employed were old or elderly, and many of them were of spare habit, as is very commonly the case with the Natives above the middle age, but they were fairly muscular and their appearance healthy. The younger men were for the most part robust and in good condition. The same may be said of the women. Many of the older women were thin and spare and some of them weakly looking, but the younger women were for the most part plump and in good condition. The children on the whole had the appearance of being well nourished.

There were present about 400 applicants for employment on these works, chiefly women and children belonging to the town. Of late too, a large proportion of Mussulman women have come on the works, and this is considered a sign that the distress is spreading to classes that have not been hitherto touched by it. The general appearance of the new applicants, however, did not indicate that they have been insufficiently fed.

2. Gangs of coolies, chiefly women, employed in fencing the relief camp. These gangs had been established about six weeks, and had been on the reduced rate of—

1 anna 5 pie for men,
1 anna for women,
9 pie for children.

Reduced scale of wages. Report by Dr. Townsend after inspection of people.

They appeared to me to be in very fair condition, and there was no sickness among them.

3. *Relief Camp.—Hospital.*—Forty-one patients, chiefly old people suffering from diarrhœa and dysentery, and it is probable that the per-centage of mortality among them will be high. There are about 700 people fed in the relief camps, the proportion of men, women, and children being about equal. In many of them the effects of famine are very evident, particularly among a number of people who had come from the Kalhustri zemindari, but they are now improving.

Each adult male receives daily 1 lb. of dry rice cooked; 10 oz. of this is given about 10 o'clock, and the remainder in the evening. To the evening meal is added half an ounce of dâl mixed with vegetable and condiments in the form of curry.

4. *Sooriaghunta tank.*—1,600 people employed in excavation work divided into gangs consisting of 3 men and 35 women and children. The gangs were first formed on the 24th November, and from the 19th February up to the 25th March were on the reduced rate of wages, viz., men 1 anna 5 pie; women 1 anna 2 pie; children 9 pie. No allowance was given for children too young for work.

No work is done on Sunday, but the people receive pay for that day.

As a body these people were in fair condition, and as far I was able to ascertain they did not deteriorate or show signs of weakness during the five or six weeks that they were on the reduced rate of wages.

The small proportion of men on these works is attributable to the circumstance that in this part of the country agricultural operations and other means of employment are not suspended to the same extent as in the ceded districts, and the able-bodied men are for the most part employed in their usual occupations; but at the present price of food their earnings are not sufficient to maintain their families, and women, who in ordinary times would not undertake coolie labour, are on this account induced to come on works which are conveniently near their homes and earn additional means of subsistence.

No. 198.

No. 213.

Telegram, dated April 4, 1877.

From Sir Richard Temple, Bangalore, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Simla.

Telegraphic summary.

Have again visited Ceded Districts and investigated matters there. Relief labourers in Madras Presidency not increasing, numbers on charitable relief slowly rising, task-work still imperfectly exacted, professional agency not sufficiently employed. I have made specific suggestion for utilising engineering staff for remedying this defect. Bellary railway work beginning, efforts to send relief labourers to East Coast Canal not yet successful. Dr. Townsend, Sanitary Commissioner, Government of India, has inspected 29,000 relief labourers on reduced wages in Madras districts, and finds their condition good on the whole. I agree in his view. Showers have fallen in parts of Madras Presidency. Impression increasing that people show more power of sustaining themselves, and that stocks and stores of grain are more adequate than was originally anticipated. Favourable rain nearly two inches has fallen all over Mysore province, doing great good for water-supply, fodder, and agriculture. Prices at Bangalore cheaper in consequence, and population inspired. Grain supply in Mysore abundant. Relief works appear adequate in Mysore, and village relief generally sufficient.

No. 199.

No. 19 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, April 5, 1877.

Telegram from ryots of Sholapur and Poona. As to truth of facts alleged.

We replied briefly, by telegraph, on the 12th ultimo to your Lordship's telegram of the 6th idem, which requested us to obtain confidentially information as to facts alleged in a telegram, signed professedly by ryots of Sholapur and Poona, which had been received by your Lordship and others. A telegram in explanation of the facts was also sent to your Lordship on the 8th ultimo by the Government of Bombay.

2. On reference to the Government of Bombay we learn that—

1st. Wages have not been reduced except on Civil agency works. Simultaneously with the reduction large works under Public Works Department were opened, on which old rates were maintained. These works are still available, and ready to take as many people as require relief and will work for their wages.

2nd. Wages on Public Works Department works 2 annas, will purchase 2 lbs. of grain while grain is dear, more when grain is cheap. Wages on Civil agency works will purchase $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of grain, and so the Sabha's statement is incorrect.

3rd. Children under seven years of age whose parents are on relief works get 3 pies = 1 pice. This is an act of charity or grace on the part of Government, and is given even to infants. Children over seven years of age are employed on works, and draw regular wages according to the scale in force.

4th. Only one death is believed to have occurred from starvation.

5th. The Sarvajanik Sabha are interested in the question of remissions, as some of its members are the real owners of land in certain districts.

6th. They regret the transfer of Mr. Grant from Sholapur, as they have lost much influence by it and by the stricter system of relief which now prevails.

3. The Bombay Government report, on the subject of the authorship of the telegram, that "it was no doubt sent, as it purports to have been, by the Sarvajanik Sabha, a "political association or club, having its head-quarters in Poona and a branch at "Sholapur."

We have, &c.

(Signed) F. P. HAINES.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.

No. 200.

Revenue, No. 28.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, April 6, 1877.

Reply to Nos. 43. 44. 65. 66.

Para. 1. I have considered in Council your letters of the 2nd and 9th February last, Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10, Revenue, Famine.

2. I have in other Despatches informed you that the Government highly approve of the measures which you have taken for the relief of distress in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and have expressed their sense of the vigilance and sagacity which have marked your policy.

As to the difference of opinion between the Governments of India and Bombay.

3. On the present occasion I propose to make some remarks upon the points in respect to which a difference of opinion has arisen between the Government of India and that of Bombay. The extent of this divergence appears to me to have been much overrated by the Government of Bombay, and in itself would hardly require any notice from me. But the emphasis which has been laid upon it by that Government makes some observations on my part necessary.

4. The two points of presumed difference upon which the Bombay Government have laid stress are, the extent to which the obligation of giving relief should be accepted, and the mode in which relief labour can be most advantageously employed.

5. With respect to the first of these two points, I am unable to see the divergence to which the Bombay Government has called attention, and which, apparently, has embarrassed their decisions. I gather that these difficulties arise from seeking for an exactly defined rule, in a case where exact definition is impossible. Both your Government and that of Bombay concur in the wise and humane principle that human life shall not perish

As to the difference of opinion between the Governments of India and Bombay.

through want, when it is in the power of the State to preserve it. Both Governments are equally sensible of the necessity of guarding this rule from being wrested to the encouragement of indolence or of waste. It follows that the grievousness of destitution must be ascertained by labour tests, severe enough to deter from accepting relief all who can possibly obtain subsistence in any other way, yet not so hard as to repel those who are really starving. Special provision is requisite for the case of secluded women and of the infirm, and for the rarer cases where caste feeling makes gang labour inapplicable.

6. Any administrative rule may be damaged in argument by the suggestion of extreme cases for which it will not provide a solution. In the present instance, it is possible to ask, as the Bombay Government have done, what is to be done if you meet with a man whose love of life is so feeble, or whose dislike of exertion is so overpowering, that he had rather starve than work? Such a state of feeling cannot have been of long standing, as the subject of it must have long since died, at least if he belonged to the classes whom a few months of famine could reduce to a dependence on State aid. Of such singular exceptions, if they exist, it is only necessary to say, that they can be provided for by no rule, but must be left to the discretion of the officer who meets with them.

7. The other subject of discussion is of considerable importance, though the extent of the difference of view between your Government and that of Bombay has not in the end proved to be very large. The Government of Bombay were from an early period of opinion that the calamity should be treated as one of great magnitude, and that consequently relief works should be organised on a large scale. Proceeding on the assumption of a widespread famine, which events have unhappily justified, their policy was evidently sound. The most important argument in its favour is that effective supervision can be provided for one large work at far less cost than for many small works. The President in Council, however, upon the evidence before him, considered that the organisation of large relief works was premature, and was reluctant to sanction the commencement of undertakings which, except as famine works, the state of the finances would not justify the Government in completing. His objections were naturally fortified by the circumstance that the estimates furnished by the Government of Bombay for the works which they proposed were in some instances too imperfect to enable the Government of India to calculate the burden which their consent would throw upon the Treasury.

8. The Government of Bombay deserve great credit for the accuracy with which they foresaw the gravity of the calamity that was impending, and the energy of the measures which they took to meet it. At a greater distance from the localities where the distress was showing itself, the Government of India for some time were disposed to wait for more conclusive evidence, and in the meantime to be guided by the general principle that relief works ought to be proportionate to the distress they were intended to relieve, both in respect to duration and extent. When the evidence was more fully laid before them, the Government of India resolved to sanction a system of larger works, in view of the wider distress which it was necessary to relieve.

9. Large works admitting of the employment of a considerable number of men are more suitable for the relief of extensive calamities like the present, not only because they admit of a less costly supervision, but also because they furnish a more effective test of destitution than smaller local works. For a large work the greater number of those employed will have to move a considerable distance from their homes, and a necessity so unwelcome generally to the labouring classes in India offers a security that only those will submit to it who are forced to do so by the entire destitution of every other means of sustenance. A similar guarantee is not offered by the repair of village tanks, which are mostly accessible from the homes of those who are employed upon them.

10. In the selection of the larger works for the employment of the destitute population, it is undoubtedly desirable to prefer, where such a choice is possible, those which will be in some degree remunerative to the Treasury. I was therefore glad to learn that you had sanctioned the commencement of the earth-works of railways through the affected districts. The work, if completed as a railway, may not pay full interest upon the cost of its construction, but it will, from its first opening, contribute something towards that expenditure. A work, on the other hand, like a great road, though perhaps nearly or quite as advantageous to the inhabitants of the country through which it passes as the railway, will directly yield nothing towards defraying the yearly cost which its construction will entail upon the Exchequer. A very long period must elapse before its indirect effects will influence the revenue. Wherever, therefore, it is possible to do so, a directly remunerative work should be selected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 201.

Revenue, No. 29.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 6th April 1877.

The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 23rd February, No. 12 of 1877, forwarding further minutes and memoranda by Sir R. Temple relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay has been considered by me in Council. Reply to No. 115.

2. The information contained in this Despatch and its enclosures has been, for the most part, anticipated by telegrams from your Excellency in Council. The minutes of Sir R. Temple are full of interest, and I have only to record that the intelligence to be gathered from the Despatch and its enclosures is, on the whole, more reassuring than could have been anticipated.

3. I fully concur in the praise bestowed by your Lordship in Council on the punctuality, care, and ability with which the tabular returns of the Bombay Presidency have been prepared, and I join with your Government in congratulating the Government of Bombay "on the manner in which the substantial safety of some five millions of people is being "secured under circumstances of great danger."

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 202.

Telegram, dated 6th April 1877. No. 213.

From SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, Bangalore, to REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Simla.

Doctor Townsend has inspected 34,000 relief labourers in distressed districts of Bombay and Madras; he has submitted a full minute. The final paragraph is as follows:—Taking the evidence that has come before me in the course of my tour, I can arrive at no other conclusion than that the rate to which the wage of the relief labourer was reduced on the recommendation of Sir Richard Temple is sufficient to support them in fair condition, provided that care is taken that the individual recipient is the only person who is supported on it, and I see no reason why the wage should be raised unless an equivalent amount of work is performed. I have laid Dr. Townsend's paper before Government, Madras, with expression of my full concurrence in Dr. Townsend's views. Copies have gone to you. The reduced scale of wages.

No. 203.

XCII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, explanatory of his reasons for recommending the Commencement of the Earth-work of the Conjeveram and Chingleput Railway Project. No. 221.

Bangalore, the 6th April 1877.

In memorandum No. XXVII., dated 30th January, were explained the reasons why I was then unable to recommend that the proposed railway from Chingleput to Conjeveram should be undertaken as a relief work. It was explained that the proportion of the cost that would be expended on relief wages was small, and that the financial prospects of the proposed line did not seem very good. The Conjeveram and Chingleput Railway project.

2. Since that memorandum was submitted the Government of India have been pleased to sanction my proposal that the earth-work of the Bellary and Hubli line should be begun as a relief work, without the Government being pledged to complete the line; which case establishes the principle that in a dearth of large projects for employment of relief labour the earth-work of any such project may be commenced, even though the Government may not be able at present to complete the scheme.

Further I have seen in the Madras Presidency that there is great need for large works, on which a large number of relief labourers can be concentrated under adequate professional supervision. My minutes dated the 18th and 29th March set forth the great advantages to be obtained by placing relief works under professional supervision. In Chingleput and North Arcot districts there was special need for professionally supervised works. So long, therefore, as the Government of India was not committed to the completion of the proposed line, I considered that it might be better to employ relief labourers

The Conjeveram and Chingleput Railway project.

under engineering control on a work that might hereafter be useful, than to leave them all on the scattered Civil works, whereon little real labour was exacted, and over which there was practically no adequate supervision.

3. Under these circumstances it seems to me that the conditions under which the Chingleput and Conjeveram Railway project presents itself have altered. I have now, therefore, recommended that, subject to the restriction above mentioned, the earth-work on the proposed Conjeveram and Chingleput Railway should be begun as a relief work, whether the line be subsequently completed or not. And that recommendation the Government of India has been pleased to approve.

No. 204.

Nos. 205. 221.

XCIII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple regarding the emigration of people from the Mysore Province to the relief institutions in Madras districts.

Bangalore, 6th April 1877.

Migration from Mysore to Madras districts.

I have, while at Bangalore, investigated the facts regarding the emigration of people from the Mysore Province to the relief works and relief houses in British districts of the Madras Presidency. At one time there were some, perhaps many, thousands of Mysore people on the relief works in the Bellary and Cuddapah districts; and there were large bodies of Mysore labourers in the coffee districts of the Wynaad. Immigrant labourers from Mysore do indeed flock yearly to the coffee districts, and do much useful work there. This year, by reason of the scarcity, double the usual number emigrated to the Wynaad, and as the coffee crop was short there was less than the usual quantity of work to be done.

2. In my minute No. XXXVII., dated 16th February, I expressed my opinion that the distressed people of Mysore could be relieved by the Mysore Government which had made adequate provision to that end, and I advised that such people should, after receiving temporary relief, be sent back under proper arrangements to their homes.

3. If there were still at this time any considerable number of Mysore people receiving or needing relief in British districts, then I should advise that the Chief Commissioner's offer to depute an officer, who would take over such refugees, should at once be accepted. For there is no reason why the British Treasury should be burdened with the support of distressed persons from neighbouring States, which are both able and willing to relieve their own people.

4. But, as matters now stand, there seems no present need for action. The Wynaad coolie question is settling itself, for the Collector reports that the Mysore emigrants are returning to their homes. It is probable that while they were in the Wynaad they had earnings or other means of supporting themselves at least until they could recross the Mysore frontier.

5. In Bellary and Cuddapah the numbers of Mysoreans appears comparatively trifling. On the borders between provinces like Bellary and Mysore there will always be some interchange of population in times like this; and the Commissioner of the Nundidroog division recently learnt that several hundreds of British subjects from the Pennekonda division had come to the relief centres in Kolar and Bangalore, having fled from their home by reason of the cholera which was then raging.

6. Although there is no present need for action, yet, if hereafter there should be any large gathering of Mysore people on relief works, or at relief centres, I consider that early intimation should be given to the local officers in Mysore, so that the Mysore authorities might promptly take over and relieve their own people, as indeed they are very ready and able to do.

No. 205.

No. 221.

XCIV.—Memorandum by Mr. Bernard, respecting Mysore people in the Madras distressed districts.

Bangalore, 2nd April 1877.

Migration from Mysore to Madras districts.

The case now stands on this wise:—

Mysore declined to pay the charges which Madras might incur in relieving Mysore immigrants either by relief wages or otherwise. But Mysore offered to send and fetch back her people. Accordingly an Assistant Commissioner was sent from Kolar to Pennekonda to fetch back Mysore people who might be on the Bellary works. But

none were found in Pennekonda, and only 35 in the other taluks. So the Assistant Commissioner came back empty. Migration from Mysore to Madras districts.

2. It was about Pennekonda that the question first arose. Subsequently Madras represented that Mysore people were surging over into Coimbatore; and specially that large numbers* of people, who had gone to the Wynaad for employment on the coffee estates, were now practically on the hands of the Madras Government, for there was no coffee labour to be had, and the people seemed disinclined to go back to Mysore. The correspondence between the Collector and the planters shows that there is much want of roads in the Wynaad, and the present is considered a favourable opportunity of getting these roads made. The Madras Government inquired whether Mysore would contribute one-third the cost of these roads, on the ground that Mysore poor would be employed thereon and sustained thereby. Mysore declined the offer, because she too had plenty of good relief works waiting to be done, and on which in some places workpeople would not come. At the same time Mysore repeated the expression of her readiness to send and fetch her people home.

* Note.—In the correspondence the Collector of Malabar offers no estimate of the number of these immigrant Mysoreans. But at Madras the figure was stated (no doubt roughly) at 60,000. We telegraphed yesterday to know what was the Collector's estimate of the numbers.

3. Madras has now replied asking that Mysore would at once send officers to fetch back her people from the Wynaad, Coimbatore, Bellary, and Cuddapah, and has begged that Mysore will take steps to prevent her people immigrating into Madras country for the future.

4. The Chief Commissioner of Mysore is now ready to send officers and will do so. The largest number of his tenants are said to be in the Wynaad; he has works close to the border to employ them, and he has relief houses along the road whereat the returning emigrants can be fed as they come along. But he anticipates that many of them will be quite unwilling to come back, if they can get easy, highly paid, work in the Wynaad. He foresees too that there will be difficulty, and there may be loss to the coffee interest if emigration from Mysore into the Wynaad is permanently checked or restricted. The Chief Commissioner has suggested that the Wynaad authorities should decide which Mysore people ought to be sent back home, and which should be kept.

Bangalore, 2nd April 1877.

Bangalore, 6th April 1877.

P.S.—After the foregoing paragraphs were written telegrams were sent by Sir Richard Temple's order to the Collectors of Malabar, Bellary, and Cuddapah, asking for an estimate of the number of Mysoreans needing relief in the Wynaad, in Bellary, and in Cuddapah. The Collector of Malabar replied that "no Mysore people in Wynaad now "need relief. They are returning already to Mysore, and all say they intend returning, "as crops and prospects have improved at home." The Collector of Bellary replied that he estimated "the Mysoreans on relief works and receiving gratuitous relief at not "more than a few hundreds." The Collector of Cuddapah replied that he could "form no estimate," as he had "no data."

No. 206.

XCV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple on the present condition of relief affairs in Mysore. Nos. 207. 221.

Bangalore, 6th April 1877.

I have again inquired into the state of relief affairs in the Mysore Province. I find that the total numbers on relief are now 116,000, equal to about 2 per cent. of the total population of Mysore, or about 3¼ per cent. of the population of its distressed tracts. An unusually large number of Mysore people had emigrated to the coffee districts, and though they are now coming back, yet for some months they obtained subsistence by working on the plantations. When the failure of season, which is now going on for the third year consecutively, is remembered, these numbers appear very moderate, and show, firstly, that the people must be in good condition and must have some self-sustaining power; and secondly, that the authorities are administering relief very carefully and economically. Condition of relief in Mysore favourable.

2. The results of relief administration in Mysore still compare favourably with the neighbouring districts of the Madras Presidency, namely, the ceded districts and Kurnool, even after all the economy and reduction which have been introduced into those districts.

3. The labourers on the relief works are all employed on piece-work at rates somewhat cheaper than the piece-work rates of the Public Works Department in ordinary years.

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They can earn in this way enough to support themselves, and they are in fairly good physical condition. Their earnings on piece-work are estimated to amount to 2 annas per diem for adult men. The people who receive gratuitous relief at the relief centres, also do a certain amount of light work. From the helpless poor, who are relieved at their villages through the agency of the patels (village headmen), no work of any kind is exacted.

4. I am still of the opinion expressed in my minute, dated the 14th February, that the Government of India and the Chief Commissioner may be satisfied with the progress of relief affairs in the Province of Mysore. Already favourable rain has (1st April) fallen over the whole province; prices have fallen, and the people are taking courage.

No. 207.

lo. 221.

XCVI.—Memorandum by Mr. Bernard on the present condition of relief affairs in Mysore.

Bangalore, 6th April 1877.

Since Sir Richard Temple was in Mysore last, the following changes have occurred in the relief operations and their results :—

(1.) The distressed districts are much the same as before stated, except that severe distress has declared itself in the northern taluks of the Mysore district.

(2.) The number of labourers on the relief works has increased somewhat, and so also have the numbers on charitable relief, thus :—

Name of District.	Total Number on Relief Works.		Number on charitable Relief.		Total on all Relief.	
	In January.	On 15th March.	January.	15th March.	January.	15th March.
Bangalore - - -	13,000	18,200	11,500	10,300	24,500	28,500
Municipality - - -	—	1,000	—	6,200	—	7,200
Kolar - - - -	8,500	8,700	3,700	4,200	12,200	12,900
Tumkur - - - -	8,900	10,600	2,100	18,200	11,000	28,800
Mysore - - - -	5,500	9,800	3,700	1,900	9,200	11,700
Municipality - - -	—	200	—	1,600	—	1,800
Hassan - - - -	9,700	7,100	4,200	1,400	13,900	8,500
Shimoga - - - -	1,200	3,200	1,500	300	2,700	3,500
Kadoor - - - -	6,300	3,000	1,400	800	7,700	3,800
Chittaldroog - - -	6,000	7,800	1,800	1,800	7,800	9,600
Total - -	59,100	69,600	29,900	46,700	89,000	116,300

(3.) Some of the increase is said to be due to the efficient village relief that is now being carried out. The Moonsiffs and Civil Court establishments are now employed on relief work, now that their ordinary business is so slack. For each distressed taluk a sufficient relief staff has been appointed; villages are really visited, and patels (village headmen) are kept up to their duty by responsible officers, whose weekly diaries show what is being done, and how useful the village relief is.

(4.) Ample number of relief works are open and ready to be open in every district of the province.

(5.) The importations of grain by railway into the Mysore Province has gone on increasing; they averaged 330 tons a day in January; they were 530 tons a day during the last week of March. Since the rain of Sunday (1st April) prices are cheaper, and importations have somewhat slackened. Of this total only about 30 tons a day as yet comes by the Negapatam route.

2. The Mysore Government issues every Monday a short progress report with tables showing the progress of relief operations during the week. These reports contain all necessary information as to the condition of the people and as to the relief operations.

3. I may note that Colonel Christie, Superintending Engineer of Irrigation, has recently been on tour in Chitaldroog. He tells me that he saw no emaciated people save in the relief kitchens, that the physical condition of the people on the relief works is good, and that in some cases his officers were unable to get labour for tank repairs which they wanted to carry out.

No. 208.

XCVII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple regarding the advisability of undertaking the earth-work of three short branch railways to Arcot, Vellore, and Salem as relief works. No. 221.

Bangalore, 6th April 1877.

Arcot, Vellore, and Salem railways; commencement not recommended.

The Government of India have asked my opinion on the suggestion that relief labour should be employed on the earth-work of three short branch railways, which have been projected to the towns of—

Arcot - - - - -	population	11,000
Vellore - - - - -	„	38,000
Salem - - - - -	„	50,000

The Madras Railway line passes by each of these towns at a distance of from three to five miles. The Commission which reported on the traffic of the Madras Railway in 1875 recommended that these three branch lines should be undertaken in order to draw traffic to the railway. If the railway were now being aligned, there would be no doubt that it should be taken to Salem and Vellore, for Salem is the largest town south of Madras which this line serves; while Vellore is a great, if not the chief, trading mart between Madras and Trichinopoly. But the question now is whether it is advisable to undertake the earth-work of these branch lines as relief works.

2. I have not been able to see any detailed estimates for these lines. The Madras Government estimate the cost of the three at approximately 20 lakhs of rupees; and consider them not to be so well adapted for relief work as the Conjeveram and Chingleput line. I have traversed the lines which these three branch railways would probably take. On each of them the banks would, save perhaps at the Palar bridge approaches, be very light, and the great items of cost on the Vellore and Arcot branches would be the bridging of the Palar; for I understand that the existing narrow road bridge near Vellore would not suffice for a standard gauge railway.

3. I understand from Captain Bisset that, in default of detailed estimates, the earth-work and ballast on these branches could not be estimated at more than about Rs. 50,000 in all. This amounts to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the total cost of the line; it is doubtful whether the work could (failing previous detailed surveys) be begun before the first week in May. And if good rains fall in May, it is most probable that relief labour would not suffice to finish even the banks and ballast. I fear that it would not be practicable to organise large gangs of skilled relief labourers (such as stone cutters of the Waddah caste) for employment on these lines, in time enough to do any considerable quantity of work before the rainy season begins.

4. Under these circumstances, however anxious I may be to find some public work on which relief labourers can be properly tasked, I hardly see how to recommend that these branch lines be undertaken as relief works. In regard to the general question whether the branch lines would pay, I attach weight to the view expressed in Mr. Elvin's dissent at page 18 of the Commission's report. And I think much inquiry should be made before the Government decide to add 200,000*l.* to the guaranteed capital of a railway which does not pay, in order to construct branch lines which also may not pay. If any of these branch lines could be undertaken by private enterprise, as suggested by Mr. Elvin, then perhaps Government might see fit to grant some aid to the projectors of such branch railways.

No. 209.

From Dr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Public Department, Fort St. George. Nos. 218. 245.

Madras, 6th April 1877.

The reduced scale of wages. Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of two minutes dated respectively the 7th and 14th March 1877, by the Honourable Sir Richard Temple, Bt., K.C.S.I., in reference to my objections to the subsistence allowance of relief coolies being calculated on the basis of 1 lb. of grain a day, and to submit herewith for the consideration of the Madras Government a memorandum in further elucidation of the subject.

2. The Government of India, while giving every publicity to the "minutes" above referred to in the official Gazette of India has not thought proper to give a like publicity to my letter No. 115 of 13th February to overthrow the arguments of which these minutes were especially designed.

3. The subject involved is the sufficiency or otherwise of an arbitrary allowance of food to maintain the health and strength of the labouring poor. It is a practical question of the highest interest to men of science, political economists, and social reformers in

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every part of the world, and in the interests of humanity generally I venture to express a hope that the fullest publicity be given to my own part in the discussion, as well as to Sir Richard Temple's, so that the public, and scientific men in particular, may have the subject of discussion before them.

A Reply to Sir Richard Temple's Minutes of the 7th and 14th March as to the Sufficiency of a Pound of Grain as the basis of Famine Wages.

In a letter addressed to the Madras Government, dated 13th February 1877, No. 115, I felt it my duty to protest against a suggestion made by Sir R. Temple in his minute dated 10th January, that 16 ounces of cereal grain per diem would suffice for the maintenance of a labouring adult in health and strength.

Sir Richard Temple thought that the sufficiency or insufficiency of this grant of food was a matter of "opinion," and recommended that a scale of payment, based on the price of a pound of grain, should be tried "as an experiment" in the various relief operations throughout this Presidency, and the Madras Government had already acceded to the proposition, and issued orders for the enforcement of a reduced scale of wages, before I was aware that the subject had been before the Government. Under these circumstances there was a choice of courses before me. I might have held my peace, and in the event of subsequent calamity have sheltered myself under the plea that the Madras Government had not done me the honour of seeking my advice before sanctioning the reduced scale of wages; or knowing from long and painful experience the risks to the population resulting from inadequate food and nourishment, and the general want of accurate knowledge of subjects by most people, I might have ventured unsolicited to sound a note of warning to the Government, and to state my opinion in terms admitting of no misunderstanding. I chose the latter course, and I am very glad that I did so, as my letter has drawn forth two elaborate minutes from Sir Richard Temple regarding the basis on which he calculated that a pound of grain a day would suffice for a labouring man, and the subject can now be discussed purely on its merits by scientific men and the public at large, quite irrespective of the official positions of the parties contributing to the solution of the problem of feeding a people with the least expenditure of life and money.

I have, of course, been an attentive reader of famine literature, to which Sir Richard Temple has been so large and valuable a contributor. His most masterly "Narrative on the Famine in Bengal and Behar in 1874" lays down with clearness and precision the data on which the importation of grain was then determined, and I need not say that I agree almost entirely with every word Sir Richard Temple then wrote in regard to the quantity and quality of the food supplies necessary for the maintenance of the health of the people of Bengal.

The only error I find, in fact, is one of an arithmetical, and not of a physiological character. Sir Richard Temple based his calculations on 1½ lbs. of grain per head being required for a certain period for a certain proportion of the population, whereas 1½ lbs. ought to have been taken for an adult, and half the quantity for each child under 10 years of age. The error was, of course, one on the right and humane side, but involved the provision of more than 100,000 tons of grain beyond what was necessary according to accepted physiological data.

Even so late as January 1877, in a minute written at Sholapur in Bombay, Sir Richard Temple accepted, without question, the fact that the relief wages in Bombay were calculated on the basis of 1½ lbs. of grain per diem for an adult. It was only on his arrival in the Bellary district of the Madras Presidency that he appears to have undergone a conversion to the "pound a day" theory; but Sir Richard has not explained in the minute dated 13th January (to a portion of which I took exception) the grounds of his sudden change of opinion, and as his views in 1874 and 1877 appear to me to be irreconcileable, I can only quote them here in parallel columns, in the hope that some attempt may be made to explain them.

Sir R. Temple in 1874. (*Bengal Famine.*)	*Sir R. Temple in* 1877. (*Madras Famine.*)
"This rate (¾ of a seer or about 1½ lbs. per head for men, women, and children) at which grain should be provided was assumed after due consideration and discussion. The lowest diet provided in Bengal jails for non-labouring prisoners	"The present rate of wages is fixed at 2 annas per diem for an adult and proportionately lower for women and children. This rate is fixed upon the supposition that it will purchase 1½ lbs. of grain per diem, a quantity which is deemed essential for a man while at

is equal to about 1 seer or 2 lbs. The ordinary diet of a labouring adult in Bengal is taken after statistical inquiry to be 1 seer of rice besides $\frac{1}{4}$ seer (about $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.) of fish, pulse, pepper, or other condiments. The diet prescribed for adult Bengalee emigrants on ship-board and for Bengalee sailors always exceeds 1 seer a day in total weight, and in some cases it reaches 2 seers a day. Many of the poor people for whom grain was to be provided would be labouring hard on relief works during inclement and exhausting weather. Nearly the whole of the Government provision of grain consisted of rice, which contains less strength-giving qualities than wheat and some other grains. It was known that each bag of the expected consignments of Burma rice would contain from 8 to 20 per cent. of innutritious husk. In view of all these considerations, I framed my estimates of total requirements on the basis that each person to be relieved would on the average require $\frac{3}{4}$ of a seer ($1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of grain) a day. In practice it was found that even to ordinary paupers, who did not do any work, local Committees had to give $\frac{2}{3}$ of a seer of rice daily besides one pie ($\frac{3}{8}$ of a penny) for the purchase of salt and condiments; to women in delicate health and to persons reduced by previous hunger a still larger daily dole had to be allowed.

Being responsible for the general character of these estimates, I feel bound to record my tribute to the utility of the census which had been carried out two years previously under Sir George Campbell—the first regular census which had ever been taken in Bengal. If the success of the prescribed plan of relief operations has in any degree depended on the framing of estimates, if these estimates have in any degree enabled the Government to make a proper forecast of the supplies, and the resources necessary to encounter the crisis, then it is to be remembered that these estimates could never have been framed had not that census existed."

work. There might indeed be a question whether life cannot be sustained with 1 lb. of grain per diem; and whether Government is bound to do more than sustain life. This is a matter of opinion, and I myself think that 1 lb. per diem might be sufficient to sustain life, and that the experiment ought to be tried. Possibly the gangs might not perceptibly fall off in condition. After a week or fortnight's experience it would be seen whether they so fall off, or not; if they were to seriously fall off, then the point could be considered."

The reduced scale of wages. Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

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(11.) "The objection to the new scale, which Dr. Cornish states in detail is properly formulated by the phrase a full day's wages (that is, something more than the 1 lb. and the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna) for a fair day's work. But the phrase postulates that there is a fair day's work, which is just what the vast majority of the relief labourers do not render. Therefore they are not entitled to, and do not physically need, the full day's wage."

* * * *

(14.) * * "The scale laid down appears to me to be on the whole sufficient to yield the people that subsistence which alone Government can afford. We would gladly give more if it were in our power, but we must content ourselves with saving life, and cannot pretend to prevent all forms of distress."

* * * *

(16.) "Having carefully inspected during my tour in this Presidency thousands of relief labourers, I give it as my opinion that with very few exceptions, which are not, as a rule, traceable to insufficient relief wages, the general physical condition of the labourers is as good now as in ordinary years."

* * * *

(17.) "In conclusion it is not possible, I submit, to determine, *à priori*, on scientific data, what amount of food is necessary to sustain the particular classes who come to our relief. The real point to be considered is whether in ordinary times they get more than 1 lb. a day for a male adult. This is an economic question which can be determined by calculating the rates of wages in the rural districts, not the wages of trained professional labourers employed by public bodies—not the wages of stalwart men of the professional class of workmen, but the men of lesser physique and lighter frame such as that of the village poor—but the wages received by the labouring poor in the villages of the interior; and then by taking the prices of common grains in ordinary years. Now from inquiries made in various districts of the Madras Presidency, I apprehend that the labouring poor in rural localities can hardly get more than 1 lb. a day for a male adult in ordinary times." * * *

In his minute of the 7th March 1877, Sir Richard Temple declines to enter into the "purely professional arguments" advanced in my letter, further than to note "that

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"while no doubt abstract scientific theories of great value on the subject of public health "are of modern growth, the Indian population with which we are now dealing have "lived for centuries in disregard of them." I must confess that I am not quite clear as to the meaning of the above extract. I did not put forward any "abstract scientific theory," but merely stated *a fact*, that as the human frame, in every race and climate, disposes of a certain amount of nitrogenous matter every 24 hours, a like amount must be taken into the body in food to restore that waste, otherwise the tissues of the body will gradually disappear, and that in my opinion 1 lb. of rice containing from 68 to 80 grains of nitrogen and a small money payment of six pice or three farthings, would not suffice to enable a labourer to provide a sufficiency of nitrogenous food to restore his daily expenditure of tissue. In reply I am told, in effect, that abstract scientific theories are very pretty in their way, but that the Indian people who disregard them manage to get on very well without them. But this manner of disposing of the subject does not seem to have satisfied Sir Richard Temple, for in a subsequent "minute" dated 14th March, he endeavours to grapple with the scientific objections to his proposals.

I think, however, in dealing with this double reply, it will be more convenient if I discuss the practical objections of the first minute here, leaving the scientific arguments of the second minute for the conclusion.

Sir Richard Temple objects in the first place that my data refer to the case of Europeans, and that owing to the greater size and weight of the white-skinned races, the quantities of food necessary for Natives of India cannot be decided by European experience. I am very sorry if I failed to make myself clear on this point, because in paragraph 5 of my letter I expressly alluded to an important statistical inquiry undertaken *in India* in the year 1863 regarding the nature and quality of the food of the various classes of the people of *India*. I took an active part in this inquiry as regards the Madras Presidency. I drew up the instructions for the medical officers who made the investigations in the various districts, and I compiled the report in which the observations were submitted to Government and the Secretary of State for India. I not only did all this as regards the collection of facts from the Madras Presidency, but for many months I made a collection of the various food grains, experimented with them practically in my own person, as to the methods of preparing and cooking them, and their digestibility, and I further learned by questioning all sorts and conditions of men the average quantity of food they were in the habit of using. I did all this under a conviction that the statistical inquiry ordered by the Secretary of State was one of vast importance, and I took unusual trouble to attain accuracy based on actual investigation, because I was convinced that the heavy mortality in our jails was in a great measure due to bad and unscientific feeding, and that the only chance of improving the existing jail diets lay in putting the evidence so clearly before Government that the deductions would be irresistible.

But this investigation was not confined to the Madras Presidency. A similar inquiry was made, so far as I can remember, by every Administration in India, and the results are no doubt available for Sir Richard Temple's guidance, though in regard to many of the provinces I never heard of the results having been published. I imagine that the "statistical inquiry" alluded to by Sir Richard Temple in his "Narrative," and in which the quantity of grain per adult is said to be from one to two seers per diem, must be the one made in Bengal in 1863. I think it is much to be regretted that papers of this kind were not at the time collected and published as a standard authority on food supplies and Indian dietaries. There may perhaps be copies of my official reports in the Government Offices, or in the India Office, but I do not myself possess a single copy. My paper on "food and prison dietaries" published in Vol. VIII., pp. 1–73 of the "Madras Medical Journal," embodies all the facts collected in reference to the nature and variety of food supplies and the quantity of grain habitually used by the people of Southern India.

It is not easy, therefore, to account for the mistake that my remarks had reference to the dietaries of Europeans, when I was at special pains to point out that an independent investigation conducted by some 20 or 30 medical officers in the Mofussil Civil stations, and checked by my own independent inquiries and observations, showed that the minimum grain allowance of a man in health and in work was not less than 24 ounces, and that it was frequently double that quantity in favourable seasons.

Moreover, in regard to the proportion of nitrogenous to non-nitrogenous food, the reference I made to Sir Robert Christison's labours was simply to show the standard to which all successful dietaries should approach, and I expressly admitted that in the food of an Indian people, the "proportions of one to three are but barely attained, and "the tendency is always to a smaller proportion of nitrogenous food" (paragraph 4).

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I referred moreover to the experience of Indian jails (paragraph 8) in which practical food experiments on many thousands of persons have been going on for a long series of years under very strict tests as to supervision and observation, with the view of showing that the food of a people was a more complex question than that of providing a certain quantity of grain.

The whole experience I wished to bring forward on this question of food and health was Indian experience, and I am surprised that Sir Richard Temple, who knew so well in 1874 what the ordinary food of the people was, should write as if there had never existed any periodical medical literature in India, or that he should ignore the fact that every Indian medical authority who has written on the subject of food for prisoners is opposed to his recent opinions. One might think from Sir Richard Temple's minute that men like Leith, Chevers, Ewart, Bedford, Strong, Mouat, Fawcus, Irving, Forbes, Watson, Mayer, Lyons, myself, and many others, whose papers I have not immediately at hand to refer to, had never thought out the subject of feeding in its practical and scientific aspects, and that jail and other diets in India had been constructed without reference to the nutritious quality of the food-grains, or to the proportions of the various kinds of food. It must be abundantly clear to the Government that, if this new theory of Sir Richard Temple is correct, viz., that 1 lb. of grain and a small money payment equivalent to three farthings is enough to keep a man in health and strength while undergoing a fair daily task, then every Administration in India has been for years past inciting people to break the law by providing criminals with a dietary beyond their actual necessities, and all the carefully recorded experience of the last 30 years, as to the effects of food on health in Indian jails, must be discarded as worthless.

I shall have occasion to show, however, that the carefully built up experience of the past must be our guide in this matter, in preference to the mere "opinion" of a gentleman who apparently unconscious of the cruelty involved in his proposals, would desire to begin a huge "experiment" on the starving poor of this country, at a time and under conditions which would prevent the results of that "experiment" ever being tested and recorded.

What in fact was the proposition of Sir Richard Temple's to which I took exception? It was this: "There might indeed be a question whether life cannot be sustained with "1 lb. of grain per diem, and whether Government is bound to do more than sustain "life. This is a matter of opinion, and I think that 1 lb. per diem might be sufficient "to sustain life, and that the experiment ought to be tried. Perhaps the gangs might "not perceptibly fall off in condition. After a week or fortnight of experience, it would "be seen whether they so fall off or not."

If it were not so serious a matter as a blind experimentation on the limits of human endurance, it would be amusing to note the method by which Sir Richard Temple here proposes to test the results. "After a week or fortnight of experience" he says "it "would be seen whether the gangs fall off perceptibly in condition." Now what are the conditions abroad in the country by which such an experiment could be subjected to those rigorous tests which would satisfy practical men, as well as scientific men? Our relief works are scattered over many thousands of square miles of country, they are but indifferently supervised, and in no instances are the Native supervisors qualified to test the results of any special system of feeding or payment as regards the health of the people. To record the results of such an experiment with the accuracy required, it would be essential to weigh every individual of a gang, to enter their names and weights in columns, and to repeat the weighing week by week for a period of several months, to note also the condition of each individual, week by week, as to anæmia, pulse, tongue, heart's action, muscular power, &c. An "experiment" of this nature might be carried out as regards a few persons under the constant observation of a medical man, aided by careful assistants, but it is obvious that the results on a large scale according to the tests proposed by Sir Richard Temple could never be ascertained. Sir Richard Temple does not seem to be aware of the fact that "a week or two" of low living, while doing much mischief, might still give no results measurable by the eye or by weighing.

There is nothing more remarkable in connexion with these famine relief works than the sudden changes and fluctuations in the "personal" of gangs. The people inspected one day may be away the next. The people falling ill and unable to work are replaced by others, and there is never any certainty that two inspecting officers going over the same ground, within a short interval of time are seeing the same people. Any comparison of their observations or reports therefore can scarcely be gone into profitably, while this uncertainty exists in regard to the identity of the individuals composing the gangs.

There is, however, a rough and coarse test of the results of the reduction of wages which may commend itself to the notice of Government. It is that while the numbers paid for, and supposed to be employed on, relief works in the first week of February were 907,316, they fell in the last week of March to 662,195, and that the numbers "too weak for "work, requiring cooked food in relief houses," had increased from 38,163 in the first week of March to 99,113 in the last week of the same month. From my recent inspection in Maddanapully and Royachoti, I found these helpless and infirm people were increasing at the rate of more than 100 a day at each relief house, they continue so to increase, as I think it but too probable, the numbers to be fed in the Cuddapah district will probably reach 20,000 within the next two months, instead of 3,294 as in the last week of March. I leave it for others to determine whether the policy of substituting a bare subsistence wage on relief works has, or has not, contributed to the enormous increase of the sick and feeble, and of the gratuitous feeding throughout the distressed districts.

Sir Richard Temple is of opinion that the task-work required of coolies who are paid on the lower scale is very nearly equivalent to a condition of rest, and that the scale of food necessary for persons in a state of idleness will very well suit those who only execute light work.

The condition of the labouring gangs varies very much in the several localities. Some have very little distance to go to their labour, and in such cases the collection of half a cubic yard of road material may not involve any unusual exertion. But even in these cases I have seen work attempted when the ground was as hard as iron, and with tools much too heavy for the strength of those who had to wield them, and officials of the Public Works Department have told me that in their contract rates, no coolies would ever think of attempting work of this kind, except when the ground had been softened by rain. In such cases the bodily wear and tear of moving half a cubic yard of material, or executing 50 per cent. of a Department Public Works task, is considerable, and especially in the case of weakly gangs.

I have seen moreover very wretched and enfeebled creatures in the gangs who have come distances of four, six, and even eight miles to their work, some of them dragging their children to and fro with them, and I have no hesitation in stating that when these walking distances and carrying weights are taken into account with the day's work, that the expenditure of force is far ahead of its replenishment in the shape of food wages.

Sir Richard Temple states that his lowest scale of wages will permit in most instances of men buying 1½ lbs. of grain in addition to condiments and some other nourishment, but, however, this may be the case in the Bellary district or in certain stations on the line of railway which I have not yet inspected, it is not so in the upland taluks of North Arcot and Cuddapah. At Goorumkonda the other day the bazaar price of rice was only 13 lbs. the rupee, and at Royachoti about 14 lbs., so that 1 anna would not purchase even a pound of grain.

The mode of calculating the wages of the coolies too in some districts has practically the effect of reducing the earnings of men from 1 anna 6 pie to 1 anna 5 pie or 1 anna 4 pie, and what with deductions for short work, and the "customary tribute" to the gangsmen, there is reason to fear that in a very large proportion of cases the labourers do not get anything like the whole of the reduced wage.

Sir Richard Temple has, however, made a most important concession to the famine labourers in consequence of my protest, and if no other good has resulted, I feel bound to thank him for the consideration given to the last paragraph of my letter, in which I pointed out that a man must *eat*, even if we give him no *work* on Sundays, and that a subsistence wage ought not to be shared with young children. Practically, there is now very little difference between Sir Richard Temple's wage rate and my own recommendations. I have contended, and given reasons for considering, that the basis of a pound of grain for a labouring man was unsafe, especially when that wage was paid only for six days in the week, and when helpless children had to share in the food. Sir Richard Temple admits the weakness of this portion of his scheme, and by conceding additional help to feed the young, has of point in fact yielded all that I felt justified in urging.

According to my observation, though the ordinary wage rate of 2 annas, 1–6 and 1 anna, for men, women, and children respectively, may in some districts be too little to procure a sufficiency of nourishing food to keep up health, yet in times like these the people are ready enough to work for wages cheerfully and with a good heart, getting payment for and doing work only on six days in the week. Whatever deficiencies in their food there may be, they supplement in their own fashion by using articles that, though not in general use, may help at a pinch to sustain life, such as the seeds of the

bamboo, tamarind, &c., the pith of the aloe plant, and certain jungle leaves like the *Sethiæ Indica*.

The reduced scale of wages. Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

The actual wage receipts of a family of man, wife, and four children, on the old and amended new scale of wages is given below :—

Ordinary Scale.

		Rs.	A. P.
Man - - - - -	6 days at 2 annas	0	12 2
Woman - - - - -	„ 1½ „	0	9 0
Two children - - - - -	„ 1 „	0	12 0
Two children under 7 years of age			—
Total per week - - -		2	1 0

Sir Richard Temple's Amended Scale.

		Rs.	A. P.
Man - - - - -	7 days at 1½ annas	0	10 6
Woman - - - - -	„ 1¼ „	0	8 9
Two children - - - - -	„ ¾ „	0	10 6
Two children below 7 years, relief grant	¼ „	0	3 6
Total per week - - -		2	1 3

From this comparison it will be seen that in the case of a man with a family of four children, two of whom are workers and two non-workers, he is actually better off by 3 pie per week under Sir Richard Temple's modified reduced wage than he was when working six days in the week for ordinary wages. Mr. West, C.E., in charge of the Cheyar Embankment Works, informs me that to meet the views of the district authorities and to avoid the appearance of competition in the labour market, he has reduced his rates from the ordinary 2 annas to the modified scale of Sir Richard Temple's, and paid for the Sundays, and that practically his disbursements per head average just the same as before.

The great financial saving therefore of over so many lakhs of rupees is not likely to accrue from the introduction of the new scale of wage. It has given intense dissatisfaction to the labouring people, who could not, or would not, comprehend its terms ; it has opened the door for abuses of various kinds, and it has not tended to economy in disbursements.

In some gangs near Cuddapah the other day I saw several women labourers encumbered by three or four children under age, who had been brought to secure the pittance granted under the recent modification of the rules. These children are of course much exposed all day, and distract the mother's attention from her work. The present system can be good neither for the mother nor the children, nor is it economical to the Government, according to the experience of Mr. West, who has tried both systems, and according to the typical case I have given.

Sir Richard Temple asks if I will admit that a pound of grain a day is sufficient to maintain an adult Native of India in a " state of rest." In reply, I have to state that I do not know of any cereal grain which would give a sufficiency of albuminous matter in a pound weight to replace the daily waste of nitrogen from the adult Native body, and consequently I am unable to admit any such proposition. The " evidence " adduced by Sir Richard Temple in regard to this matter is in reality no evidence at all. Sir Richard says that in the Vellore relief camp Dr. Fox and Captain Harris were agreed that men had so improved on 1 lb. of grain, but when I came to inquire into this matter I found that the " evidence " rested on general impressions, and not on periodical weighing and individual record of weight from time to time.

Even in the " weight test " some caution is necessary, for many of the people who come into camps appear to be filling out and fattening, when in reality they are getting dropsical and in a fair way to die. I can easily understand that the people in the Vellore camp did better on 1 lb. of grain per diem than they did on 12 ounces, which was the scale in use until a few weeks ago, when Dr. Fox urged an increase.

I have thought it safer and more prudent in this matter to fall back on our experience in dieting non-labouring prisoners, and to recommend 20 ounces or 1¼ lbs. of cereal grain besides dhall, vegetables, condiments, &c. for adults fed in relief camps, and this allowance is now sanctioned by Government, and should be, I think, a minimum allowance, considering how much tissue these poor creatures have to repair before they can be brought into a state to do a day's work.

The reduced scale of wages. Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

In a paper recently brought to my notice by Surgeon-General G. Smith, I find that at Nellore, Surgeon-Major A. M. Ross has been weighing coolies on relief works, and that their average weight is below that of average "under trial" prisoners in jail. Thus—

In Jail.

Men.	Women.	Children.
109·1 lbs.	92·3 lbs.	70 lbs.

Relief Works.

94·3 lbs.	77·6 lbs.	46 lbs.

These weights appear to indicate much wasting, but the weighings will be continued and reported on from week to week.

In the last paragraph of his minute of the 7th March, Sir Richard Temple states his belief that the labouring poor in Madras in rural localities can hardly get more than 1 lb. of grain a day for a male adult in ordinary times. The inquiries on which this belief is founded were made, I apprehend, by Sir Richard Temple himself in the course of his rapid journeys through the country.

But I would submit to any impartial person whether inquiries made in this way to satisfy a foregone conclusion can be compared in value with the careful statistical inquiry undertaken calmly and deliberately in the years 1862 and 1863, and which inquiry furnished the basis for all our subsequent arrangements in the dieting of the people under circumstances where they cannot have any voice in the choice of their own food. Most people in India are acquainted with the sort of answers a high official personage will get in reply to leading questions, and if Sir Richard Temple thinks he has got at the truth in this matter, I can assure him, after a close practical study of the food of the people of Southern India for the last 15 years, that he is utterly and entirely mistaken, and that so far from the labouring adults living upon a pound a day, they eat on the average nearly double.

The following is what I wrote on this subject 15 years ago. With my great opportunities of inquiry in regard to the civil population, jails, hospitals, soldiers' rations, &c., during the past 15 years, I have nothing to add or alter.

"A free labourer, if he has the means, will use from 32 to 40 ounces of cereal grain (cholum, cumboo, ragi, or rice), about 2 or 3 ounces of dhall, a similar quantity of meat, or fish, and fruits or vegetables in addition.

"From numerous personal inquiries I should be inclined to reckon the average consumption of cereal grain per diem of an adult labouring man is rather under than above 30 ounces.

"The greater variety of food and its more liberal use by the free population depends very much upon the means of the individual, as well as upon the supply of food in the district. In times of famine and drought, after repeated failure of crops, the quantities of grain given as the probable daily consumption of a healthy man would be very much reduced, and in such seasons the jail diet would be superior to that of the greater number of the labouring poor. This is still too often the case. In years of scarcity grain robberies and petty thefts are very prevalent, and many of these offences are committed with the express object of securing the jail rations as a remedy against starvation. At such times the want of due nourishment is painfully evident in the attenuated bodies of the poor. Many die from the immediate effects of starvation, while the great bulk of those who live to struggle against famine have the vital powers so reduced that they are predisposed to suffer from the ravages of cholera and fever. The connexion between famine and pestilence, the following of the latter in the wake of the former, has received many a practical illustration in the 'records of Indian history within the present century.'"—(*Cornish on Food and Prison Dietaries, Madras Medical Journal, Vol. VIII., page* 83.)

I now come to the consideration of Sir Richard Temple's second minute of the 14th March, in which he enters upon the scientific questions involved in my objections to his diet scale.

In this minute Sir Richard Temple observes, paragraph 6:—"The opinion that one "pound a day of grain might suffice for a relief labourer, together with some allowance "for condiments and the like, or some nutritious substance, was not indeed based on "scientific theory. It was founded rather on probabilities practically deduced from the "condition of the poorer classes in ordinary times, and on the results of general "experience."

The reduced scale of wages. Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

I think it would have been more to the point if Sir Richard Temple had given something a little more precise than the vague term "general experience." I may ask, in return, whose experience? Not Sir Richard Temple's, surely; for in 1874 he assures us that the people in Bengal habitually use from 1 to 2 seers of grain (2 to 4 lbs.) per adult, and that even the people in relief houses, doing no work, got $\frac{2}{3}$ of a seer ($1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.). Sir Richard Temple records nothing of his travels in Bombay showing that the people on relief works there lived on a pound of grain a day. It was only on his arrival in the Bellary district that he evolved this strange doctrine, that a Madrasee could do what the people in no other part of India can,—thrive on 16 ozs. of cereal grain a day.

I know of no other "general experience" bearing on this question and favourable to Sir Richard Temple's view. Sir Richard Temple appears to consider Sir Robert Christison's opinion to be entitled to a respectful hearing, and I may therefore be allowed to make a further quotation from that venerable and accomplished author's remarks on the diet of the British soldier during the Crimean war.

"Experience has shown that the most successful dietaries for bodies of men, deduced from practical observation, contain carboniferous nitrogenous food in the proportion of about three of the former to one of the latter by weight. During 22 years that my attention has been turned to the present subject, not a single exception has occurred to me.

"Hence it is obvious that the least weight of food in the rough state will be required, first, when there is the least moisture and cellulose tissue in it, and, secondly, when the carboniferous and nitrogenous principles are nearest the proportion of three to one.

"Of the various nutritive principles belonging to each set, some may replace one another; some are better than others; some are probably essential.

"Two things, however, are certain, that nitrogenous may replace carboniferous food for supporting respiration, though at a great loss, but that carboniferous food (without nitrogen) *cannot replace nitrogenous food for repairing textural waste.*

"Dietaries are never to be estimated by the rough weight of their constituents, without distinct reference to the real nutriment in them as determined by physiological and chemical inquiry."

Keeping these principles in view, and with the help of a simple table it is not difficult to fix the dietary advisable for any body of men, according to their occupation. It is also, in general, easy to detect the source of error in unsuccessful dietaries. For example, any scientific person conversant with the present subject could have foretold as a certain consequence sooner or later of their dietary, that the British troops would have fallen into the calamitous state of health which befel them during their last winter in the Crimea.*

Remarks of this nature, from so eminent an authority as Sir R. Christison, ought to make unskilled constructors of dietaries in famine times somewhat modest in respect to their knowledge. It should make them especially cautious in the enunciation of new and strange doctrines, such as "that the amount of nitrogen required by Natives must be "much less than that required by Europeans" (paragraph II. of minute).

This is really the crucial test of the whole question, and I am afraid it cannot be definitely settled on the *ipse dixit* of Sir Richard Temple. In the scientific world we are accustomed to ask that any one bringing forward a new theory shall state the facts on which his theory is based; and in this case it would be quite fair to ask Sir Richard Temple whether by himself, or with professional aid, he has endeavoured to test his theory by estimating and measuring the amount of nitrogen which Natives of ordinary size and weight eliminate from their bodies. The investigation is one of, by no means, a difficult character, and no one has any right to bring forward such a theory in proof of the sufficiency of a scale of food without first ascertaining, by repeated investigation and experiment, that the nitrogen excreted by Natives is proportionately less than in Europeans. The consequences of our accepting such a theory, without the clearest and plainest proof, might be most disastrous, and the *onus probandi* remains with the originator of the theory.

I almost wish, in regard to Sir Richard Temple's reputation as a gentleman of many and varied accomplishments, that he had spared me the difficulty of dealing with his "crucial tests" in paragraphs 11 and 12, as regards the alleged discrepancies in theory and practice as to the amount of nitrogen necessary to a successful dietary. It is not a pleasant thing for one in my position to point out errors of comprehension on Sir Richard Temple's part; but however painful the operation, it must be done. Sir Richard Temple quotes from the *Madras Manual of Hygiene*, a work of admitted excellence, by

* Observations on a report by Sir J. McNeill, relative to rations for soldiers.

The reduced scale of wages. Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

Surgeon-Major H. King, M.B., the composition of a scale of rations allowed to Native soldiers on foreign service. He points out very truly that these rations while yielding an abundance of carboniferous food (32 ounces of rice), are very defective in nitrogenous principles, the whole weight of food in fact yielding only 178 grains of nitrogen per diem. "According to this theory," observes Sir Richard Temple, "the Madras sepoy "would be undergoing starvation at the hands of the Government. But, in fact, he is "not so reduced physically, nor does he fail the Government when it calls upon him "for exertion. This case, I submit, makes very strongly against Dr. Cornish's theory."

I have no excuse to make for this dietary of our Native soldiers on foreign service. I gave it up 15 years ago, and recorded my opinion of it in the following terms:—

"The deficiency of animal food in the diet, and the excess of carboniferous material, is undoubtedly a fertile source of the prevalence of sickness in Native troops on foreign service. The mortality of Madras troops on this diet in Burma is more than double what occurs in Indian stations, where they find their own food."*

The foreign service "ration" in fact is a "survival" from the time of the first Burmese war. It was framed in times long before sanitary commissioners or chemists learned in food composition existed; and at the present time it is no more to be regarded as a typical "diet" than are the buttons on the backs of our dress coats to be regarded as a device for supporting a sword-belt. The ration is simply an "aid" to the soldiers employed in a foreign country, and the men are put under no stoppages whatever on account of it, but draw the full pay of their rank, just as if they had to find every particle of food out of their pay. If the relief coolies in whose behalf I have protested had seven or nine rupees a month in addition to the pound of grain, I should have made no objections to the insufficiency of their rations.

The Government expect, in these settled times, with the Burmese markets well supplied with poultry, eggs, fish, and flesh, that the sepoy can buy his nitrogenous food for himself, and practically he does so to such an extent that of late years the troops stationed in Burma have been almost as healthy as when in Southern India.

But there are and have been exceptions. I need not go back to the very terrible mortality of Native troops from bowel complaints in the first and second Burmese wars. These things are matters of history, but no later than the year 1872 a detachment of Native troops was sent from Burma to occupy posts on the Arracan River in co-operation with the Lushai Expedition.

In this locality the men had no market at hand in which to buy animal food, and in attempting to live on their "rations," they sickened and died in large numbers. The proportions are given in the margin.

Strength	- 184
Hospital admissions	901
Deaths - -	27, 12 from "dropsy," 5 "debility."

Ratios of Sick to Strength per Mille.	Deaths.
4896·7	146·7

In this case, and in all others demanding active service away from markets of supply, the Native soldier on foreign service *does*, in fact, "fail to do what the Government want of him," and simply because his "rations" are unfitted of themselves to support his health and strength. The fact is acknowledged and admitted by every officer who has commanded in Burma, and I did not at all overstate the case 15 years ago when I reported to Government as follows:—

"I have not entered into the question as to the propriety of revising the ration list of sepoys on foreign service, or of effecting changes in civil hospital diets, or of the sufficiency of the food laid down by law for emigrants from British India to the Colonies, all of which dietaries are unscientific in composition, and there need be little hesitation in stating, unfitted to support life. The whole of these dietaries require revision."†

Then again the "rations" of the European soldier do not, as Sir Richard Temple supposes, constitute his whole food.

Every commanding officer knows that the British soldier habitually buys extra meat from the bazaar out of his ample pay, and there is no regiment in the country which has not a provision shop of its own in which anything, from a Yarmouth bloater to a truffled sausage, may be bought. The rations on the whole are very fairly adapted for the British soldier, although there is no doubt that he eats more meat than the quantity contained in the ration.

In the calculation of the component parts of this dietary in the Madras Manual of Hygiene, I see that the nutritive value of the 1 lb. of vegetables has been put down as if all the vegetables were of the cabbage or soft kind, "whereas potatoes form usually one "half of the vegetable ration of the soldier."

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* Madras Medical Journal, Volume VIII., page 30.

† Madras Medical Journal, Food and Prison Dietaries, Volume VIII., page 56.

The reduced scale of wages. Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

No calculation, moreover, has been made of the nutritive value of the malt liquor or spirit he consumes.

The proportions of albuminous to carboniferous food in the official ration are about one to four.

Sir Richard Temple has made a mistake as to soldiers "in garrison" receiving a "reduced diet."

They do nothing of the kind, but European soldiers "in prison" do receive, when sentenced for short periods, a punitive diet which has no bearing whatever on the question of the insufficiency of albuminous food in a pound of grain to keep an adult Native in health.

I must confess that I was a little staggered by Sir Richard Temple's quotation of the scale of food allowed to "European soldiers on board ship." I was travelling at the time of receiving the minute, and away from all books of reference, so that I could not verify the composition of the diet, as given in the *Madras Manual of Hygiene*, but I knew that this diet had been framed under the advice of scientific men, and that it was not likely to err in the direction of giving too little nitrogenous food, and I was quite satisfied that some error had crept into the calculations, and that Sir Richard Temple had pitched upon this "crucial instance" without thought of the possible inaccuracy of the figures.

The explanation of the calculated quantity of nitrogen in this diet being only 155 grains per day is very simple. The diets which are valued in the appendix to the *Madras Manual of Hygiene* are all taken from the Madras Medical Code. The quantities of this particular diet will be found in the Code, page 133, Vol. II. The transcriber instead of entering 4 lbs. or 64 oz. "fresh bread" for a week's ration, has made the mistake of entering 4 oz., and, as a consequence, all the calculations of albuminous and carboniferous food are below the actual truth.

There is also another error. The calculator of the nutritive values has assumed that "salt meat" contains less albumen than fresh, and has put down a less proportion of nitrogen for the salt meat; but this is not really the case, though in salt meat the albuminous matter may be less easily digested. The effect of salting meat is to harden the albuminous tissues, and to cause the watery juices of the meat to enter the brine; consequently salt meat has more albumen in a given weight than fresh, or preserved, meat.

On the whole, I consider the ship-board dietary of the European soldier, containing as it does, according to my calculation, from 200 to 240 grains of nitrogen per diem, very well suited for a class of people who have nothing whatever to do.

Sir Richard Temple says the British soldier is not reduced by a diet containing 155 grains of nitrogen, and the answer to this statement is that the British soldier is never put on any such diet, and that the figures on which Sir Richard Temple rest his "crucial instance" are wholly wrong, partly from a clerical error of the transcriber and partly from the mistake in estimating the albuminous matter in the salt meat of the ship-board ration.

It follows, therefore, that all Sir Richard Temple's surmises on the hypothesis that 155 grains of nitrogen is enough for a British soldier fall to the ground, and this part of the question need scarcely be noticed further.

I feel bound, however, to protest against the line of argument advanced by Sir Richard Temple that, as the British soldier only needs so much nitrogenous food, the Native of India can do with two-thirds of that amount or less. We have no grounds whatever for admitting so dangerous a theory, and all our practical experience tells just the other way.

In the *Indian Annals of Medical Science*, Vol. III., 1855, Mr. Strong gives some very remarkable tables showing the influence of a change of diet in the Alipore jail. A Magistrate in charge *thought* that the prisoners were being too well treated, and so abandoned a scale of food, which had been sanctioned by the Medical Board, and which had kept the prisoners in health, for a dietary of his own devising. The change consisted chiefly in knocking off the meat, reducing the grain allowance, and obliging the prisoners to consume what they had in a single meal. The result of this amateur tampering with the food of the people was an increase in mortality from an average of 42·4 per thousand to 117·5 per thousand in the three years during which the "experiment" was in force. The constituents of this dietary gave about 19 parts of carboniferous food to $1\frac{1}{2}$ of nitrogenous!

The late Mr. Bedford of the Bengal Medical Service records a similar increase of mortality dependent on a change of food in the Rajshaye jail in 1852–53. In this case several months elapsed before the bowel sickness began to appear, but the result was a trebling of the annual mortality.

The reduced scale of wages. Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

The effect of improving the standard of diets in the Madras jails in 1867, so as to raise the amount of albuminous food equal to from 200 to 240 grains of nitrogen per diem, has been to diminish the mean annual death-rate from 107 to about 22 per thousand for the eight years in which the new dietaries have been in force.*

This ought to be fairly convincing testimony, but there is more behind. A few years ago, a jail superintendent, who had been admonished by Government for over much flogging, was requested to adopt some other mode of punishment, and the punishment book showed, in the course of a few months, some hundreds of entries to this effect: "Half "rations until he completes his task." The result was great increase of sickness and mortality from the diseases such as now fill our famine camps, viz., sloughing ulcers, bowel complaints, dropsy, and impoverished blood. On discontinuing the food punishment the mortality began slowly to subside to its normal proportions. So close is the connexion in fact between a sufficiency of nitrogenous food and health of the prisoners, that I never now hear of an increase of bowel disorders and dropsies in a jail, without at once suspecting tampering with the food, or privation in the district furnishing prisoners. In talking the matter over with the Inspector-General of Prisons, I find that he has arrived at precisely the same conclusion. After the Bengal famine I see it noted that the rate of mortality in the Julpigori jail was 27 per cent. chiefly from "bowel complaints." In Rungpore 17·6 per cent. In Gya, Tirhoot, and Chumparun the mortality was 17, 10, and 15 per cent. respectively. "Dysentery was the most fatal disease." The precis-writer who compiles the sanitary statistics of the India Office does not appear to have had a notion of the connexion of the undue jail mortality with the famine, but notes that a "special report has been called for" to explain it.† Reading between the lines I can at once tell him that it was a mortality from starvation diseases.

With all these facts before me I think myself quite justified in having given early warning of the danger of reducing wages to the basis of 1 lb. of cereal grain a day, even admitting that my remonstrance was, as Sir Richard Temple states, "strongly worded." It saves time to state in plain terms one's actual meaning, and my meaning was quite evident when I showed that Sir Richard Temple's proposals were out of harmony with the experience of the Bengal famine, and with our actual knowledge of the effects of insufficient food.

There remains yet one more point to be noticed with reference to differences of opinion in regard to the present condition of the labouring poor. On this point Sir Richard Temple states: — "Having carefully inspected during my tour in this presidency "thousands of relief labourers, I give it as my opinion that with very few exceptions, "which are not as a rule traceable to insufficient wages, the general physical condition "of the labourers is as good now as in ordinary years."

This is Sir Richard Temple's opinion, but not mine. I too have seen a considerable number of relief labourers, and have taken some pains to find out where the distress really is, and my experience is this, that if I want to see the darkest side of the famine picture, I must look for it elsewhere than amongst the ranks of those who have still strength enough left them to work. Consequently I make a point of examining, wherever I can, the condition of the people fed in relief houses, lungerkhanas, and by private charity. I try to ascertain the condition of the poor who frequent the public bazaars and markets; and I pay special attention to the condition of the old and the young, whom I find almost invariably to be the earliest victims to distress. It is in this respect probably that my estimate of the effects of the famine on the health of the lower classes differs so widely from Sir Richard Temple's. My view is briefly this, that the famine is pressing with peculiar severity upon certain sections of the labouring classes who average from 20 to 30 per cent. of the population of the several districts, that amongst these classes there has been already a very large mortality, primarily due to bad and insufficient feeding, and that the condition of the survivors is in many cases critical in the extreme, as shown by the rapidly increasing proportion of persons who are unfit to work, and who have to be fed entirely at Government expense to keep the feeble vitality they have from being altogether extinguished.

Immediately the condition of a people becomes so low that they cannot work, the question of saving life becomes enormously complicated, and in plain language the time has then passed by when Government relief can do more than attempt to rescue a few possessed of the strongest constitutions. What has been our experience in this respect in the Madras relief camps, and in the camps now being established throughout the

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* See paper—"Sanitary Improvements in Indian Jails." Transactions, Social Science Association for 1875.
† Report of Sanitary Measures in India, Volume VIII., page 10.

country? Sir Richard Temple, I observe, in his numerous minutes has passed by this subject of the actual mortality of the famine stricken, but as a public health official I am bound to take notice of it.

The reduced scale of wages. Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

The following figures show the mortality amongst this class of the population in the Madras camps for 10 weeks ending 31st March :—

Mean strength.	Total deaths.	Annual ratio per mille.
11,005	1,971	930·8

This enormous mortality simply means an annual death-rate equivalent to 930·8 per mille of the population constantly under observation, and, in fact, is a death-rate which wipes out nearly the whole of the living within a year. The excessive death-rate going on in Madras is going on in every relief camp in the country. I find but little difference in the proportion of deaths, whether in North Arcot, Cuddapah, or Madras. And it must not be supposed that this excessive death-rate is due to cholera or small-pox, for the Madras camps have been singularly free of the former, and by means of vaccination the small-pox epidemic has been controlled. The deaths are almost entirely due to diseases which invariably, in India, attack under-fed and starved people, viz., extreme wasting of tissue, and destruction of the lining membrane of the lower bowel. This is a simple statement of fact. Thanks to the assistance of Surgeon-General G. Smith and his able medical staff in Madras, this question of the nature of the famine disease has been abundantly verified by post-mortem examinations. Surgeon-Major Porter informs me that the average weight of bodies of full grown men he has examined has varied from 57 to 85 lbs., and it is enough to record this fact to show the extreme wasting going on during life.

But if the condition of the labouring classes is so generally satisfactory to Sir Richard Temple, how is it, I may ask, that the death returns of the famine districts are so much above what is usual? I have not as yet received the returns for February, but those for December and January are available for comparison with the average results of the previous five years. I must, however, note with respect to these district death returns that from personal investigation in the districts, I know they very much understate the real mortality of the last few months. The truth is, the famine has disorganised our village establishments to such an extent that the actual numbers who have already perished will never be known. Hundreds and thousands of people have died away from their homes, have fallen down by the roadsides, and their bodies have been left to be eaten by dogs and jackals. Mr. Gribble, the Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, in the course of a morning's ride of 14 miles, came upon eight unburied bodies, and at Royachoti in January last Mr. Supervisor Mathews informed me that after an outbreak of cholera 53 dead bodies lay for days exposed in the dry bed of a river, near the works the relief coolies were engaged on. Walking over this ground two months after the event, the numerous skulls and human bones scattered on the surface convinced me that the statement was founded on fact.

With our village establishments panic-stricken and the village messengers away at relief works, it is quite certain that the death registration has been most incomplete. At Maddanapully I found that the deaths in the civil hospital had exceeded those borne on the village register for certain months, and at Royachoti the deaths amongst the starving people sent in to the relief shed in March had exceeded the registered mortality for the whole town. It is obvious therefore that the figures I now give do not represent the real truth of our losses; they are at the best approximative only.

MORTALITY in FAMINE DISTRICTS.

Districts.	Chingleput.	Nellore.	North Arcot.	Kurnool.	Cuddapah.	Bellary.
Population	938,184	1,376,811	2,015,278	914,432	1,351,194	1,668,006
			Registered deaths.			
Average of 5 years ending 1875 { December	1,892	2,007	3,445	1,420	2,336	2,585
Average of 5 years ending 1875 { January	1,404	1,794	3,943	1,371	1,933	2,253
Present season { December 1876	2,865	5,641	6,006	11,862	6,612	7,440
Present season { January 1877	6,094	11,142	13,686	6,253	13,361	9,361
Ratio per 1,000 *of Population per Annum.*						
Average of 5 years (2 months)	21·08	16·6	21·9	18·3	18·9	17·4
Present season (2 months)	57·2	73·7	58·7	118·8	88·7	60·4

The reduced scale of wages. Dr. Cornish in reply to Sir Richard Temple.

Even these figures, which we know to be under the truth, show an appalling mortality in the famine districts during December and January. I have no reason to suppose that the state of things here indicated has much improved in February and March. But in our municipal towns, or in some of them at least within the famine area, death registration is more efficiently managed, and the following figures will tend to show the gravity of famine, as exemplified in an abnormal death-rate. In Bellary I have long had reason to suppose that the registration was not properly done, and the returns of some of the Bellary municipalities are obviously imperfect. The first thing that attracted my attention in connexion with the famine, on returning to duty in the end of January, was the abnormal death-rate amongst certain classes and certain localities of the presidency town, and I lost no time in drawing the attention of Government to the condition of the people, and suggesting measures for combating the great destruction of life then going on. While the mortality of the presidency town was exaggerated by the influx of starving immigrants, the experience of other municipalities shows that throughout the famine tract the death rate has risen out of all proportion to its normal condition.

MORTALITY in the MUNICIPALITIES of the FAMINE DISTRICTS.

Municipal Towns.		Madras.	Conjeveram.	Nellore.	Vellore.	Wallajapet.	Kurnool.	Cuddapah.	Bellary.	Adoni.	Gooty.	Anantapur.
Population		397,552	37,327	29,929	38,022	12,103	25,579	16,225	51,766	22,723	6,730	4,918
					Registered deaths.							
Average of 5 years ending 1875	December	1,211	65	53	84	41	71	50	77	69	9	7
	January	1,260	65	37	81	30	73	55	57	47	10	8
	February	1,100	65	38	80	26	60	40	53	51	9	4
Present season	1876, December	2,034	96	127	89	48	376	83	192	446	127	11
	1877, January	4,059	367	169	146	66	147	82	114	180	24	9
	„ February	4,401	87	288	215	41	171	92	127	278	6	27
Ratio per 1,000 *of Population per Annum.*												
Average of 5 years (3 months)		35·9	20·8	17·1	28·4	32·0	31·9	35·6	14·4	29·3	16·9	15·4
Present season (3 months)		105·5	58·7	78·06	47·3	51·2	108·5	63·1	33·4	159·1	93·3	38·2

The famine so far has already fallen very heavily on the old, the weakly constitutioned, and young children. It is still "weeding out" from our labouring classes a large number of victims, and in consideration of the fact that diseased conditions dependent on sufficient food *follow many months after the cause has passed away*, I apprehend that a heavy and unusual mortality will continue even after the period of drought and dearth of food has ended.

The survivors of the famine will be the strongest and best fitted of their race to continue the species, and when plenty again blesses the land they will produce a vigorous race of descendants; but I think there can be no reasonable doubt that this food deficiency has fallen very heavily upon the ordinary agricultural labouring poor, and that many years must elapse before they will have made up the numbers who have fallen, and are still falling, victims to the combined famine and pestilence now in our midst. I have in former reports called attention to the fact that the children born of famine-stricken mothers are nothing but skin and bone. My recent experience goes to show that the birth-rate is seriously diminishing, and that pregnancy amongst the distressed women is becoming a rare condition.

It is on these grounds that I cannot subscribe to the pleasing and hopeful telegrams in which Sir Richard Temple summarises the weekly progress of events for the benefit of the Home Government and the English people. There are two sides to every picture. Sir Richard Temple, like a skilful general commanding in battle, naturally fixes his attention on the main points of attack and defence, and so long as these are safe, his main work is accomplished.

I on the other hand as a public health official, whose special duty it is to preserve life, am bound to listen to the cries of the wounded, and to note in what way the combatants suffer, and I should be wanting in my duty to myself, and to the Government I serve, if I failed to state the facts coming to my knowledge, and the deduction drawn from those facts.

No. 210.

No. 172, dated Bangalore, 7th April 1877. No. 221.

From the Secretary to Sir Richard Temple to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

By direction of Sir Richard Temple, I have the honour to submit copy of the paper marginally noted, regarding the supply of grain from Central India to the northern districts of Madras. No. 193.

Memorandum by Captain Bisset on his visit to Bombay and the Nagpore district of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Grain supply from Central India to Madras.

2. From Captain Bisset's narrative Sir Richard Temple learns that there is no reason to anticipate failure of the grain supplies from Nagpore and the Berars; that much of the grain from those quarters is at present despatched to Bombay, probably for shipment to the western ports; and that an increase in the despatches to the Deccan and to the ceded districts of Madras will occur as soon as a change in prices shows the need for a larger supply.

3. I am to express Sir Richard Temple's satisfaction with the promised provision of Great Indian Peninsula waggons to expedite the movement of grain to the south. He anticipates that, with the facilities thus given, the supplies to the chief grain markets of the ceded districts will be fully equal to the demands from the interior.

No. 211.

Extract from a Letter from the Acting Secretary to Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company to the Consulting Engineer for Railways, No. 4,245, dated 7th April 1877. Nos. 250. 256.

The following extract from the "Times of India" for the 7th March, giving extracts from the proceedings at a meeting of the Port Trustees, held in Bombay on the 1st March 1877, has reference to the statement that the dealers at Cawnpore were encouraged to send traffic to Howrah rather than to Bombay, viz.:— Traffic arrangements of East Indian Railway detrimental to grain traffic.

> Submitted report by Traffic Manager, dated 6th February, on his visit to Delhi, Cawnpore, Lucknow, and other places, made in order to draw additional grain traffic to the Port Trust sidings. * * The report having been circulated to the Trustees, it was further suggested by some of them that the Traffic Manager's statement that Calcutta merchants get waggons for their goods on the East Indian line more easily than Bombay merchants, should be communicated to the Chamber of Commerce.

I have no doubt that the East Indian have had many difficulties to contend with in dealing with the unusual and sudden increase of traffic on their line, but in the interest not only of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, but also of the public, I have felt it only right to protest against the stoppage of through booking.

* * * * * *

In continuation of the letter above quoted, Mr. Conder, under date 6th instant, writes to the Acting Agent as follows:—

"With reference to paragraph 7 of my lettter, No. 1,047, of the 4th instant, I have since that letter was written received a letter of the same date from Mr. Lang, of Messrs. Finlay, Scott, and Company, in which the following statement is made, being an extract from a letter dated the 2nd April, written by Mr. Fernly, the agent of that firm at Jubbulpore, namely,—

"'Both Mr. Batchelor and Mr. Carter gave me distinctly to understand that they would never put themselves out to furnish vehicles for Bombay from stations like Kutni, the distance, 56 miles, before reaching the Great Indian Peninsula, 56 miles being too small to benefit their line much.'

"I have again to lay my plan before you of sending goods to Calcutta. From Sutna to Calcutta I could send 10,000 bags away in a month easily. At present I have considerable stock there. The gates are closed and likely to be for some time as far as Great Indian Peninsula traffic is concerned."

I think these statements show that the East Indian are encouraging traffic for Calcutta rather than dealing with all traffic in the strictly impartial way which is claimed for them, or at least mentioned as being maintained by them, in Lieutenant Scott's note to which the letter quoted above is a reply.

And they involve serious loss to this Company by diversion of traffic.

No. 212.

No. 221. XCVIII.—MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE on the administration of relief works by Public Works Department officers in the Salem district, dated Salem, the 10th April 1877.

Administration of relief work in Salem district by Public Works Department.

In my minute dated the 29th March I invited the consideration of the Madras Government to the desirability of employing in the Bellary and Kurnool districts a certain proportion of the relief labourers on works supervised and directed by Public Works Department officers, who could exact from the labourers adequate tasks. And I indicated certain works on which this plan might at once be tried.

2. On revisiting the Salem district, I find that the procedure which I recommended for Bellary and Kurnool had already been adopted in Salem. Out of the 47,000 relief labourers in the district of Salem, about 25,000 are employed on 398 large and small works under the Public Works Department. Most of these works are irrigation tanks, which must be repaired sooner or later, and on which much excellent work will have been done this year. The labourers are employed on piece-works, at a rate of 2 annas per cubic yard, as compared with $1\frac{3}{4}$ annas which is paid in ordinary years. Mr. Norfor, Range officer, finds that on some of his works the people earned at these rates—

In the month of February.				In the month of March.		
0	2	2	for each adult man - - -	0	1	10
0	1	4	for each woman - - -	0	1	2
0	0	9	for each child - - - -	0	0	8

3. The Engineer officers do not seem to have succeeded in opening so many works in the more distressed taluk of Dharampooree as elsewhere. All labourers are admitted to the Public Works Department undertakings, who are willing to work at the present rates; and no inquiry is made as to the applicants being in absolute need. Relief labourers moreover are not, save in the case of about 6,000 labourers on works in December last, handed over by the Civil officers to the Engineering officers, as recommended should be done in Bellary and Kurnool. But there is apparently no reason to fear that relief is being given unnecessarily on the Engineers' works; for the officers in charge report that the condition of the labourers is generally poor when they come on the works. And there is no risk of the Civil and Engineering officers competing with each other for labour, as no Civil relief works are opened in the neighbourhoods served by the works under Engineering supervision.

4. I lay this account of Salem relief works before the Madras Government, because the system, which works well in Salem, would succeed in Bellary and Kurnool, where professionally supervised works are most urgently required.

No. 213.

No. 264. No. 20 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 12th April 1877.

Owing to the pressure of legislative business in the week before last, and the movement of the Government to this place during last week, we have been unable during the last fortnight to send to your Lordship the usual weekly Despatch regarding the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay. We have, however, kept you informed by telegraph of the principal facts which have come under our notice during the period in question.

2. We now enclose copies of minutes recorded by Sir Richard Temple on the following subjects:—

No. 176. 1st. The present condition of relief operations in Kurnool.

No. 178. 2nd. The expediency of repairing the Begum Talao, a tank near the ruined city of Beejapoor in the Kaládgi district of the Bombay Presidency.

Nos. 182-6. 3rd. The recent course and present state of relief operations in the Bombay Presidency, as ascertained on the occasion of Sir Richard Temple's late visit to that Presidency.

No. 187. 4th. The physical condition of the gangs inspected by Sir Richard Temple in the districts of Sholapur, Kaládgi, Poona, and Ahmednagar.

5th. The question of suspending, instead of wholly remitting, the demand for land revenue on unirrigated land in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency with reference to an observation contained in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 6th March on this subject. No. 191.

6th. The expediency of further utilising the agency of the Department of Public Works in exacting task-work from the relief labourers employed in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. No. 192.

3. Copies of the following papers are also enclosed:—

A letter from Mr. Bernard, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding a misapprehension which appears to have been entertained with reference to the views of the Collector of the Chingleput district on the subject of remissions of land revenue. Nos. 130. 160. 173. 189.

A memorandum by Dr. Harvey, lately employed as medical officer on Sir Richard Temple's staff, on the physical condition of the people in the distressed districts of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. No. 188.

Two telegrams from Sir Richard Temple, dated the 4th and 6th instant, already embodied in the weekly telegraphic summaries. Nos. 198. 202.

4. The improvement which has taken place in the management of the relief operations in the district of Kurnool is satisfactory, but that district still contrasts unfavourably, both as to the number on the relief works, and as to the number of persons charitably relieved by the State, with the somewhat similarly circumstanced district of Sholapur.

5. We desire to draw your Lordship's attention to the observations contained in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 24th ultimo, on the relief operations in the Bombay Presidency, and to the results which have followed from the closing of large numbers of village works and the enforcement of task-work on the larger public works under professional supervision. Between the 12th January and the 20th March the number of relief labourers had, owing to these measures, been reduced from 331,447 to 209,000. The mode in which this reduction was effected is set forth in the following paragraphs of the minute in question, which also contains an explanation of the circumstances under which the strike occurred, which attracted a good deal of public attention some weeks ago:— Relief operations in Bombay Presidency.

"Although the tendency of our measures has been to transfer large numbers to the public works, still even on these works there has actually been a decrease. This has arisen from the enforcement of the task-work previously ordered. Many persons came to work on task so long as they found it easy, but absented themselves when they found it becoming harder. On the Civil works the manner in which the reduction of numbers occurred was in this wise. The Public Works Department (including its general branch and its special irrigation branch) has been strongly organised with a staff of officers and of trained subordinates in the distressed districts. Professional preparations for public works on a sufficiently large scale, consisting partly of main roads, but chiefly of irrigation reservoirs (tanks), were got ready. To these all applicants (save and except those who appeared to be able to sustain themselves, for a time at least, without Government aid) were admitted. To these also all the labourers who had previously been on village works were drafted, except those who from age, infirmity, or other good cause were unable to go. The able-bodied were informed that they could no longer be employed on the village works; but that employment was available for them on the larger public works; to every person some such work at a reasonable distance was indicated; he was also informed, however, that in event of his refusing this offer he would not be otherwise employed. Very many did in fact refuse, and by so doing virtually discharged themselves from Government relief, thereby affording proof that they were not in real distress and could afford to stay away. Many, however, accepted the offer and are still serving on the public works, proving by their industry and discipline that they really need the support thus obtained.

"The number who discharged themselves from Government relief in the manner above described were about 102,000.* They did, indeed, at first show signs of some method and system in their proceedings. They liked the village works with a lax system from which they had been discharged. They disliked the public works with a strict system to which it was proposed to transfer them. They imagined that by throwing themselves suddenly out of employ, they virtually offered a passive resistance to the orders of Government. Many of them endured more or less of inconvenience and privation in furtherance of a plan whereby they hoped ultimately to regain their position on the easy-going village works. For so favourable an object they deemed that some suffering might be borne. They counted somewhat on exciting the compassion of the

* *i.e.*, difference between 136,000 on 12th January and 34,000 on 12th March as above stated.

Relief operations in Bombay Presidency.

authorities, and still more on arousing fears lest some accidents to human life should occur. They wandered about in bands and crowds seeking for sympathy. They probably did meet with sympathy, indirectly at least, in various quarters. They certainly had leaders both from among their own body and from among the employés, whose vocation had ceased from the contraction or cessation of the village works. Moreover, the village headmen (patels) are, as a class, much opposed to any system of relief works which takes the people away from their homes. This feeling may be natural on their part, but it cannot receive attention when it militates against so important a principle as the application of a definite test to a relief system in time of famine.

"The Local Government, however, did not yield, though it did report the matter to the Government of India, apparently with a view to strengthening the position by eliciting further authoritative declarations. The Government of India, on two occasions, declared in effect that undue concessions must not be made to combinations of workpeople formed with sinister or self-interested objects; and that, although Government was bound to do its utmost to save people from death by starvation, it could not always undertake to save them from death owing to their own obstinacy or misconduct. These views have doubtless helped to guide the thoughts of the people, and to subdue any unreasonable hopes which may have been engendered.

"Of those who thus deserted the relief works some returned to labour when they found resistance unavailing. But many, after wandering about for a short time, settled quietly in their own villages, where they still are (as I have myself seen them in several places) in a condition which, if not good, is yet not reduced. Of these it is thought that many must, ere long, be constrained to apply for relief.

"On the other hand, while severity is deserved by those who try to resist the just efforts for reform and economy in the administration of relief, there are many poor ignorant persons misled by designing leaders. No exertion is spared to induce these misguided persons to accept the reasonable sort of relief which they are believed to need. To the village works only those are admitted who cannot be expected to perform the tasks set on the larger works. It was thought that these works would be more largely attended than they are. The authorities are ready to receive many more if they come, either on existing works, or upon other works which could be immediately opened. These works being of the simplest character can always be opened without any preparation. The gangs which I have inspected are exactly those whom we might expect to find; that is, they are people evidently needing assistance, strong enough to do light work near home, but not strong enough to perform the tasks of the public works.

"For the larger works, as already stated, preparation is always needed. And this preparation has been made in case there should be any accession or influx of numbers as the season advances. After consulting the Public Works authorities, I find that the works now open can accommodate 75,000 additional persons at the shortest notice. Here again, however, the rolls of the workmen do not fill as fast as was expected. Evidently the comparatively strictness of system is acting as a deterrent to keep away all save those who are truly in want."

Credit due to Bombay Government.

6. We consider the Government of Bombay to be entitled to great credit for the firmness and care with which they have dealt with this matter. It is evident that while a very material reduction of expenditure has been effected by the exclusion from the relief works of persons not really in need of relief, every precaution has been and is being taken to afford relief to those who require it. Sir Richard Temple considers that the poorest classes not on relief are generally in tolerable condition, and that while there is much scope for incessant vigilance, every effort has been made to secure it.

"All village headmen have been warned of their duty in this matter; they frequently do give temporary relief on their own responsibility pending orders of relief officers. Lists have been made out in every village of persons likely to come within this category. European officers are posted in each one of the many subdivisions (talukas) of the distressed districts; and they, together with their Native subordinates, are constantly patrolling the villages and seeing whether the village headmen really do bring forward every deserving case or not. In every subdivision (taluka) of every distressed district there is a relief centre for the reception of these cases. The number on charitable relief is large indeed; but looking to the circumstances of the country, I should be glad to see it larger. It is, however, remarkable that many of the destitute poor are reluctant to resort to the poor-house from a feeling of self-respect which is creditable to them.* Here and there, however, I have discovered persons who ought apparently to have come

* Mr. Bernard mentions the case of a woman in the Poona district in the receipt of charitable relief whose son, on his return home at once, and of his own motion, repaid to Government the full amount spent on the relief of his mother during his absence.

under the operations of these rules, and I think that the local officers cannot be too often reminded of these excellent orders."

7. With reference to the allegations which have frequently been made of the occurrence of deaths from starvation, Sir Richard Temple writes as follows:—

"I have not received any trustworthy evidence whatever that any death from starvation occurs or is in danger of occurring in these districts. But I have received much excellent evidence to the effect that nobody is dying or likely to die of this cause. Statements of an opposite description are sometimes made, but they are merely general in their terms, and are manifestly advanced in support of the view that easier terms of relief should be offered to the people. I am unable, however, to discover upon what foundation any statements that the people are starving can possibly rest. If any instance has happened within the last two months, it must be very exceptional. If any instance happens now, it must be owing to some extraordinary conduct on the part of the person concerned, certainly not to any want of means of relief at hand."

The reduced scale of wages.

8. As your Lordship is aware, there has been much discussion and difference of opinion as to the sufficiency of the rate of wages now allowed on the relief works. It will be seen from Sir Richard Temple's telegram of the 6th instant, the text of which was communicated in our last weekly telegram, that Dr. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, who has recently inspected 34,000 relief labourers in the distressed districts of Bombay and Madras, considers that the reduced rate is sufficient to support the labourers in fair condition, provided that care is taken that the individual recipient is the only person supported on it. The opinion formed by Dr. Harvey, though expressed in less positive terms, is to the same effect. The reports made by Dr. Cornish, the Madras Sanitary Commissioner, on his inspection of the north-western portions of the district of North Arcot and of Madanapalli in the subdivision of the district of Cuddapah, to which reference is made in the Despatch addressed by the Madras Government to your Lordship under date the 31st ultimo, and which apparently contain a repetition of the adverse opinion already expressed by Dr. Cornish as to the sufficiency of the reduced rate of wage, have not yet reached us. On the evidence at present before us we are not satisfied that an increase is necessary, provided that due care be taken that the whole of the reduced rate is available for the support of the individual recipient, other arrangements being made for the relief of those members of his family who are unable to work.

9. The following telegram, dated yesterday from Trichinopoly, has been received this day from Sir Richard Temple:—

"Have visited part of Salem district. Am now *en route* to Negapatam to inquire concerning grain traffic thence, which is still very slack. Proceed to North Madura. Good spring showers fallen in Mysore Province, Salem district, and parts of Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, and Tinnevelly. The Cauvery and other rivers in flood. Ploughing in progress wherever rain has fallen, and numbers on relief decreasing in that neighbourhood. Condition of Madura uncertain. In districts above Ghâts number decreasing, Bellary and Cuddapah. This is to be expected as season advances. Import grain trade in that quarter diminishing, which indicates sufficiency of local stocks. Mortality from sickness still continues in some districts. Numbers on charitable relief increasing, and among these persons many are found wretched. If present prospect of showers is realised, there will be no increase of distress in Southern India. Mortality at relief camps near Madras and in the city still continues. General aspect of affairs in whole Presidency more favourable than anticipation for middle of April."

10. In the Madras Presidency there has been a further increase in the numbers on the relief works, namely, from 663,997 to 693,761. The numbers charitably relieved have also risen from 105,067 to 114,782. The rapid increase under charitable relief appears to be principally attributable to the grant of an allowance for children under seven years of age.

In Mysore also considerable increases have occurred, the number of persons on works being now 75,417, and of charitably relieved 52,471, which is 11,460 above the preceding week.

Regarding Bombay, we have no later statistics than those communicated to your Lordship in our telegram of the 7th instant.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
AN. CLARKE.
JOHN STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.

No. 214.

Nos. 242. 262.

MINUTE by SIR RICHARD TEMPLE, dated Madura district, the 14th April 1877, being a General Report on his Mission to the Madras Presidency.

Sir Richard Temple's report on his mission to Madras.

By the resolution of the Government of India, dated 5th January 1877, I was deputed on a special mission to the presidencies of Madras and Bombay to inspect the distressed districts, to communicate personally with the two Governments regarding the measures which were being carried out, and which would have to be carried out, for the relief of distress, and to offer for their consideration such suggestions as might be deemed suitable.

By the Despatch of the Government of India, dated the 16th of the same month, general instructions were conveyed to me for conducting the work of the mission.

I have accordingly visited all the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency, and the principal of the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency, and have forwarded from time to time to the several Local Governments full minutes of all suggestions that occurred to me; of all which minutes copies have been submitted regularly to the Government of India. Being now, with the permission of the Government of India, about to relinquish the work of the mission, I have to make a general report regarding the Madras Presidency. In respect to the proceedings of the mission in the Bombay Presidency, I would ask the Government of India to refer to my minute of the 23rd March, to which nothing need now be added under existing circumstances.

This report then will refer to the Madras Presidency alone. It will be divided into the following parts:—

1st. The extent of the drought, the failure of the harvests, and the effect of these disasters upon the fortunes and the physical condition of the people.

2nd. The measures adopted by Government to help the people in meeting or bearing up against these misfortunes.

3rd. The several points towards which the proceedings of the mission have been principally directed.

4th. The state of affairs at the present time of writing.

5th. The lessons to be deduced from all the circumstances which have yet occurred in connexion with these affairs.

In the following narrative and observations I shall have to deal with many matters on which controversy has been or may be raised respecting fact and inference, and with many questions regarding which there may be difference of opinion. I can only set forth the case as it presented itself to me after inquiry on the spot, and relate the impressions left on my mind by all that I have seen, heard, and read. It has not been any part of my duty to formally take or record evidence. Nor would space admit of my adducing proof of all the facts which may have to be stated.

PART I.

In regard to the extent of the droughts, the failure of the harvests, and the effect of these disasters upon the fortunes and the physical condition of the people, it is necessary to recall the fact that in 1876 throughout the greater part of the Madras Presidency the south-west monsoon or the summer rains were very deficient, and that the north-east monsoon or autumnal rains failed still more disastrously. In the northern portion only of the presidency, that is, in the littoral tract south of Orissa and in the deltas of the Godavery and the Kistna, was the rainfall ordinarily propitious. In the rest of the presidency comprising the peninsula of Southern India, the rainfall of the year ranged from 3 to 20 inches, in many large tracts of the worst districts it ranged from 6 to 10 inches. Whereas the average annual rainfall in this region may be taken to range from 20 to 40 inches. Even on the western or Malabar coast where, if anywhere, the rains are expected to be unfailing, the rainfall was measured at only 87 inches, compared with an usual annual average of 126 inches.

The misfortune which, threatening first in July, and becoming more pronounced month by month, settled down upon the Madras Presidency during November, was aggravated by the similar misfortune which had befallen the Deccan districts of the Bombay Presidency, the greater part of the Mysore territory, and a portion of the Nizam's dominions.

The drought began in the north, a little below the River Taptee in Khandesh. In the Bombay Deccan it became severe in the districts of Ahmednagar, Poona, Sattara,

Sholapur, and Kaladgi. It was milder in the South Mahratta Country near Belgaum and Dharwar, and in the Nizam's territories around Goolburga and Raichore; but some parts of Dharwar suffered severely. Towards the Madras Presidency it reached the line of the Toongabhadra (or Toombadra) River which joins the Kistna below Kurnool, and followed the line of the Kistna to the eastern coast. In this latitude (16°) it stretched, with more or less intensity, almost from sea to sea.

Sir Richard Temple's report on his mission to Madras.

Within the Madras Presidency on the right or southern bank of the Toongabhadra the drought developed all its most destructive agencies, and showed its greatest force all along the frontier, covering the whole of the districts of Bellary and Kurnool and the greater part of Cuddapah, and comprising in desolation all the country above the Ghât mountains. Across the mountains it visited the greater part of the districts of Nellore, Chingleput (including the city of Madras), North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, and Trichinopoly. It caused the Kistna and its affluents to roll down in such a diminished volume that the canal from the Toongabhadra near Kurnool, and the great irrigation works of the Masulipatam delta were stinted in their supply. It made the freshes and floods of the Penair descend in such shrunken proportions that the reservoir and channels of Nellore were nearly deprived of water. It stopped the supply of the Cauverypauk lake near Arcot, and rendered the dam across the Palar inoperative. It rested for some time on the districts of South Arcot, Tanjore, and Trichinopoly, and threatened them with evil; they were, however, saved, South Arcot mainly by some later rains, and Tanjore and Trichinopoly partly by the same rains but chiefly by their canals. It extended itself with havoc throughout the southern peninsula, laying waste the districts of Madura and Tinnevelly right down to the sea-shore near Cape Comorin; the tracts irrigated from the Tambrapoornee, near Tinnevelly, alone escaping destruction. Though it failed to dry up the harvest of the rich tracts of Malabar and Travancore, or to prevent the Cauvery from filling the canals of the Tanjore delta, yet it rendered them powerless to send the succour that might otherwise have been expected.

Thus were injured, more or less seriously, ten large districts of the Madras Presidency, containing a total area of 74,000 square miles, and a population of 16,000,000 of souls. The whole of the area and of the population did not suffer in an equal degree. It may be stated approximately that 11,000,000 of people were distressed in a greater, and 5,000,000 in a lesser, degree.

In the devastated tracts there are two harvests in the year, one depending on the summer rains, the other upon the autumnal rains, the edible grains consisting of the rice and several kinds of millet. Of the whole cultivated area a small part (technically termed "wet") is watered from artificial tanks which often rise to the proportions of lakes; the remainder (technically termed "dry") is watered in some parts from wells, but for the most part from rainfall. The proportion of wet lands varies greatly in the several districts, being largest in Chingleput where it exceeds one-half of the whole cultivation, and smallest in Bellary where it is only one-twentieth.

The failure was worst in the "wet" lands. The tanks, having their catchment areas in undulating plains or low hills on which but little rain descended, were left almost dry. What are usually splendid sheets of water became scorched dusty plains, appearing as huge black patches with cracked and fissured soil. The sluices, the distributing channels, and all the apparatus of irrigation lay useless. Such an universal drying up of the tanks, for which the districts below the Ghât mountains are so celebrated, has hardly been witnessed within the memory of living men.

The "dry" lands fared somewhat better. Whatever rain fell, did cause something, however scanty, to spring up in them. But, even then, fertile expanses of champaign which ought to be clothed with crops looked bare and arid, being little better than a desert. The wells retained some of their supply; though even in them the water fell lower and lower, and sometimes disappeared altogether. Of the more valuable crops, the sugar-cane, the tobacco, the garden produce, were in part preserved. But the cotton crop of Bellary and Adoni yielded nothing. The factories are closed and the machinery is silent. Though the cultivators fell short of doing all they might have done, yet in countless instances they made a brave fight to save their crops. They excavated their failing wells, deeper and deeper in the rocky strata; they dug pits in their fields, searching for moisture; they sunk wells with wicker work. They delved for springs and under-currents of water in the sandy beds of the dry rivers, and there indeed their toil was often rewarded, miles and miles of well filled watercourses being led off to recusitate the withering crops. These practices, which on this occasion stood the people in such

NOTE.—The Kistna district has been reckoned among the distressed districts; but I have not so regarded it, as only a small portion of it suffered.

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good stead, are known to them in ordinary times, but were resorted to very largely during this year. The Government wisely exhorted the cultivators to deepen the old wells and to excavate new wells; and offered them advances of money for these purposes, relaxing somewhat the rules and conditions under which such advances are ordinarily made. In many hundreds of instances they availed themselves of these advantages.

The failure was not uniform in degree throughout any of the distressed districts. It would be tedious here to give the particulars for the several subdivisions of each district. Suffice it to state that out of a full crop there were in the agricultural year 1876–77 only the fractions shown in the following statement, in a parallel column of which there is given the population of each district, so as to convey some idea of the gravity of the misfortune resulting from the loss of crops.

	Crop in 1876–77.	Population.
Bellary - -	one-sixteenth of an average good crop	- 1,688,000
Kurnool - -	one-sixteenth ,, ,,	- 960,000
Cuddapah - -	three-sixteenths ,, ,,	- 1,351,000
Nellore - -	one-quarter ,, ,,	- 1,377,000
Chingleput (inclusive of Madras city) -	three-sixteenths ,, ,,	- 1,336,000
North Arcot -	one-quarter ,, ,,	- 2,015,000
Salem - -	one-third ,, ,,	- 1,967,000
Coimbatore - -	one-quarter ,, ,,	- 1,763,000
Madura - -	one-quarter ,, ,,	- 2,267,000
Tinnevelly - -	six-sixteenths ,, ,,	- 1,694,000

Experience has shown that the difficulty of dealing with famine is aggravated if the population is dense, and lessened if it is sparse. The following statement shows the average incidence of the population on the square mile in each district. As compared with some parts of India the most distressed districts are thinly peopled; and those tracts which are more thickly peopled are, fortunately, less distressed:—

Bellary has a population of	- - - -	151
Kurnool	- - - - -	130
Cuddapah	- - - - -	161
Nellore	- - - - -	162
Chingleput (exclusive of Madras city)	- - -	340
North Arcot	- - - - -	282
Salem	- - - - -	262
Coimbatore	- - - - -	237
Madura	- - - - -	238
Tinnevelly	- - - - -	327

} persons to the square mile.

The consequences of such a failure in 1876 are affected for better or for worse by the results of previous years. The year 1874 was generally good, and left a reserve of surplus grain. But 1875 was in many places unpropitious; and failure of crops in Mysore drained off supplies towards that province. In Bellary and in some parts of Kurnool, 1875 had been unfortunate in its seasons; and in Bellary 1874 had also been unfavourable. These circumstances caused the drought of 1876 to be felt with more intensity in Bellary than anywhere.

Inasmuch as the consequences of a scarcity in one region of India are mitigated or aggravated by the condition of other regions, it is to be remembered that from no part of the Madras Presidency could any surplus produce worth reckoning be drawn in aid of the distressed districts; that in the Mysore territories out of a population of 5,000,000 nearly 4,000,000 were also distressed; that in the Bombay Presidency some 5,000,000 of people were equally afflicted; that from the Nizam's dominions no considerable importation of grain could be anticipated, inasmuch as there also distress existed in some places. On the other hand—a fact of immense value—there was a good harvest in British Burma, in Guzerat, in the Central Provinces, in Malwa, in Northern India, and especially in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa.

This consideration leads us to the effect of these disasters upon the fortunes and the physical condition of the people. There was surplus grain enough and to spare within the limits of British India. But anxious minds immediately reflected whether the communications by sea and land would enable it to reach the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. There was communication by sea from Calcutta to Madras, to Negapatam, to Tuticorin; and from Bombay to Beypore. From each of these ports

there was railway communication to every one of the distressed districts, save Nellore and Kurnool; even in the case of Kurnool the rail ran up to the western border of that district. But on these railways was laid the additional task of carrying grain to Bangalore, the entrepôt for the grain trade of the Mysore Province. The railway from the direction of Bombay pierced the Toongabhadra frontier, the very quarter where, as we have seen, the drought lay heaviest. The ships could bring, as was well known, much more grain to the ports than the railways could carry away. But the railways, with their combined power, could, it was calculated, carry 2,700 tons of food a day to the distressed districts. They who have seen what it is to contend with famine in Orissa, or North Bengal, or Behar, or Northern India, or Rajpootana—these know what priceless advantages are implied in the possession of transport by ships and by railways. What an amount of trouble, pain, and cost has been borne for want of complete communication during the famines in other parts of India, and has been saved by the possession of such communication during the famine in the Madras Presidency!

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While in the Madras Presidency prices rose to one rupee for six, seven, or eight seers (12, 14, or 16 lbs.) of common edible grains, tantamount to prices three times as dear as those of ordinary years—the prices in the Bengal Presidency were comparatively cheap; they ranged, for instance, at Calcutta, the most important place, at one rupee for 16 seers (32 lbs.). Thus there was a considerable difference between the prices at the places of demand and the places of supply, which afforded a fair margin of profit on importation into the distressed districts by trade, and encouraged the hope that private enterprise would surely seize the opportunity.

Though the area of the distressed districts is very extensive and thinly peopled, also much divided by hills and mountainous ranges, still the Madras Presidency is (for India) more than ordinarily well provided with good cart roads. The foresight of successive governors and administrators has caused the hills to be traversed in all directions by well aligned passes. Amidst the pasturage and the grazing grounds in these hilly regions there has been reared a race of hardy and long enduring draught-cattle. The carts are among the best constructed in all British India. The European merchants with characteristic vigour enter into the grain trade of the interior of the presidency. The Native grain dealers are resourceful and enterprising. If, then, the grain brought by rail from distant provinces should reach the several railway stations in time, there was little doubt of the power of the people to carry it on to their villages, at least during the earlier months of the scarcity. There was indeed much fear lest the draught-cattle should become stinted in their fodder and gradually exhausted as the season wore on and the heat raged fiercer.

There then arose that question which, however often it may be asked, can never be answered, as to whether the people had large or sufficient stocks of grain. There was a strong, though undefined, belief that they really had. For agricultural trouble of some sort, coming too in opposite forms—at one time drought and pestilence, at another time rainstorm and flood—has for some generations been so chronic in the Madras Presidency that probably the people, with an instinct of self-help against the evil day, habitually keep stores of grain. One season of propitious rain causes an immense productiveness in this comparatively inexhaustible soil, much beyond the current needs of the year for a population sparse upon the land. The people may thus be able to put by something for use in the years to ensue, which, as experience teaches them, are likely to be chequered by mishaps.

Even if the draught-cattle and some of the best animals in every village could be sustained through the troublous time—what, people would anxiously ask, will be the fate of the innumerable head of cattle used for ploughing and for other husbandry? They would be driven off in vast herds to the neighbouring mountains, the Eastern Ghâts, the Western Ghâts, the Central Ranges which form the backbone of the peninsula—where even in this year of scanty rainfall there is still some pasture. But then, with all the cattle upon a thousand hills, the scarce grass would be eaten up, perhaps, before the drought ends; and if so, then death must overtake them at last.

Lastly, there were some classes of the population regarding whom hope might be entertained and others for whom fear would be felt.

The Telugu and Tamil ryots* of the ryotwari settlements are the peasant proprietors of Southern India. They have a beneficiary interest in the lands they occupy. They pay a moderate and equitable land tax, assessed after a professional field survey in some districts, or settled after careful revision of the original assessment in other districts. They have had every motive to save something out of their yearly profits and to hoard

* There are Canarese ryots also in Southern India, but they are not numerous in the distressed districts.

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a little capital. They are formed into village communities headed by men holding hereditary offices; nowhere in India is the primitive village organisation better preserved than here. They are generally able to maintain themselves at least in any passing adversity. They are reputed to be poor; but poverty is a relative term. They are, indeed, a peasantry whom any Government might be proud to reckon among its subjects. They are prone to live beyond their humble income and to incur debt; notwithstanding this they have an unfailing credit with the village bankers who are also grain dealers. Under the ryots are the farm labourers, often holding some fields of their own, but adding to their livelihood by labouring in the fields of their neighbours. They form a large class having interests bound up with those of the superior ryots. They together with their wives and growing children are strong to labour. But now their vocation is gone for a time. There is no weeding or tending wanted for the withered crops. There is no harvesting to be done. The fields cannot be tilled for lack of moisture. The plough is unemployed. The oxen are straying in quest of fodder. Those men of this class, then, who possess any fields of their own may have some small stores of grain to live on. Those who are in the permanent employ of the village headmen or of the more substantial ryots, constitute a part of the capital of these little estates, and will be supported for a time by their employers. The rest must languish from the cessation of rural employment. These agricultural classes, both ryots and field labourers, have sturdy well-nourished frames. Among them may be seen large numbers with a stature and a stoutness hardly to be surpassed among the peasantry in any country.

Below these, in all the villages there are low-caste or caste-less people in a very varying condition—often in tolerably good case, often again living in squalor and degradation, continuing in scarceness at the best of times, and subsisting within the narrowest margin of existence in bad seasons. It was to be feared that from these outcasts of the social system charitable sympathy would be withheld by the better classes. There are also various gipsy clans habitually gathering the wild fruits of the forests, and eking out a precarious subsistence by disposing of jungle produce and doing chance work in the villages. On behalf of these poor untameable wanderers anxiety would be excited lest both the wild produce and the work should fail in a year like this.

Again, in some of the distressed districts there are many places, sacred to all *Hindu* nationalities, and frequented by pilgrims, by humble visitors, by religious mendicants, and by beggars of all sorts, from remote parts of India. If these people reached the holy spots they would doubtless be cared for by the religious establishments. But on the way they might find their travelling purse exhausted by the increased cost of food, and they might faint on the roadside or sink never to rise again.

It is remarkable that several of the most drought-stricken tracts belong to zemindars who, though possessing much rank and status, are not men of substance and capacity like the zemindars in some of the zemindari provinces elsewhere, but are either absent or involved in debt, or otherwise unfit to cope with the consequences of scarcity. These estates are sure to teem with instances of unmitigated misery.

In every town, almost in every large village, there are guilds of weavers, some making the finer, others the coarser fabrics. In many places there are shady groves of trees, serving as factories for this industry, and alive with the bustle of manufactures. But the demand for cloths has ceased for a time. The groves are no longer peopled, the spindles are hung up, and the looms idle. The weavers, thus thrown out of work, generally have means to last them for a time, but as they become gradually pinched and straitened they are unwilling to seek assistance from Government, which can be given only in return for labour unsuited to their sedentary habits.

Such then, in its character and in its effects upon the people, was the drought of 1876. Though some of the symptoms were extremely grave, there were many grounds on which to found the hope of a successful issue. Still the conjuncture was manifestly such as to call forth all the wisdom and firmness of the Government and all the devotion and ability of its officers.

Part II.

The second topic relates to the measures adopted by Government to help the people in meeting or bearing up against these misfortunes. It is necessary to insert a slight sketch of them—as they appeared to me—in order to explain the subsequent work of my own mission.

During the summer of 1876 small relief works were opened in Bellary, in Kurnool, and in other distressed districts. These operations increased as the months went on. It was hoped that they would be temporary only, and would cease if the north-east or

autumnal rains should be propitious. Up to the end of October, that is, to the close of the period during which hope of the autumnal rains remained, the number of persons thus admitted to relief was not large. The authorities who were then present on the spot must be supposed to have been able to judge of the necessity of affording relief. In the case of Bellary there was the consideration that the season of the preceding year 1875 had been unfavourable. The price of food, too, was dear throughout the greater part of the Presidency, having risen fast after the summer rains had begun to fail.

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Later in the autumn the state of the grain trade throughout the Presidency attracted the anxious attention of the Government. The failure of the autumn rains made it certain that a very large supply of food grain would have to be imported by some agency, commercial or other. Naturally the trade might be expected to bring in this supply. But if the trade should unfortunately be unable to do this, then it might in extreme resort become necessary for the Government to intervene in order to prevent the people perishing from want of food. The Madras Government seem to have doubted whether the trade would be able to meet such great requirements. In reality, however, during August, September, and October 5,637 tons of grain were imported into Madras from places beyond the Madras Presidency; further, 38,000 tons were imported into Madras port from various ports subordinate to the Madras Presidency; and 20,446 tons were carried by rail from Madras into the drought-stricken districts. Such facts occurring during these three months indicated considerable movements of trade and as much activity as could be expected at the outset of trouble; and the consideration set forth already in Part. I. of this minute regarding high prices in Madras compared with cheaper prices and abundant harvests in Bengal might have caused an anticipation of what actually happened afterwards, namely, large importation by sea during the winter months when Indian trade is always in full play. Still the Madras Government felt anxiety. Though there were no positive signs of the grain markets being anywhere empty, yet the grain trade was in many places sensitive and excitable. At some places there were grain riots. At Kurnool the trouble was so far serious that troops were sent there. In several districts grain robberies became daring and frequent, amounting to quite an outbreak of crime against property. In November and December numbers of famishing people came from the neighbouring districts into the city of Madras to beg for food. Public attention was painfully turned to these incidents, and inferences were probably drawn therefrom regarding the possible prevalence of famine in the interior of the country. Inquiry subsequently showed that no such widespread distress had broken out, or that, if it had anywhere broken out, it was being arrested by the action of the local authorities. Meanwhile a strong impression was made on the minds of many thoughtful persons at the Presidency.

Looking to all the circumstances of the time the Government of Madras determined on purchasing and did purchase, secretly and confidentially through a local firm, 30,000 tons of grain from places beyond the Presidency. This grain was to be held as a reserve, or to be sent to any place in the interior of the country where there might be any dangerous deficiency of grain. It was also decided that in the event of relief labour being employed to a great extent, the labourers should be paid in grain wherever this mode of payment might be deemed convenient. For this purpose additional quantities of grain were to be purchased within the Presidency. Thus were purchased about 13,000 tons, making up the total to 43,000 tons. The possibility of more purchases was contemplated, perhaps to a very large amount, according to the view which might be taken by Government of the requirements of the case, or according as events might unfold themselves.

The position of the markets in the more remote tracts situate near the Mysore frontier on the one side, and within the Eastern Ghât mountains on the other side, attracted attention. It was apprehended that Native traders would in some cases combine to keep prices abnormally dear, and would in other cases prove unequal to the task of supplying the local markets. By degrees the policy of the Government was developed further. Circumstances were foreseen under which it might be necessary for Government to throw grain into various places, not only to pay its own relief labourers, but also to influence the grain markets in favour of the people in the event of their being unable to purchase food, to frustrate combinations among the traders, and to prevent prices rising in any excessive degree. A transport agency on the part of Government was established for the distressed districts above the Ghât mountains with its head-quarters at Bellary. It was to ascertain from each local officer how much grain would be wanted either for paying relief labour or for other purposes. It was to engage carriage accordingly, that is, to make contracts for the supply of carts and bullocks to carry grain to such places as might be settled in concert with the local authorities under the direction of Government. It

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was to receive for transport all grain which might be received. It accordingly began to engage carriage, and by an early date carting contracts were made for 30,000 tons in all. It received quantities of grain which were despatched daily by rail and consigned to its care. Some consignments were sent to places close to the line of railway and some to places at a greater distance. The contracts were well and carefully made. The carriage thus engaged was efficient. And the executive arrangements were creditable to the officers concerned. The agency was capable of expanding into considerable dimensions until it should give to the Government an effective hold and check upon the grain trade in the districts above the Ghât mountains—Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah—so that the State might either assist private enterprise in making the food supply reach the people, or prevent its being withheld from them, or import food by direct means according as the exigencies of the coming time might dictate.

It has been already seen that a system of relief on a small scale had been set on foot in the distressed districts before the end of October. When in November the failure of the autumn monsoon became certain, the prospect of widespread distress caused the Government and its officers to undertake the expansion of relief works. Some relief works of a larger kind were thought of. But in the main it was deemed necessary to open small relief works in every part of the distressed districts, in the heart of the drought-stricken area and among the villages, so as to be easily within reach of all who might need relief. These works were accordingly opened everywhere in numbers fully sufficient, according to this view of the necessity. The works were kept under the management of the Civil officers. The District Engineers and other establishments belonging to the Public Works Department were to advise and assist the Civil officers to align roads, to furnish designs, to help in professionally measuring up the work performed by the relief gangs. But they were not placed in actual command of any of the works or of the relief labour, nor was the tasking of the labour entrusted to them. All officers within the Presidency whose services could be obtained were despatched to the distressed districts. It was arranged to obtain the services of officers from other parts of India, especially Engineer officers and Civil Engineers. But little or no assistance of this kind had actually arrived up to the end of December.

The relief works were very largely resorted to. The progress of the number of relief labourers, men, women, and children, up to the first week in January, when the highest number was reached, may be thus seen :—

	Number of Persons.
1st November - - - - - -	160,000
1st December - - - - - -	310,000
15th „ - - - - - -	656,000
31st „ - - - - - -	982,000
7th January - - - - - -	1,066,000
14th „ - - - - - -	1,055,000

and the last-named number was increased to 1,165,000 persons by the addition of 110,000 persons on gratuitous relief.

The relief wages were at first fixed at 2½ annas per diem for a man, the wages of women and children being proportionally less. In some places they exceeded this rate, and were as high as 3 annas. By the beginning of January they were reduced to 2 annas. Task-work was ordered, and the Civil officers did their best to enforce it. But to enforce it properly was, under the circumstances—that is, with fast coming crowds of labourers, and without any adequate professional agency—quite impossible. In only few places was it in any degree insisted upon. In most places it was quite easy. In many places it was nominal.

These operations certainly maintained the agricultural classes in unimpaired condition physically, and kept them in contentment and in immunity from trouble. And so far the famine was, at the outset, held thoroughly in check.

It was not deemed expedient to prescribe any test of admission, or to vest the Civil officers with any discretion to reject applicants for relief on any such ground as this, that they seemed able to support themselves, for a time, at least. It was thought that the wages offered were low in reference to the high prices, that persons who for the sake of such remuneration came on the works must be really in want, and that none save those in such need would come. There probably was, towards the close of 1876, much alarm in the minds of the agricultural classes towards the northern side of the Presidency, in the districts of Bellary and Kurnool especially, which feeling may be supposed to have naturally spread to the local authorities when they beheld the wide waste of lands once cultivated, and found a desert instead of rising crops.

It was up to that time, as I understood, the belief of the authorities that the Government should charge itself with the duty, not only of preventing mortality from starvation, but also of alleviating all suffering and relieving general distress during the period of the scarcity. How far this view could be sustained in reference to the intention and policy of the Government of India will be seen hereafter. But at the outset it considerably affected the character of the relief measures which were undertaken. Nothing could exceed the humane solicitude of the Madras Government and its officers on behalf of the people, as regards life and health and physical welfare. And the proceedings taken by them had a comprehensive scope, commensurate with the benevolence of the policy adopted.

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Consideration was given to the commencement of large public works on which relief labour might be concentrated under professional supervision. The projected railway from Bellary towards the South Mahratta Country was proposed for commencement, but on reference to the Government of India difficulties were found to exist. The vigorous prosecution of the excavation of the canal (already in progress) which is to be carried along the East Coast from the Pulicat Lake to the River Kistna, was ordered. Efforts were made, with a moderate degree of success, to obtain relief labourers from a distance for this work. Also the junction of this canal with the South Coast Canal below Madras was undertaken.

In the city of Madras and its neighbourhood the Government organised standing camps on a very large scale for the reception of the sufferers from famine. To this city there came thousands of wanderers, seekers for employment, and beggars of all sorts, who in Southern India are accustomed to roam from town to town, imagining that the larger and the more distant a place is, the more likely is it to afford a haven for the miserable. These poor people hoped to find work in the city of Madras, or to share in the private charities which, according to common rumour, were being bountifully dispensed by the rich Natives there. The famishing wayfarers were gathered from all the thoroughfares leading from the country to the capital. Excellent medical attendance was provided; but despite of it many died after being received into the camps. Similar camps were ordered to be formed near Arcot, near Vellore, and other towns in the interior.

The local authorities in the distant districts were instructed to establish centres of charitable relief, or to assist any effort which might be made by benevolent persons in this direction. Private charity was everywhere invoked and largely responded to the call. Many Native gentlemen honourably distinguished themselves in this good cause.

Up to this time, the end of December 1876, the Madras Government expended—

	£
On relief - - - -	372,500
On purchase of grain - - -	302,400
	£674,900

There were other items, such as transport agency and local purchases of grain, which brought up the total to nearly three quarters of a million sterling.

The members of the Revenue Board were deputed to visit the most distressed districts, and to make reports to Government of all that they ascertained.

In every part of the distressed districts, the Civil officers of all grades exerted themselves with the utmost zeal, devotion, and humanity, and in a manner entirely worthy of the urgency and magnitude of the occasion.

Part III.

The third topic relates to the proceedings of the mission on which I have been engaged since the 14th January, the date on which I entered the Madras Presidency. At that time I was fully acquainted with the views of the Government of India, having had the advantage of learning them before starting on the mission. These views were immediately followed by me in anticipation of the official instructions which were expected to come very soon. The instructions dated the 16th January were received in the Madras Presidency on the 23rd.

The points to which attention was by these instructions authoritatively drawn may be summarised thus—

Every effort is to be made for the prevention of deaths by famine.

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Severe economy in relief should be practised. Indiscriminate charity on the part of individuals is admitted to be bad, but on the part of a Government is worse. A Government has no better right in a time of scarcity than at other times to attempt the task of preventing all suffering and of giving general relief to the poorer classes of the community.

The numbers on relief works are so great that there is reason to fear that many persons must be employed who without such relief could sustain themselves, for a time, at least.

The collection of such numbers should be restricted on works where labour is not exacted, where supervision is wanting, and where people can obtain, for the asking and in return for next to no work at all, wages in money or in grain.

No time should be lost in giving to the people, to the greatest extent practicable, the means of employment on large public works, which need not always be in the distressed districts or near the homes of the people.

The Government may be driven to set up petty relief works near the homes of the people, but not until distress becomes extreme, or a state of famine has been reached.

There is great advantage in paying relief labour in money (not in grain) wherever and so long as this mode of payment is practicable. But if money payment is not practicable, there is no more objection to Government purchasing grain for payment than there is to its making purchases through the commissariat for the troops.

There is to be no interference of any kind on the part of Government with the object of reducing the price of food.

Inquiry should be made as to how far private trade, if unfettered, can supply the wants of the country.

In certain localities remote from railways and large markets which private trade is unable to reach, it may become necessary for Government to intervene.

The transport of grain by the trade, by railways, by roads in the interior, and by the sea ports, should be carefully observed.

A question shortly arose as to what degree of distress was to be prevented by Government. I understood from the first that practically there would be two principal degrees of distress. Firstly, there might be distress which, however sore and lamentable, can yet be borne without physical health being impaired, or bodily power being disabled, or life being imperilled; and this the Government could not undertake to prevent or alleviate. Secondly, there might be distress which, increasing slowly, perhaps, but surely, must lead to extremity which would sooner or later end in death; and this the Government would, to the utmost of its means and ability, prevent. It was necessary, by the best diagnosis which could be made, to discriminate between the one kind of distress and the other; and if there should be a doubt whether any person or persons come within the first or the second category, then to give the people the benefit of that doubt. These principles were fully borne in mind in the discussions and conferences of the third week of January, in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah. Shortly afterwards similar principles were enunciated by the Government of India in reply to some references which had been made.

Such being the purport of my instructions, it became necessary to consider—what, indeed, I had been already considering from the moment of entering the Madras territory on the 14th January—the application of the principles as above laid down by the Government of India to the actual state of affairs in the Madras Presidency.

Among the most urgent of the many questions which presented themselves was the question relating to the purchasing, transporting, and storing of grain by Government. The proceedings of the Government of Madras in this important matter have been already described in this minute. Before starting on the mission, I had clearly understood that the purchasing of grain by Government from places beyond the Presidency was not approved by the Government of India; that doubt was felt as to the need of purchasing grain for Government within the Presidency; that the business of the transport agency should be reconsidered with a view to possible restriction. Proceeding from the north towards the Presidency I found quantities of grain being imported thither from the direction of Bombay and the countries beyond, and from the Nizam's dominions. Entering the Presidency I found the railway carrying grain to the utmost extent of its power. The local markets were everywhere seen to be well supplied. The traders—European and Native—seemed confident that the grain would be forthcoming from distant places, and that they could import it even to the remote parts of the interior of the country. The fears entertained by some regarding these remote parts did not appear to be shared by the trade. There was no sign of country carriage and draught cattle failing. Reports were received of the seaboard at Madras being piled up with

masses of grain brought by the ships. But I perceived, or thought I perceived, an apprehension in the minds of the trade lest the grain transactions of Government and its transport agency should have a dispiriting effect on private enterprise. There was no need whatever for Government to buy stores or transport grain for the payment of relief labour when the labourers if paid in cash could purchase food on the spot. All this was immediately represented to the Madras Government. The purchasing of grain for Government has subsequently ceased. The relief labourers are paid generally in cash. The transport agency has been restricted to the transporting of a limited quantity of grain (previously purchased by Government) to certain selected places, there to be held till further orders, and to certain limited engagements with contractors to supply carriage if required. The private grain trade has continued to be extraordinarily active.

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Having observed at various railway stations "blocks" or accumulations of grain destined for the distressed districts, and desiring to ascertain how far the several railways could be relied upon to carry the quantities necessary to supply these districts, I obtained from the Government of India the services of an Engineer officer belonging to the Railway Department. He was of great use in getting these accumulations cleared away, and in promoting efficiency in the joint working of the two railways. With his help I ascertained that the quantity then estimated to be required for the whole of the distressed districts and including the territory of Mysore, amounting to 2,700 tons a day, could with extreme exertions be carried by the two lines (that is, the Madras Railway and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Bombay). The railway from the Bombay side worked satisfactorily. But the working system of the Madras Railway, though cheap and sufficient for the light traffic of ordinary times, was hardly able to bear up against the pressure of the heavy traffic in a time like this. The Traffic Department of the Madras Railway, however, exerted itself most commendably under all these difficulties. The engine power on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was found insufficient, and on the Madras Railway was quite unequal to such an occasion as this. In order to afford some remedy for this very serious want, additional engines were obtained from other parts of India. And in order to relieve the pressure, I recommended, with the full concurrence of the Madras Government, the doubling of the line as far as Arconum, which recommendation was accepted by the Government of India. Subsequently, in order to lessen the strain caused by the grain traffic to Mysore, the Madras Government desired that the Mysore traders should receive a part of their consignments through the port of Negapatam instead of through Madras, and reduced the rates on grain destined for Bangalore. When visiting Bangalore I pressed this matter on the consideration of the Native merchants there. And the Madras Government ordered additional measures to facilitate the landing of grain at Negapatam.

The question whether the three railways, namely, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, bringing grain from the north-west to Bellary and Kurnool; the Madras Railway with its two branches, one towards Bellary and Kurnool, the other across the Peninsula to Beypore; the South of India Railway, leading from Negapatam to Trichinopoly and thence to Madura and Tuticorin opposite Ceylon,—could, or could not, at the worst season carry all the grain required for the distressed districts including Mysore, lay at the foundation of all our plans for a successful contest with the famine. Therefore, calculations bearing upon this point were repeatedly made and re-made. The results seemed to justify the expectation that the railways, in combination, would be able to perform this task. And, as yet, this expectation has been verified by the event. Such indeed have been the fluctuations in demand, that never yet have all these lines been simultaneously worked to the aggregate of their power.

An inspection of the country south of the right bank of the Toongabhadra (with its narrow fringe of unfailing cultivation watered by channels from the river) showed that the reality of the drought and its consequences equalled the worst reports. The Irrigation Company's canal, which can irrigate 250,000 acres of autumn crop lands, had given water to about 72,000 acres in the Kurnool and Cuddapah districts and so far proved to be a timely resource. But in some cases the ryots took the water too late to save their crops. The people have not as yet made use of the canal water in any adequate degree; for, in previous years only 9,000 acres have on the average been irrigated, whereas the canal has water enough for many times that area of autumn crop lands. It may be hoped that present experience will impart a stimulus to irrigation from this canal in future.

Among the questions which forced themselves on my mind at that time, 14th to 21st of January, in the most distressed districts, were these:—

Are the measures of relief sufficient to meet the trouble?

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Are they more than sufficient in reference to the principle that the people should not be encouraged to resort unduly to State assistance and that all expenditure in excess of the actual necessities of the case should be prevented?

Are they in any degree open to the general objections set forth by the Government of India? If they are, then what steps by way of rectification ought to be recommended?

There could be no doubt that, on the whole, the grave consequences with which the people had been threatened by the drought were being successfully averted. In the interior of the Presidency, and especially in the most distressed districts above the Ghât mountains, there was no information of any mortality or even of any deaths of individuals from starvation. There was indeed information to the effect that nothing of the kind had occurred or was likely to occur. There was no sign of distress. Whatever distress had been threatened was being thoroughly relieved. Irrespectively then of cost, present or prospective, irrespectively also of any possible demoralising influences on the people, there was no doubt that the famine was being completely subdued.

It has been stated above that the consequences of the drought had on the whole been averted, because there was a defective point on which they had not been fully averted, namely this, that in some of the districts near Madras (as already mentioned) there was some unrelieved distress. This distress extended over nearly the whole of certain large zemindari estates,* which were not under the direct management of Government officers as the ordinary ryotwari districts are. It extended also over some of the lower castes in parts of the districts of Chingleput and North Arcot, and it seriously affected many individuals in various classes. When the half-starved persons came forward at the centres of authority, or were picked up in public places, or were found lying about, they were fully cared for. But these occurrences might have been in some degree prevented had a proper system of village inspection and relief been ordered in the beginning. Even when events gave warning of the necessity of such a system, its introduction was too long delayed. But these defects, however grave, did not, when compared with the magnitude of the affairs in their totality, detract from the general result, which certainly amounted to this, that by the beginning of January the serious distress which threatened to rise in the Madras Presidency during December was effectually kept down.

* Venkatagiri.
Kalastri.
Karvetnagar.

But then there followed these several questions, namely:—

Whether the relief measures were more than sufficient?

Whether they encouraged the people to resort unduly to State assistance?

Whether they were involving an excessive expenditure beyond the actual necessities of the case?

Now, without at all disparaging the humane foresight, thoughtfulness, and anxiety of the Government, or the zeal, devotion, and benevolence of its officers, or the many difficulties and uncertainties with which this great and difficult affair was beset, I am constrained to answer these several questions in the affirmative.

But I would add in explanation, as already stated, that all those who were charged with the conduct of relief affairs, had up to this time thought themselves bound not only to save life but also to relieve to the utmost all suffering and general distress caused by the scarcity. And this understanding went somewhat beyond the intention of the Government of India as explained in the instructions just cited.

It has been already stated that on behalf of the Madras Government, one Member of the Board of Revenue after another had visited temporarily the most distressed districts, had consulted with the local officers, and had made reports to the Government, which had been very useful so far as they went. But these high officials did not always possess authority to give orders or instructions on the spot. Whatever authority they indirectly exercised was in its nature undefined, and was insufficient for conducting urgent and critical affairs. Each of them stayed but a short time and then returned to Madras. There was no superior authority resident in the scene of trouble, vested with power, and imbued with that sense of personal responsibility which conduces to forceful and thoughtful administration. Consequently there was no policy laid down in adaptation to local circumstances. The District Collectors had not enough of guidance under circumstances transcending their ordinary experience. And junior Civil officers in out-stations and in remote subdivisions were sometimes obliged to confront extraordinary difficulties, to incur large expense, and to commit the Government to important decisions, without having received any definite instructions.

Another difficulty consisted of the great size and area of the jurisdictions under each District Collector. The Collectorates of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah had extensive

and remote subdivisions, which had urgent affairs in progress, which were in the charge of officers full of zeal but comparatively young in experience, and which were removed by distance from the immediate cognizance of the Collectors.

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If, at the outset of the affair, some trusted official, who could have been empowered to issue orders on behalf of Government, and who would have been directly in communication with the Government, had been deputed to the most distressed districts, the Government of Madras would probably have succeeded earlier in systematising relief operations, and in securing economical administration.

As already seen, there were in the second week of January 1,165,000 persons on relief, of whom 1,008,000 belonged to the three districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, and the remaining 157,000 persons belonged to the districts of Nellore, Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, and one or two others. In the last-named districts the numbers were not large enough to raise any important issue. But in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, the numbers could not fail to arouse the gravest reflections.

The numbers on relief (relief works and gratuitous relief being taken together) in these three districts might be thus compared with the total population :—

——	Population.	Total Number on Relief.	Per-centage on Population.
Bellary - - -	1,688,000	460,000	27
Kurnool - - -	960,000	337,000	35
Cuddapah - -	1,351,000	211,000	16

On examination of local details it was found that in several subdivisions of the districts of Bellary and Kurnool there were 50 to 60 per cent. of the population on relief works. It seemed possible that at the then rate of progression, the entire rural population in some parts of these districts would, with the exception of comparatively few individuals, be ultimately wishing to resort to State relief.

In Bellary there were, in addition, a large number of persons (upwards of 40,000) employed in the repairing of the roads and tanks and in the ordinary public works of the district, who were not reckoned as relief labourers at all, though they belonged to the labouring classes.

In the Deccan districts of the Bombay Presidency, which districts were afflicted by the same drought, the number stood thus for the same period :—.

——	Population.	Total Number on Relief.	Per-centage of Population.
Sholapur - -	718,000	93,000	13
Kaladgi - - -	816,000	27,000	3
Part of Poona - -	318,000	47,000	11

The analogy of these equally afflicted districts pointed to the conclusion that there must be some excess in the relief administered in Bellary and Kurnool.

Again, these excessive numbers on relief in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah were found in the second week of January. According to the experience of all former famines in India, the numbers in January would be surpassed by the numbers of the succeeding months ; indeed they would go on rising month by month till May, or till the south-west monsoon (expected in June) should arrive. If then these districts showed a million of recipients of relief in January, what it was anxiously asked would they be showing in March, or still more, what would be the enormous muster roll of April or May ?

In January and February 1874, the worst districts of North Bengal and Behar hardly showed more than a few thousand recipients of relief. The numbers remained low till the middle of March. Then they rose rapidly, but did not reach their culminating point before the middle of April. No doubt there is a difference of at least one month in season between Behar or Bengal and the Madras Presidency, which might cause famine to declare itself a month earlier in the latter presidency. Still this would not account for the remarkable haste with which the famine seemed to be striding onwards

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in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah. And this consideration alone would have necessitated a review of the situation in these districts, to see whether there were not any artificial as well as natural causes working to precipitate a crisis.

The question then was whether any preventible causes existed to maintain the numbers on relief at such an excessively high rate in these districts? A sojourn of a few days in the districts of Bellary and Kurnool and a visit to Cuddapah, a careful inspection person by person of relief labourers, in gangs scattered over various parts of the country, an examination of some of the relief works, and much conversation with the local officers, European and Native, served to convince me that such causes actually existed. They were—

Offering of work close to the homes of the people;

Rendering the work light and easy;

Making the wages worth having irrespective of bare subsistence;

Admitting all comers without any question as to whether they could sustain themselves for a time;

Allowing all applications for employment without exception.

These several concessions offered considerable advantages in the eyes of a rural community. At that time a rustic family could earn on the relief works Rs. 10 a month; or Rs. 40 if the period of relief should last for four months. They will not perhaps seize the opportunity if the work be hard and a long way off; but they will do so if it be easy and close at hand. Thus a temptation is presented not only to the lower classes and to the field labourers, but even to the ryots and peasant proprietors who pay land tax to Government. A man and his family are not in actual want; they are not prepared to interrupt their domestic arrangements or to bivouac out or to work hard all day under the burning sun. But they find the times hard; their ordinary work is slack. They would be glad to make a little money. And this is exactly what the relief works enabled them to do, and what was actually done by tens of thousands of persons at that time. But manifestly this was not within the legitimate scope of relief operations. And undoubtedly some sort of demoralisation was beginning to creep over the rural community.

	Rs.
*Man	3¾
Wife	2¾
Two elder children	3½

As already stated, the wages were, at the outset, supposed to be low relatively to the dear prices of food. But they were not really low, when every member of the family was able to earn them close at home. The monthly earnings of a poor family, at this time on the relief works, was equal to the salary in ordinary times of the lowest paid classes who can read and write.

These circumstances had not, however, lasted long; they were only in their inception; there was ample time within which they could be remedied. Under the best arrangements it is not always possible to avoid faults in such extraordinary affairs as these; it is more profitable to gird ourselves to set things right than to regret what may have gone wrong for a time, especially if that time has been but short.

In the first place, then, I addressed myself to the enforcement of task-work, and found from inquiry on the spot that at the outset there had been no sufficient progress made in this direction, but that subsequently the Madras Government had ordered task-work to be introduced. In most places these orders did some little good; in few places only were they acted up to. In fact, the numbers of relief labourers had swelled so rapidly that it would have been almost impossible to regulate properly the proceedings of undisciplined crowds, even if a strong regulating establishment had existed. But such an establishment did not exist. Those officers in Civil employ within the presidency who could be spared had, as already stated, been employed. It was held that officers from the Madras army could not be spared. Some officers from the Bengal army and from the Bengal Public Works Department had been sent for, but had not arrived. The European relief officers and the District Engineers, being few in number, did what they could, but were obliged to trust in the main to their Native subordinates. These latter consisted chiefly of Native Deputy Collectors, tehsildars, and Revenue Inspectors. Without any disparagement of the merits of these Native officials in the ordinary duties for which they had been trained, and with all acknowledgment of the good service rendered by some among them even on this trying occasion, I am obliged to state that they were generally deficient in aptitude for supervising relief work. They were appalled at the drought which had befallen the people and they shared in the most exaggerated fears as to its consequences. They admitted all comers, however well-to-do, without let, hindrance, or inquiry, and they permitted the people to freely indulge the hope that the State would feed everybody for the mere asking. There was nothing for it but to wait

the arrival of the addiitonal officers expected to arrive, and meanwhile to press and urge the enforcement of such a degree of task-work as might be practicable.

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At the same time I made careful inquiries in every direction regarding projects for large public works which could be undertaken with relief labour under professional supervision, and on which task-work could be exacted or piece-work established. The districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah were not fortunately situated in this respect. The project of a high level channel from the Toongabhadra was impracticable. The commencement of the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar had been negatived. The extension of the canal between Kurnool and Cuddapah was difficult in the state of the relations between the Government and the Irrigation Company. However, several main lines of road and several large tanks or lakes were proposed.

I duly remembered that in inviting projects for such public works in order to employ relief labour, there is the danger that proposals may be made for executing projects previously rejected on general grounds, to which projects labourers not absolutely in need might be attracted,—and that if this were to be allowed, the occasion of relief would be made use of in order to carry out unnecessary works, whereby extra and needless expense would be incurred. But this objection is obviated if those only are admitted who really need relief, who must be assisted on some work or other by reason of their distress, and if the strictest regard be paid to the selection of projects. Although the danger is real and has to be guarded against, it can with care be avoided. And this consideration does not at all counteract the advantages of insisting on relief labourers being drafted off to large public works wherever such can be found.

Although it seemed impossible at the time (though it afterwards became quite possible) to prevent the greater part of the works remaining under the care of officers whose tasking would probably be easy, still there were three things which could be done even by the unprofessional Civil establishments, firstly, moving the gangs to a little distance from their homes and concentrating them on works where some supervision might be managed; secondly, stopping the influx of new applicants who had been flocking in by tens of thousands week by week from some time past; thirdly, the eliminating from the ranks of the gangs those persons who were manifestly able to sustain themselves and whose presence constituted an abuse of the State charity. The numbers picked out to be discharged might not indeed be great enough to cause any appreciable saving of cost, but their discharge would have a gradual effect on the public mind, as showing that the Government would not suffer itself to be imposed upon.

I represented verbally without an hour's delay to the local authorities these various considerations, which I understood to be in the mind and intention of the Government of India. I avoided giving them any absolute instructions, for which indeed they were to look to the Madras Government. I conferred with them, and explained to them, for their consideration, the principles of relief policy and the results of experience. In most cases they seemed from their own experience to be prepared for these views, and often proceeded to give effect thereto, under the responsibility vested in them by their own Government. The general effect was an instant cessation of increase in the rolls of relief labourers, and the commencement of decrease almost day by day. The flow of the tide was arrested and the ebb set in.

I understood that the Madras Government, being satisfied that the approach of the famine had been withstood and repelled, was quite prepared to adopt further measures for systematising relief operations. On the 21st of January I laid before them, in addition to the enforcement of task-work already ordered, proposals for—

Stopping all fresh admissions to relief works in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, save under an order from some responsible official;

Examining every gang person by person with the view of discharging for the present every one not in absolute need of State relief;

Reducing the relief wage for men from 2 annas to 1½ annas per diem; the wage for women and children to be adjusted accordingly.

It was shown that at the price of common grain then prevailing and likely to prevail (namely, one rupee for eight seers or 16 lbs.) during the time of distress, the 1½ annas rate would enable a man to buy 1 lb. of grain per diem, and to have a margin for buying vegetables and condiments. Besides the financial saving, which would be considerable, the foregoing narrative will have shown the importance of lowering the relief wage to the standard of subsistence, of sustaining life in ordinary health, and nothing more.

These views were generally accepted by the Madras Government on the 31st January, and orders were issued by them accordingly to all the distressed districts. Instead of the wage of 1½ annas per diem as proposed by me, the Madras Government ordered that

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the wage should be fixed for all relief labourers, not under professional supervision, at an amount representing the price of 1 lb. a day of grain plus ½ anna for vegetables and condiments. This rate was as economical as mine, but it had this disadvantage, that doubts would arise in different districts as to what kind of grain was meant, that time would be lost in discussion, and that, in the midst of doubts, the reduction of wage would in some localities fail to take effect. All this actually happened. The reduction did not take effect till nearly the end of February, and in many places it settled itself into the 1½ annas rate, the very rate first recommended.

For those relief labourers who were employed by the Public Works Department under the departmental rules of work, or who, though supervised by other agency, might be working up to the departmental standard, a rate of 2 annas per diem was allowed.

While in Madras at this time, I named, at the request of the Madras Government, a number of covenanted Civil servants of the Bengal Presidency who had experience in the famine of 1874. The Government of India was pleased to despatch these officers for service in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. They arrived at their posts in the interior of the country with the least possible delay.

Subsequently I recommended that European officers of the Madras Army should, if they could possibly be spared, be employed in the relief operations. I also invited consideration to the advantage of employing the Native officers of all grades in the army, and also selected sepoys in the supervision of relief gangs and in the exaction of task-work; this plan having been tried with signal advantage in the famine of 1874, when numbers of Native officers and soldiers of the Bengal Army served throughout the famine relief, in a manner worthy of the great profession to which they belonged. By these means a trustworthy and comparatively inexpensive agency is obtained at a time of emergent demand for establishments of this description.

On or about the 24th of January the instructions of the Government of India, already described, were published throughout the Madras Presidency. Their appearance, of course, imparted authoritative weight and solidity to all the proceedings which had been taken to reduce the relief operations to system, and to prevent the waste of money, and strengthened all the representations which might be made with these objects to the Local Government and to its officers.

At the same time it was most important to provide for the inspection of the poorer classes in the distressed districts from village to village, from house to house, in the highways and byeways, in every place where men either congregate or wander. The orders of the Madras Government were that relief camps for the reception of destitute persons should be formed at all the principal places, and that the residuum of such persons should be relieved by the village headmen under the supervision of the district authorities. These orders were doubtless excellent so far as they went. But being general in their terms they needed to be followed up with more specific directions. On the 16th January I caused a detailed memorandum to be drawn up of the manner in which the Kurnool district might be divided into circles and sub-circles for the inspection of every house in every village, for the purpose of searching out cases of destitution, which memorandum was immediately transmitted to the Madras Government. On the 19th January I drew attention to the importance of impressing upon the headmen of every village their responsibility for bringing before the nearest authority every case of dangerous distress. On the 8th February I formally represented to the Madras Government the general importance of the subject, observing that, however comprehensive the relief measures might be, still experience showed that individuals or families might be suffering in silence, and might compose themselves for death without complaining. For this there was one, and only one, remedy, namely, inspecting the villages house to house, and bringing forward for relief every destitute or famishing person who could be found. I pointed out the remarkable advantages which the ryotwari system—with its staff of officials, tehsildars, and Revenue Inspectors in each of the many subdivisions into which every district was divided, and with the hereditary headmen and accountants in every village—offered for carrying out such a plan; concluding with a recommendation that, although the local authorities had a general understanding of the subject, they should be more specifically instructed in its details.

My next care was to visit rapidly the distressed districts below the Ghât mountains. As already seen, some parts of those districts were much distressed. And if the ideas which had for a time prevailed in the districts above the Ghât mountains (Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah) should take possession of the people below them, the crowding of large numbers on relief works might become very embarrassing. I therefore passed through parts of Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Tinnevelly. This visit was decidedly re-assuring. The failure of the autumn and

winter harvests had been less; the promise of the spring harvest was better; the resources of the people were in several respects greater. Nothing like indiscriminate relief had prevailed; the local officers had been cautious and thrifty; the people had been taught the lesson of self-control under threatening circumstances. The recipients of relief were comparatively few, and their number did not seem likely to increase largely.

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At this time, the end of January, it became necessary for me to estimate the cost of the famine in the Madras Presidency. In December 1876 the Revenue Board had made an approximate estimate, which showed an expenditure of nearly 3½ millions sterling, 3,410,000*l.*, exclusive of losses of revenue. But the Government did not accept this, as it was formed on very rough data only. But now, 5th February, it seemed proper for me to submit to the Government of India a preliminary estimate of the possible cost of the famine in the Madras Presidency. This was accordingly done. The main factor in the estimate was the probable number of relief labourers. This was ascertained from the Collector of each district, allowance being made for the restrictive measures which had been discussed, as already described in this minute. The numbers still seemed very high, and I was hopeful of seeing them reduced. But it was not thought prudent to deviate from the authoritative opinions of the several Collectors until further facts should be developed. And as these numbers were high, it seemed advisable to prepare the Government of India for all financial eventualities. On the data then furnished by local authority, the number assumed for February was 1,228,000 persons, for March 1,480,000, for April 1,840,000, for May 1,530,000. After that month it was calculated that the numbers would fall to 795,000 in June and 310,000 in July, Besides these numbers on relief works, it was thought advisable to provide for large numbers of persons coming on gratuitous relief, which numbers might gradually rise to 700,000 in the month of June. The result was a total estimated cost of 2,920,000*l.*, being 490,000*l.* or half a million less than the first rough estimate. The cost might under certain contingencies come out greater. But there was hope that if economy could be successfully introduced the expense might be kept much within this estimate, in which case a revision of the estimate would have to be made.

As measures of additional control came to be adopted, it was apprehended that local questions would arise which could not be promptly settled without some officer being present on the spot with plenary power. Further, with measures of relief spread over so large an area and affecting so many classes, it would be difficult to secure that uniformity of system, which is necessary to be maintained, even after allowing for all local peculiarities, unless there be some authority at hand to whom all officers must defer. I therefore recommended that some officer be appointed to reside in the most distressed districts and be vested with power, subject immediately to the Government of Madras, to direct and control all the relief operations. No particular action was taken upon this recommendation.

I visited the Mysore Province for a few days at this time. The proceedings taken there, which were useful for comparing the standard of relief adopted in this neighbouring province with that prevailing in the Madras Presidency, need not be described now.

It then became desirable for me to return to the districts above the Ghât mountains, Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, to see whether the Madras Government orders regarding the systematisation of relief were being fully carried out. This second visit lasted from the beginning of February to the end of that month. During this time I visited many localities in the interior of the country, examined the various relief works, inspected numerous relief gangs, myself examining upwards of one hundred thousand relief labourers in all of both sexes and all ages, conferred with most of the relief officers, European and Native, and saw as much as possible of the middle and humbler classes who were not upon relief. Once more I impressed upon all concerned the principles set forth in the instructions of the Government of India, superadding this time, however, exhortation founded on the orders of the Government of Madras issued, as already explained, on the 31st January. By this time too the European officers, military and other, from distant parts of India, and especially the Civil servants experienced in the famine of 1874 (who have been already alluded to), were beginning to arrive. Their presence greatly strengthened the supervision and control. The local officers, despite much difficulty, exerted themselves most loyally to restrict relief to those who absolutely needed it; to reject those who were making a convenience of the State bounty; while they extended discriminating charity to all cases of real misery. Many persons were discharged as being manifestly without claim to support from Government. This doubtless discouraged applicants who knew themselves unworthy. To such persons the reduction of the relief wage served as a further discouragement. This tended to keep.

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the numbers down. As might be expected, the increased supervision brought to light the various sorts of frauds, malpractices, and false returns, which are sure to be found on these occasions everywhere. The returning of persons who never existed is expressively termed in these districts the "counting of crows in the air and entering them in a roll." Sometimes outbreaks of small-pox or cholera or other sickness, sometimes also holidays and festivals, would cause gangs to break up, and not to re-assemble. Again, the relief works were systematically re-arranged in order to take the relief labourers to some reasonable distance from their homes, and to make the tasks in some degree irksome, so as to apply some test and trial of the reality of their need. The manner in which the gangs thinned their ranks, when required to move away, to perform a day's march, to render a fixed tale of work, to bivouac or encamp in the open fields, was quite remarkable. Then it was that tens of thousands proved by their own behaviour that they had been taking State wages for gain or convenience, and not for the support of life. More than this, many gangs, on receiving orders which would have been obeyed unhesitatingly by persons really in need, struck work, hoping to make terms with the authorities. Finding themselves unable to dictate their own terms, some would come back after remaining for a while on strike, but many stayed away altogether. Instance after instance occurred of gangs, some thousands strong, disappearing from muster on being told that the road running through the middle of their villages to which they had sauntered leisurely day by day for weeks past was now finished, and that they would be assembled at another road, one day or two days' march off. Other gangs equally large, on being set to do an augmented task, would cease working and run off, shouting that this new burden was unjust, and that Government, having let them become accustomed to easy work, should allow them to continue in ease to the end. The effect of all this was to bring down the numbers week by week. In Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah the highest total in January of persons on relief works amounted to 950,000. It fell to 540,000 by the end of February and to 490,000 by the middle of March. And the decrease is the more remarkable, inasmuch as the season was advancing during which the distress was expected. In this part of the country the process of rejecting from the gangs those who are well-to-do and retaining those who are poor is described by an expressive phrase "shroffing," in allusion to the manner by which a "shroff" or money-changer tests the intrinsic value of the coins presented to him. Thus the majority of the people who left the works had "shroffed" themselves. In this part of the country there was no symptom of distress among these people after their departure. In some instances the prices of common things, grass, firewood, and the like, fell after their departure from the works, proving that they had reverted to regular occupations, and that their presence on the works had for a time actually interrupted rural business.

Inquiry was made as to what the relief labourers were doing with their wages. In many places it was understood that they were not devoting these earnings entirely to the purchase of food grain. The sales of grain at the shops or bazaars established near the gangs on the works appeared often to be less than the cash disbursements in relief wages. It was thence inferred that the labourers were hoarding a part of their wages. There was some information to the effect that they were exchanging the small copper coins for small silver coins.

Again, in some gangs there were large numbers of women whose husbands or relatives were not on the works, but were at home following some pursuits of their own. In such cases it was to be inferred that, while the husbands were following their ordinary professions, the wives were labouring on the relief works in order to eke out the little income of the family.

These and other indications seemed to show that, even after all the reductions in numbers, there must still be many who attended the relief works for gain and convenience rather than from necessity. Still the great majority of those now on the works, though maintained in good condition, would have rapidly deteriorated without State assistance. Thus the relief measures when duly restricted, were really necessary to prevent a section of the population from perishing or being disabled.

It was satisfactory to find that the robberies and thefts which had been so rife from November to January had to a great extent ceased, and that the state of crime against property was not much above its ordinary level. To this remark some places such as the frontier of Kurnool, near the Kistna, certain parts of Salem, and perhaps other localities formed exceptions.

During this visit I inquired most carefully as to whether the prescribed system of village inspection and relief was being carried out. It was found that much was being done in this direction; that the village headmen had received strict injunctions to inspect, report, or relieve; that they had in many cases received small advances of funds, so that they

would be without excuse for failing to afford relief in emergency; that circles had been formed each containing a few villages only, there being a special relief centre in the midst of each circle; that there was a larger relief centre at the head-quarters of each subdivision comprising a cluster of circles. But still here and there among the villages, and sometimes among the gangs of sturdy and vigorous relief labourers, I found weakly or wretched individuals. And sometimes inquiry into these miserable cases showed that the poor people were sharing their wages with infirm people at home. Such infirm persons ought, of course, to have been sought out and brought forward for succour under the system of village inspection and relief. These and other circumstances induced me again to address the Madras Government, reiterating the recommendation made on the 8th February, and suggesting the issue of more definite and detailed orders, compelling all village headmen to pay thorough attention to this part of their duties, and ensuring an effective watch over the headmen on the part of relief officers and officials of all grades.

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Wherever I went sickness and mortality, either just past or actually present, were found showing their sad effects. Everywhere cholera and small-pox met our view, and were mainly to be accounted for by unwholesome drinking water and insanitary habits. In some cases the sickness began with dysentery arising from bad food, and ended in cholera. But at that time, and in that part of the country, those who succumbed under insufficient nourishment, perished—if any really thus perished—through their own default, for everywhere was relief proffered, and was close at hand.

Having regard to the urgent need of large public works on which relief labourers could be professionally tasked, I recommended (with the entire approval of the Madras Government) that the earth-work on the projected railway from Bellary towards Dharwar, and on the branch connecting Chingleput near Madras with Conjeveram, should be taken in hand for employing relief labourers, on the understanding that the Government should not be thereby pledged in respect to the time and manner of completing the lines. To this recommendation the Government of India were pleased to accede.

I next proceeded (on the 27th February) to the Nellore district, and was much struck by the general excellence of the East Coast Canal, and its special suitableness for the extensive employment of relief labour under professional supervision and with complete sanitary control. But, whereas the canal could employ 90,000 labourers, only 30,000 were then employed, and 60,000 were wanted. The orders of the Madras Government for sending to this canal relief labour from a distance had received attention, and some labourers had arrived, but their number was not very considerable. Notwithstanding this, in the very district of Nellore and at short distances from the canal, there were 55,000 persons employed on petty works under the Civil officers. These people were, as a rule, quite unwilling to exchange their comfortable work for labour on the canal. This is an instance of the sort of demoralisation which must arise when people are admitted to easy work at home while they might be drafted to larger public works. I urged the Collector to consider this. He arranged to draft 20,000 selected persons from his village works to the canal. I then represented to the Madras Government the expediency of drafting 40,000 persons from the relief gangs in Bellary and Kurnool, and orders to that effect were issued.

I also asked the consideration of the Madras Government to the suitableness of the "Sungum" irrigation project in this district for employment of relief labour, for which project professional plans and estimates were ready.

Apart from the defect above noticed, the administration of relief in this district seemed to have been more careful and economical than in the districts above the Ghât mountains; but there were reasons to fear that the village inspection and relief was not sufficiently carried out.

Returning from Nellore, I again visited the North Arcot district, that being the quarter where—notwithstanding all the precautions which had been taken by the local authorities—individual cases of severe distress were most likely to be found scattered about the country. I found that, although the relief measures were sufficient in most parts of the district, still in some of the large zemindari estates (mentioned in a previous part of this minute) much unrelieved distress still existed, for the remedying of which full suggestions were offered by me to the district officers.

After this, on the 4th March, I was required by the Government of India to submit a revised estimate of the cost of the famine in the Madras Presidency. It has been already seen that the numbers of persons on relief had been steadily falling, especially in the most distressed districts, since the middle of January. It was therefore necessary to reduce the amount of the preliminary estimate submitted during the first week of

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February. Instead of the total of 1,200,000 relief labourers for February which I had then taken on the authority of the local officers, the latest returns for that month showed only 713,000. Instead of 100,000 which had been estimated as the number of persons on gratuitous relief during February, the actual number was 50,000. The result was that the revised estimate showed a total expenditure of 2,176,000*l.* instead of 2,920,000*l.* the total of the preliminary estimate. But it was explained that the revised estimate assumed the strict maintenance of all the economical checks which had been introduced, the coming of the ordinary showers in April, and the propitiousness of the coming summer monsoon. It was stated that if there should be failure in any of these respects, the estimate would be disturbed.

As favourable reports had been received regarding the districts of Madura and Tinnevelly, it did not seem necessary for me to revisit them. But as events had fully developed themselves in the districts of Salem and Coimbatore, it was desirable to examine the relief operations there, and to see whether system and order had been fully observed. On visiting these districts I found that carefulness and economy, consistently with a due regard to the condition of the people, had been practised there from the first, and had been steadily maintained.

I examined the large relief camps in this part of the country, as well as in the neighbourhood of Madras. Their internal economy was excellent. But though largely attended, they somehow were unpopular with the poorest classes, and were sometimes avoided by even destitute persons. One cause seemed to be the insufficient provision for the separation of the better castes from the caste-less people, and for other social customs which even the humblest hold dear. This was immediately represented to the Madras Government. Some improvement has been already effected.

It was found that while some of the weavers habituated to make the coarser fabrics could labour on the relief works, those weavers who wove the finer stuffs with delicate handiwork could not handle the implements of rough labour. I therefore suggested that for the weavers of finer fabrics, who were often suffering severe privations, some light and suitable relief work should be provided. The Madras Government approved and acted upon this view.

I had to report to the Madras Government the information gathered regarding unrelieved distress in the three large zemindaris already mentioned in this minute, and regarding the failure on the part of the zemindars to do that which is elsewhere acknowledged to be the duty of landlords towards their tenantry and dependants. Suitable admonitions to those concerned have been issued by Government.

In some places I found private charity on a large scale being dispensed by benevolent Native gentlemen to all comers without discrimination as to whether they were deserving or undeserving objects. I therefore suggested to the local authorities the expediency of representing to the charitable donors that it would be preferable for them to contribute to some public institution of which the organisation is such as to admit of due discrimination being conveniently exercised.

I then proceeded to Madras to confer with the Government regarding the sufficiency or otherwise of the reduced relief wage. The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras had raised objections to the reduced scale of wages for relief labour, based on theoretical and scientific grounds, and supported by his previous experience of the people in Southern India. It was thought by him and by some others that the wage ought to be raised to the rate at which it had stood in the beginning of January. I, however, represented to the Government of Madras that the reduced wage had not received any proper trial, and that it ought, in justice to the public interest, to be fully tried. This view was accepted. It was at the same time ordered that any person in the relief gangs who might be found in a condition below par should be specially treated, either by extra allowance or by diminution of task.

It was arranged that, when relief labourers brought to the work children of tender ages unfit for labour, such children should receive a special allowance. This concession, on which the Madras Government laid great stress, obviated a risk which might otherwise have been run, when the relief wage was reduced.

Besides the advantage of economy, which is considerable, there are obvious reasons for keeping the wage down to the lowest rate compatible with the health of the relief labourers. The people are less tempted to resort to relief except under necessity, as they are known to be much influenced by the rise or fall of the relief wage. The margin for illicit practices on the part of ministerial officials is narrowed. If the wage is liberal, a part of it is sure to be absorded by these officials; if it be just enough and no more, then the labourers cannot afford to give anything to the officials. The question whether the wage representing 1 lb. of grain a day, and $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for extras, is sufficient, can be

decided by experience. There is reason to infer from the rates of wages in ordinary times—not of trained labourers or of persons employed in central places or on special work—but of the labouring poor among the villages, and from the ordinary prices of food grains, that a man of this class can hardly get more than 1 lb. a day besides extras. If that be so, it becomes important to establish a relief wage on this basis. It may be that somewhat more liberal terms have been allowed on former occasions. But that is no reason why these more economical terms should not be now introduced if experience proves them to be feasible. And although some instances to the contrary were adduced, still at that time, the middle of March, large gangs of labourers in Bellary and Kurnool were known to have been working for some little time on the reduced wage without physical detriment. Opinion at Madras was apparently affected by the wretched condition of the wanderers who strayed into the capital or its suburbs, in quest of food, and who doubtless may need generous sustenance for a time. But these were cases of special distress and were quite apart from the mass of relief labourers in the interior of the country, who had been employed before they could lapse into wretchedness, and had since been maintained in good case.

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It was necessary next to proceed on the 15th March to the Bombay Presidency to carry on the work of my mission there.

I returned to the Madras Presidency on the 25th March, entering the district of Bellary. I found both in that district and in Kurnool that the engineering and professional establishments were still far from being adequately employed in the supervision of relief works and on the exaction of task-work. As herein there seemed to be a waste of power, and consequent detriment of the relief operations, I submitted to the Madras Government a detailed scheme, prepared on the spot in concert with the local authorities whereby certain selected works might in each of these districts be taken up by the Engineer officers—to which works the Civil officers might draft off all the strongest labourers of both sexes from the ordinary relief works. The persons thus drafted off would be really subjected to task. A precise statement was submitted of the works to which this scheme would apply; they were chiefly trunk roads running through these districts. I also tried to assist in expediting the selection of able-bodied men to be drafted from the relief works in these districts to the East Coast Canal and to the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar. The relief labourers, however, evinced much unwillingness to be transferred from the easy village works to these larger public works.

I also again examined the progress made with village inspection and relief. Much improvement in this respect was perceptible. Those destitute persons who could move were resorting to relief centres, established amidst the circles of inspection into which the villages had been grouped. Those who could not move were being specially treated in their villages by the village headmen. I was unable to hear of any death occurring or being likely to occur from starvation.

On this occasion I was accompanied by Dr. S. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner to the Government of India, whose assistance had been asked for to enable me to judge of the physical condition of the relief labourers, and to estimate under professional advice the objections raised by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras. After inspecting nearly 40,000 of these people in different parts of the country, Dr. Townsend stated his deliberate opinion that their physical condition was fairly good, and that there were no grounds perceptible for raising the wages. This opinion I duly reported to the Government of Madras.

The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras has, however, admitted that, with the special allowance given to the little children of relief labourers, perhaps also with the allowance of wages on Sundays, the reduced wage is about equal to that which he himself recommended.

Still in some quarters it seems to be supposed that there is some connexion between the mortality among the recipients of gratuitous relief and the reduced relief wages; if persons die at the gratuitous relief camps, or are picked up in a famishing state on the roads or elsewhere, that is imagined by some to be a proof that the relief wages must be too low. But evidently there is no connexion whatever between the two cases. Those who are found starving (with exceptions so rare as to prove the rule) are not, and have never been relief labourers at all, and have not been earning any wages. Most of them are not accustomed or are not able to work; and this is mainly the reason why they have been admitted to gratuitous relief. How, therefore, can the rate of relief wages possibly affect them? Any inference drawn from these conditions would be wholly irrelevant if applied to relief labourers. These poor people have sunk into danger, either because they themselves failed to apply for charitable aid, or because those who ought to have brought them forward for gratuitous relief failed to do so. But that is a matter quite

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separate from the question of relief wages, which refers to a totally different class of persons.

Even though the reduced wage may, as now stated by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, be much the same as that which he recommends, and may so far have the support of his authority, still its effect ought to be carefully watched; and if any signs of real deterioration in the physique of the relief labourers should hereafter appear, there need not be any difficulty in raising it.

I then returned for a time to the Mysore Province, and again compared the relief system there with that in the Madras Presidency.

Thence I re-visited the Salem district, in parts of which severe distress existed following two successive years of drought, and where the village inspection and relief required further examination. Then travelling by Trichinopoly I proceeded to Negapatam, where the activity of the grain trade is producing much result, and to the Madura district, which is passing through a critical period of the drought. In these districts there have been showers, some heavy, some light, falling here and there on limited areas, and causing husbandry to revive wherever they fall. In the southern peninsula relief is afforded by the temporary emigration of abnormally large numbers to the coffee plantations and the labour markets of Ceylon; where they are still able to find remunerative employment.

I am now proceeding towards Madras, and I hope to visit South Arcot, in parts of which some distress is apprehended, and to pass through the Bellary and Kurnool districts once more, before leaving the presidency.

The mission has lasted from the third week in January (1877) to the fourth week of April. Within the Madras Presidency 10 districts, 46 "taluks" or local divisions of districts, and five large zemindaris, have been visited. 132,500 relief labourers of both sexes have been passed in review person by person, of whom 65,000 were found to be good in physical condition, 47,000 middling, 16,700 indifferent, and 3,800 bad. 5,300 miles have been travelled over, of which 4,420 were by rail and 880 by other means of travelling. These proceedings are irrespective of my tours in the Bombay Presidency and in the Mysore Province within the above-mentioned time.

Before concluding this part, it may be well to mention another question into which I inquired, namely, how far it might be absolutely necessary to remit the land revenue due from ryots whose crops had wholly or partially failed. In the Bengal Presidency the theory of the land revenue settlement is that the landholder bears any loss in bad years, for he enjoys all the profits of good harvests or high prices. In years of grievous failure of harvest it is customary to suspend collection of a part of the land revenue until the next good season comes. And in temporarily settled tracts some remission is often granted where all the crops have been lost. The theory of the Madras revenue system is somewhat different. In the districts under regular settlement the rule is that, if the water supply to any "wet" lands (that is, lands irrigated from tanks or rivers) wholly fails, then the land revenue on such lands is remitted in full, but not otherwise. For either it is a part of the implied understanding between Government and the ryot, or else it has been the practice, that water shall be provided to irrigate "wet" lands. On "dry" lands (that is, lands not irrigated at all, or irrigated only from wells) a reduction of 20 per cent. is made on the Government demand to meet vicissitudes of season; and on these lands no remission is granted save under very exceptional circumstances. In the districts not under regular settlement, remission of land remenue is granted on account of partial failure on "wet" lands, and it is also allowed more freely for loss of crop on "dry" lands.

The present season of scarcity deepening into famine is indeed very exceptional; and the Madras revenue authorities considered that very large remissions of revenue would be required; while they regarded it as inexpedient to hold in suspense over the ryots any part of the land revenue that could not with fairness be collected this year.

It seemed to me that the policy of Government in this matter might properly be reconsidered. The plan of spending very large sums of public money on saving life from famine had crystallised into a broad and important policy. But the cost of famine relief would be indefinitely augmented if the public treasury were to be consumed, as it were, at both ends, by great expenditure on relief and by large remissions of land revenue. The Madras land revenue has been moderately assessed, and falls comparatively light on "dry" lands; and an ordinary ryot might well afford to pay the arrear land revenue of a bad year out of his profits, if the succeeding two years shall be good. The circumstance that lands irrigated from wells are taxed at "dry" or unirrigated rates of land revenue, greatly strengthens the position of ryots on "dry" lands; for crops irrigated by wells yield an out-turn on which the assessment falls with very light

incidence. On the other hand, a considerable portion of the whole land is held by very petty ryots, whose standard of living is low, and who might be unable to pay up the arrears of their land tax in full. I estimated, however, that perhaps two-thirds of the land revenue, which could not fairly be collected this year, might be paid by the ryots during the two succeeding years, if the seasons should be propitious. And I recommended that the arrear land revenue of the present year should be kept in suspense, and that no remission should at present be promised on "dry" lands, in order that the public treasury might have a chance of recovering part of the arrears, if the future seasons shall be favourable. If the people should be found hereafter unable to pay the revenue for this year, which by settlement or other arrangement they had engaged to pay, neither I nor any one else would recommend their being unduly pressed. There will doubtless be under any circumstances a disposition to show to the ryot all the consideration which could be claimed under a just and lenient view of the obligations between him and the State. Also in the administration of such a branch of the revenue as the land revenue, due regard must always be paid to old-established practice, so that whatever proceedings are taken may be such as would naturally connect themselves with the existing system. But if fortunately the ryots should hereafter prove able to pay, then they ought to pay whatever may be due from them under settlement or other engagements; and there seems to be no reason why, by any premature remission, we should preclude ourselves from the chances of making such recoveries. If this principle be deemed novel in the Madras Presidency (it is not novel in other parts of India), there is on the other hand, the consideration that the public expenditure now going on, which is mainly for the sustenance of the lower agricultural classes, is without precedent in Southern India.

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The Government of Madras held that this view could not be accepted, and that the practice of Northern India is not applicable to the different circumstances of Madras. In Bombay, where, as in Madras, the land is held on ryotwari (petty proprietary) tenure, the Government after consideration accepted this view, so far that the arrears of the present year in the famine tracts of Bombay are in part "remitted," and in part "suspended" for collection in future years if seasons permit. The Government of India decided that the question of remitting or suspending the land revenue should be left to the discretion of the Local Governments. And the latest estimate of the Madras Board of Revenue is that 143 lakhs of rupees (1,430,000*l.*) of land revenue must be remitted on account of the recent failure of harvests. I see reason to hope that the total remissions, which will not be precisely known till August next, will fall below this estimate; for the board has inculcated and enforced on Collectors carefulness and regard for the public treasury, within the broad lines laid down for the settlement of the affair. The decision of the Government of Madras is taking effect, so far as the present trouble is concerned. But the question has so important a bearing on the Imperial finance of future famines, that I may have to submit to the Government of India a further account of the matter in a separate paper.

Part IV.

The state of affairs at the present time of writing may be summarised thus. The numbers on relief were according to the returns for the third week in March—

	Persons.
On relief works - - - -	664,000
On gratuitous relief - - - -	97,000
Total -	761,000

By 1st April these numbers rose to—

On relief works - - - -	695,000
On gratuitous relief - - - -	115,000
Total -	810,000

The total is moderate as compared with the total which was shown upon the data given me by the local authorities in the beginning of February, after they had made many abatements in the direction of restrictive economy.

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But with the advance of the season the numbers may be expected to rise.

In respect to those upon the works, the great majority do really need and deserve this relief. There doubtless are still among them many thousands of persons who are not absolutely in want and who would certainly leave the works, if only severe task-work could be enforced, or if they could be drafted to large public works under professional control. I still think that something more might be done towards this very salutary end.

The exaction of task-work is probably as good as can be expected in works under Civil officers and unprofessional establishments. In some of the districts below the Ghât mountains it has been enforced with a strictness most creditable to the local authorities.

It must be admitted that the plan of employing relief labourers on large public works has in a considerable degree failed in the Madras Presidency. More might have been, and might still be done in this respect. The engineering and professional establishments of the Public Works Department have not, I think, been directly utilised enough for conducting the relief operations. This defect ought, apparently, to be remediable. Again, the impression produced on the minds of the people by the liberal manner in which petty works among the villages were opened in the beginning, intensified the distaste of the relief labourers for large public works. This also overwhelmed the authorities with unmanageable crowds of persons demanding instant attention, and distracting the thoughts of all the officers from the business of systematisation and organisation.

But even if the Public Works establishments had been perfectly brought into play, if the fullest restrictiveness and abstinence had been practised in respect to petty Civil works, if the officers had been able to concentrate their energies on sytematisation, still it must be allowed that the distressed districts and the presidency generally were unfortunate in having so few large practicable projects suited for the employment of relief labour. It is but just to remember this, when the poverty of result in this respect is reviewed; though, perhaps, the utmost may not always have been made of the few works which did exist.

The total of those on gratuitous relief amounts now to 115,000 persons. *It is in some* degree swollen by little children whose parents are on the relief works. Excluding these children, I am sure that the total is not larger than it ought to be. Indeed I fear that it is not large enough. Despite the persistent efforts which have been made, the system of village relief and house-to-house inspection is far from perfect. Disappointment may reasonably be felt at the shortcomings in this matter under a ryotwari system which offers such advantages in this behalf. Much was to be expected from the hereditary headmen and the hereditary accountants in the villages, who represent ancient institutions which have been studiously fostered by the Madras Government for generations. These men may yet do well, and are doing better than they did, but at first they were backward in their duty.

The following statement shows the per-centage of the total number on relief (relief works and charitable relief together) on the population of each district :—

Distressed Districts.	Total Numbers on Relief Works and on gratuitous Relief during the First Week of April.	Per-centage of Persons receiving Relief of both kinds on the Total Population of the District.
Bellary - - -	269,000	17 per cent.
Kurnool - - -	236,000	24½ „
Cuddapah - - -	80,000	6 „
Nellore - - -	69,000	5 „
Chingleput (inclusive of Madras city).	29,000	2 „
North Arcot - - -	32,000	1½ „
Salem - - - -	58,000	3 „
Coimbatore - - -	27,000	1⅔ „
Madura - - -	12,000	½ „
Tinnevelly - - -	3,000	⅕ „

I have again drawn attention, with suitable suggestions, to the unduly high per-centage which, after all the reductions which have been made, still prevails in Kurnool.

A corresponding statement for the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency, which have been already adverted to in this minute, stands thus :—

—	Total Numbers on Relief Works and on gratuitous Relief during the Third Week of March.	Per-centage of Persons receiving Relief of both kinds on the Total Population of the District.
Sholapur - - -	49,955	7 per cent.
Kaladgi - - -	27,120	3½ „
Part of Poona - -	57,691	6⅓ „

The physical condition of the people in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency is fairly good; better decidedly than it was expected to be. An impression (which I quite share) seems to be gaining acceptance that the agricultural classes have more self-sustaining power, more life-supporting resources than was originally anticipated. There is reason to think that the relief wages earned by so many thousands have not been entirely spent in buying food, but have in part been hoarded. This circumstance may be expected to facilitate the discharge of these people as soon as the season shall improve. There is still some lamentable mortality in or about Madras itself, and in some other central places below the Ghât mountains, which, though immediately caused by disease, is in part traceable to insufficient nourishment. The death-rate among the people received into the relief camps in and about the city of Madras continues extraordinarily high. These occurrences, happening at or near the capital, naturally make a painful impression on the public mind. Elsewhere the physical condition of the peasantry is in the main satisfactory, although to a broad and important statement of this kind there are, and must be, some exceptions. On the whole the consequences of the drought are being well subdued.

However successful the physical results may be in saving life and in preserving the bodily strength of the people from deteriorating, the moral effect of the relief operations cannot be overlooked. These operations must bind the people to the Government by ties of gratitude and respect. But there remains the question whether anything like demoralisation, or disposition to rely unduly on the State, or indisposition to practise self-help among the people has grown out of these affairs. While admitting the efforts made by the cultivators generally to save their crops, I have received an impression that in many cases they have failed or omitted to do all that they might have done to retrieve their misfortunes, or to extemporise the means of raising some crops despite the destruction of the ordinary harvests. The almost constant recurrence of scarcity in some part or other in the Madras Presidency, and the quickening of the sense of responsibility on the part of Government during recent years, may have taught and are teaching the people to regard the State as a beneficent power on which they may, in the last resort, rely for sustenance, whether they do their best for themselves or not. If there be any such feeling in their minds, it must have been evoked by the liberal manner in which relief operations were commenced in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah towards the end of 1876. Some demoralisation did, I think, begin to creep not only into the labouring classes but into the peasant proprietary, and threatened to spread. It was but narrowly avoided, if, indeed, it was avoided altogether. However, the measures subsequently taken have kept the proprietary classes comparatively free from such depressing influences. But there is fear lest the sense of the duty of being independently industrious should become lowered among the labouring classes.

The spring harvest in all the distressed districts, save Bellary and Kurnool, has been tolerably good. With a larger yield probably than was expected, it has tended to keep down prices, and to bring out stocks to market. It has added something most opportunely to the food-supply of the year. Its productiveness is mainly due to the wells. While most of the tanks or lakes, which ordinarily fertilise the best lands, have remained empty during this drought, the wells have been the means of drawing water from those subterranean reservoirs which the granitic formations and the various rocky strata retain, preserving the moisture of previous times. It is noteworthy in most parts of the Madras Presidency that wells, if deepened, will still produce springs of water, despite a drought, certainly of one year, and probably of two years. One of the best prophylactics against famine, then, is to encourage the excavation of wells more and more. The experience of 1876 and 1877 has, as already mentioned, imparted much impetus to the sinking of wells throughout the country. It is to be hoped that the Government will be able to maintain this impetus in years to come. And the circumstances of 1877 vindicate the policy whereby the Madras revenue system imposes no additional land tax on fields watered by wells which the ryots themselves have dug.

It is of course to be regretted that the elaborate system of tanks or lakes, on which so

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much of skilled labour and capital has been expended for so many generations, should be almost entirely exhausted by one year of drought, that most of these noble reservoirs should not hold more than one year's supply of water, and that so few of them are efficiently protected against the disastrous floods which periodically recur. Whether many of them could be made to hold (as some few probably are holding) a quantity of water that would outlast a drought of one or two years' duration, is an engineering question of some difficulty. In the Madras Presidency, hydraulic engineering has been pursued with such signal success that all practicable expedients may be presumed to have already been tried. Still this particular point is proved by the experience of 1877 to be so important that a notice of it cannot be out of place or inopportune.

There was in the beginning some fear lest the drinking water should prove very deficient in some parts of the country. As yet, however, there has not been any such deficiency, though often the drinking water has deteriorated during the drought; and wherever this has happened, the people have suffered.

The activity of the grain trade has been most healthy, from the seaports to the central marts, from the railways to the roads, from the markets and depôts to the village booths. This activity was more vigorously exhibited during the early months of 1877, and to it must be attributed the steadiness of prices and their tendency to fall rather than to rise as the season of trouble has advanced. But during the last half of March and the first half of April the importation or grain by sea to Madras, and by rail to the northern frontier, has somewhat declined. The accumulated bags of grain, housed in barns near the Madras beach seemed so unmanageable in quantity, that men wondered whether the railway would be able to carry away such an amount within the allotted time. But there is little fear of its not all being soon cleared away, now that the hitherto constant influx has subsided. The quantity of grain required from without for the distressed districts could never, of course, be estimated beforehand with any certainty. But various calculations on different series of data concurred in pointing to 2,700 tons a day as the quantity for which carrying power should be provided. And every effort was put forth to secure provision accordingly, with a fair prospect of sufficient success. But now the average quantity carried daily is under 2,000 tons. Notwithstanding this, the markets—great and small—the entrepôts and depôts, in the interior of the country continue well supplied with grain. Nor is any apprehension expressed by the traders. The inference necessarily is that the stocks of grain within the Madras Presidency, and the internal resources of the country, must be greater than the original anticipation.

From the beginning of the present trouble down to the end of March 1877, the quantities of food grain brought into the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency amounted to about 535,000 tons. This great supply was drawn from several sources, thus,—

By sea into Madras, Tuticorin, and other East Coast ports from Bengal, Burma, Orissa, and Ganjam	356,000 tons.
By sea into Beypore and other West Coast ports	118,000 „
By the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Northern and Central India into the Madras Presidency	61,000 „

The pressure of the scarcity was felt in the interior of the country before imported grain began to arrive from distant provinces. And the earliest movement of the grain trade was the transport of grain by rail from old stocks on the coast into the interior. Considerable importations from without began in November, and the imports went on increasing till they culminated in January with a total of 101,000 tons. The imports slackened somewhat in February, when the total was 80,000 tons; and they were still less during the month of March.

Only 30,000 tons of all this quantity were imported on Government account; the rest, 505,000 tons in all, were brought into the country by private trade. The imported grain was distributed by the Madras railways into the interior of the country, thus,—

Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool received	147,000 tons.
The Mysore province received	81,000 „
The districts of North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore received	73,000 „
The districts of Chingleput and Malabar received	10,000 „
	311,000 „

Of this total, some was sent into the Nizam's territory, and the remainder has either been distributed by the South India Railway, by cart or by canal boat through the coast districts, or is still awaiting means of railway carriage into the interior. There were some considerable grain imports by cart from the southern ports of the Bombay

Presidency, and much grain was carted from Raichore and other places in the Nizam's territory into Kurnool. Sir Richard Temple's report on his mission to Madras.

If the period from August to October 1876 be included, the total imports into the Madras Presidency will be seen to be as follows:—

IMPORT of FOOD GRAINS into the PRESIDENCY of MADRAS.

Madras received in	From Ports beyond the Presidency or non-subordinate Ports.	From subordinate Ports.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
August 1876	1,769		
September ,,	875	38,000	43,637
October ,,	2,993		
November ,,	26,792	30,000	85,466
December ,,	28,674		
January 1877	72,985		
February ,,	57,421	36,000	201,852
March ,,	35,446		
Total	226,955	104,000	330,955
Other East Coast ports received from all sources			25,000
Grand total Madras and East Coast			355,955
Beypore and Calicut received from all sources			63,000
Other West Coast ports ditto ditto			55,000
Grand total of West Coast ports			118,000
The Northern districts received by rail from Great Indian Peninsula Railway			61,000
The above figures abstracted show the total imports as follows:—			
By sea from Bengal, Burma, Orissa, and Ganjam to Madras, Tuticorin, &c.			356,000
By sea into Beypore and other West Coast ports			118,000
By Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Northern and Central India into the Madras Presidency.			61,000
Grand total			535,000

If, as is probably the case, imported grain did not come generally into consumption before the month of November, then the grain which was carried by rail into the interior of the country before the end of March will suffice to feed $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions of people for six months, that is to say, it will support 25 per cent. of the population of the more distressed tracts of Madras and Mysore from the 1st November down to the end of April. These grain importations, distributed as they have been by railway and by cart over the length and breadth of the country, have sufficiently supplied all requirements. And the price of common food grain at the larger marts has since the 1st January last usually been cheaper than 8 seers (16 lbs.) per rupee; while even at the lesser marts of the interior prices have rarely been so dear as 7 seers (14 lbs.) per rupee.

Passing from the present to the thought of the future, we cannot but reflect whether the uncertainty of season which often proves so disastrous in Southern India is not becoming worse and worse, whether there may not be some physical causes at work to render the rainfall precarious, and whether such causes can be ascertained or obviated. It is hard to conceive a question more practically important than this. The discussion of it would be beyond the scope of this minute.

But, connected with it, there is one particular matter which may be mentioned forcibly though briefly. The southern peninsula of India has been or is being denuded, not only of its forests but also of its jungles, its brushwood, its groves, its trees. The denudation has been, as I understand, going on near the sources and the upper courses of the many rivers which water the country. This perhaps is being in some degree checked. But with the progress of coffee planting, and with the assertion of communal rights on behalf of the people, the utmost vigilance will be needed to keep it within bounds. If it were to proceed unchecked, there would be imminent danger of the rivers running dry by reason of the catchment basins and the drainage areas near their sources being rainless. And as these rivers supply the great canal systems, this danger has only to be mentioned in order to be felt. The same argument applies in a lesser degree to the tanks or lakes which are second only to the canals in usefulness for irrigation. It has

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already been seen how precarious is the position of these reservoirs even with one year's drought. The progress of the country causes the price of timber and of firewood to rise. The introduction of railways has, in the absence of any local coal mines, greatly augmented the demand for fuel. Strong temptations are thus inevitably offered to the people at large to fell, cut, and lop recklessly, to bring every log, stump, and stick to market, to dig out the very roots of the jungle, so stopping any chance of reproduction, without thought for the future. There are stories to be heard everywhere of groves and hedgerows and scattered trees being cut for sale. In the midst of cultivated tracts there are to be seen bare sterile hillsides, said to have been forest-clad within living memory. In such localities the climate is supposed to have changed for the worse. Beyond the Ghât mountains, in Bellary and Kurnool, the treeless, shrubless aspect of the country is as wonderful as it is melancholy. These are the very districts where famine has been occasionally epidemic, and where scarcity is almost endemic. Any thoughtful spectator must perceive that according to all meteorological experience, and to the almost certain teaching of proved facts, these fine districts were not destined by nature to be the prey and sport of famine or scarcity, but have been rendered subject to these calamities by the thoughtless action of man. Even the numerous groves planted in the last generation by the great Collector, Mr. Robertson, whose name is still a household word, were made over many years ago to the villagers, and have been mostly cut down. Trees, jungle, and forests must, indeed, be thinned and cut for the use of man; but they need never be exhausted, and something might always be left for re-production. There is, of course, a department of forest conservancy in the Presidency, and much good is done thereby. Whether its functions and proceedings are fully sufficient for the wants of the country is a question not to be discussed here. At all events there is reason to hope that the waste lands in hill and dale, which are in this Presidency so extensive, might be kept much more thickly wooded than they are, and that large areas now quite naked and devoid of vegetation would, if reserved and guarded, become again covered with trees or brushwood as they were in former ages. And the successful efforts of individual officers in the past prove what may yet be effected in the way of planting. If the necessity be duly recognised, then there is no doubt of the possibility of devising remedies.

Before this part of the minute is concluded it is necessary to advert to the estimate of the cost of the famine. It has been already shown that the first approximate estimate by the Revenue Board showed a total of 3,410,000*l.* But the estimate of relief expenditure made by me in the beginning of February on data obtained from the local officers during January showed 2,920,000*l.* In that estimate it was necessary to follow the local estimates of the numbers to come upon relief works, the total of which came to 1,800,000 persons in the worst season between the middle of April and the middle of May, there being actually 1,066,000 in the beginning of January. But finding that system and economy had brought down the actual number to 713,000 by the end of February, I presented a revised estimate of 2,176,000*l.* on the 6th March, in which the highest number on relief works at the worst season was assumed at less than 1,200,000. There was great hope, however, that even this reduced number might prove to be in excess of the reality, if the system which had proved so successful in February could be kept up through March, and due effort was to be made to keep it up. The result for March has been even better than that for February—when the difference of season is remembered—and has been better still, relatively, for the first half of April. If system and economy be maintained, and if no new adversity of season shall happen, it is thought that the highest number will not exceed 800,000 persons on relief works, and may be even less than that. My latest estimate now shows 2,050,000*l.* of expenditure.

This estimate, as my former estimates, is exclusive of losses of revenue.

Part V.

There are yet to be considered the lessons to be deduced from all the circumstances which have yet occurred in connexion with these affairs. It seems to me that from these events we forcibly and positively learn—

To determine beforehand, as soon as any forecast of the coming distress can be made, the large public works upon which relief labour can be employed, and upon which task-work can be exacted, or piece-work established, under professional supervision;

To notify generally and to intimate to all concerned, especially to the Civil officers, the particular public works to which the relief labourers in each distressed district are to be drafted;

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To organise an engineering staff in readiness for undertaking vigorously these particular public works when the time for active operations shall arrive, and to prepare for devoting to this purpose all the professional establishments which can be obtained;

To prohibit absolutely, in the beginning of the distress, the opening of petty works under Civil officers or non-professional establishments among the villages close to the homes of the people;

To refuse relief to strong able-bodied persons of both sexes in any form, save employment on the large public works;

To allow petty village works to be opened only when severe and widespread distress has declared itself at a comparatively advanced stage in any district or part of a district, and even then to reject all, save those who cannot reasonably be expected to proceed to the large public works,—in short to reserve these petty works for the weakly, the sickly, the advanced in life, and for those who have any just claim for indulgence;

To insist upon a systematic inspection by responsible Civil officers of all relief gangs, person by person, and from time to time, in order to see whether they are all in need of or deserving of State assistance, and to note whether their physical condition improves or deteriorates, and whether their wages are too much or too little;

To reject every applicant for, or recipient of relief, whether on a public work or on other works, who can be shown to be able to support himself for a time without State assistance;

To take care that such establishments in various grades are provided beforehand as may be able to exact tasks on the petty works near the villages;

To keep the wages on relief works at the lowest rate compatible with the health of the labourers, this being necessary, not only in the interests of economy, but also to prevent demoralisation of the people;

To insist on inspection being instituted from village to village in the distressed districts for the discovery and treatment of the casual cases of dangerous distress which are likely to occur, this inspection of villages, house to house, to be made stricter and stricter as the season of distress advances, full use being made of existing rural institutions (hereditary headmen, accountants, and the like), or, if these do not exist, such arrangements being improvised as may prove adequate;

To organise relief camps on a sufficient scale near large towns, at central spots where high roads converge and the like, for the reception of destitute persons who should be compelled to live there temporarily as a proof of the sincerity of their appeal for help; and to adapt the internal arrangements of these camps as much as possible to the caste feelings and other social habits of the people;

To encourage private charity to the utmost, but to explain to benevolent persons that they can best serve the public by making their contribution to some public organised institutions, where relief can be restricted to the deserving, rather than by dispensing charity to all comers, among whom there are sure to be many undeserving;

To allow and encourage smaller relief centres in the interior of the districts as the season of distress advances, to which all recipients of gratuitous relief must resort who can move;

To provide for those who are destitute and unable to move being cared for in the villages;

To arrange relief charges territorially in compact and manageable areas, so that no jurisdiction shall be too large or too remote for the supervision either of the District Collector, or of an officer of the experience and status of a Collector;

To depute, either to the whole distressed territory, or to the most distressed districts, some officer, with full instructions as to the policy to be pursued in relief, and with power to direct and control on the spot the relief operations, subject to the direct orders of the Government itself;

To postpone relief operations as long as may be safely possible, while maintaining full preparedness against any emergency that may arise, and, by annexing to all forms of relief such conditions as the people can reasonably bear, to teach them that State support is not a matter of course for the alleviation of general distress, but is only permissible to prevent extreme distress and to save life;

To make forecasts of the State expenditure required for relief, but to revise them at short intervals from time to time, being mindful that the questions relating to the effect of scarcity upon the condition of the people are recondite; that the event may be worse than the anticipation, and more often perhaps may be better;

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To watch carefully the rising of prices in the beginning of scarcity to rates even three times as dear as ordinary rates, to withstand the alarms which are likely to be excited among the people by such symptoms, in the confidence that, so long as prices are cheaper elsewhere, the dearness constitutes a remedy provided by the economy of nature, for attracting supplies through private trade;

To contemplate purchases by Government of grain in distant markets only under absolute necessity when there is no prospect of supply on the spot, but to be ready, if need arises, to buy grain from local or other dealers who will deliver it at the places where it may be required to pay relief labourers or to feed destitute paupers;

To reject all proposals for placing Government grain in any positions within easy reach of railways or other main lines of communication;

To pay relief labour in cash so long as the labourers can buy food with their wages, and to postpone paying in grain as long as possible, because any purchases of grain by Government, however unobjectionable otherwise, tend to disconcert private trade if it exists in the locality, and to raise undefined apprehensions;

To contemplate the possibility of being obliged to organise Government transport establishments in the event of emergency arising, but to avoid as long as possible calling them into action or placing them in the field, lest misappreheusion should be caused in the trade;

To publish from week to week, while the scarcity lasts, information regarding the current prices, the importation of grain from without, the varying state of the distressed districts, the carrying power of the railways, or other transport agencies;

To maintain on the great railway lines a moderate, though adequate reserve of engine power, so as to enable the railways to meet emergent requirements such as must arise in a year of famine:

To consider the possibility (so far as engineering considerations may permit) of ensuring in the irrigation tanks enough water for at least two years;

To stimulate the ryots to sink wells more and more, and to assist the people with advances of money for this purpose so far as funds may allow;

To diligently inquire whether the failure of seasons, so chronic in Southern India, can be traced in any degree to preventible causes;

To conserve existing forests and woods, however small or scattered, to study the reproduction of extinct jungle, to preserve the groves, to make plantations, to encourage the spontaneous growth not only of timber trees but also of brushwood wherever possible;

To jealously watch and guard the forests near the sources and the incipient streams of all the rivers.

Doubtless all the points which have been mentioned above are well known to the Government, and most of them have received practical consideration. But as their importance has been brought home to us by the experience of the Madras famine, it has seemed proper to specify them here, as they may be useful for reference on future occasions.

In conclusion, it is not required of me to express any general opinion regarding the treatment of the famine in the Madras Presidency, which famine, indeed, is not yet over. But I must declare my cordial thanks to the Madras Government and its principal officers for all the kindness and consideration received from them during my mission. And though the Goverument is doubtless well aware of the merits and services of its officers throughout this trying time, yet I must state my sense of, and add my testimony to, the excellent conduct of the local officers, the Collectors, Sub-Collectors, Assistants, and other Civil and Military officers employed on relief. Having travelled, worked, and lived among them for three months of strenuous exertion, I have unsurpassed means of knowing how unremittingly they have toiled, how thoughtfully they have planned, and how anxiously they have striven in the service of the Government and for the good of the people.

My thankful acknowledgments are due to the members of my staff—Mr. C. E. Buckland, C.S., Captain S. Rivett-Carnac, and Dr. R. Harvey—for their zealous and useful assistance in the work of the mission; also to Captain W. S. S. Bisset, R.E., for his vigilant attention to all affairs connected with the grain traffic on the railways.

From my Secretary, Mr. C. E. Bernard, C.S.I., I have received valuable aid and counsel in every branch of the work, and I would represent his good service and his administrative ability for the favourable consideration of the Government of India.

No. 215.

C.—Memorandum by Mr. Bernard on Relief Affairs in the worst part of the Salem District, during the middle of April 1877, dated Morapore, 16th April 1877. Nos. 216. 237.

The total population of the district is in round numbers two millions. On the 9th April the district had— Relief in Salem district.

	No.
On relief works—	
Under Civil officers - - - -	24,527
,, Public Works Department officers -	26,861
Total - - -	51,388
On gratuitous relief - - - -	17,249

During the last fortnight there have been partial showers, nowhere exceeding $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and in most places much less. The people have ploughed a good deal of land where the rain has exceeded half an inch. As yet the rain has not sufficed to raise fodder for the cattle.

2. The relief labourers are for the most part paid by piece-work; and the rates are from 50 to 100 per cent. dearer (that is, more favourable to the workman) than in ordinary years. Some weeks ago the rates were harder, but they were lightened by the Collector, who considered that the people were becoming reduced in condition. An adult male labourer earns at piece-work from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 annas a day; women and children make proportionate earnings. Some few light labour gangs in every taluk are on a daily wage of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a day for men, and $1\frac{1}{4}$ annas for women. Infants who cannot work get 3 pie a day, whether their parents belong to piece-work or light labour gangs.

3. Though the whole district is distressed, yet some parts are much worse than others. The Dhurumpooree taluk (population 186,000) is the worst of all; next comes the Ootengiri taluk (population 170,000); and there is some severe distress in and around the town of Salem, and in the taluk of Trichurgode.

4. It is ascertained from Mr. Dawes, Deputy Collector, that in his two taluks, Ootengiri and Tripettore, there were—

8,100 on relief works under Public Works Department officers.
2,800 on relief works under Civil officers.
1,000 on gratuitous relief in three relief camps and at villages.

The village relief system established by the Collector in January, but stopped by the Board's orders after a few weeks' trial, is now being revived. Under this system a list of the helpless poor in every village is made out and checked, and then a cash allowance, 12 to 15 pie a day, is made to each one of these destitute people through the village headman; children get only 10 pie. The success of this system depends entirely on the supervising staff; and the Collector has 8 to 14 circles in each taluk with a sufficiently paid inspector over each. These inspectors acting under the tahsildar and relief officer, see that the gratuitous allowance really reaches the needy people.

5. Nearly all the relief labourers in these two taluks are employed on piece-work at rates which are double (that is, twice as dear as) the rates of ordinary years. All the work done is useful work, and most of it is on tanks. No public works undertakings are going on, or ever have gone on in the Salem district, side by side with and in competition with the relief works. Both Mr. Dawes and the Tahsildar of Ootengiri were confident that deaths do not now occur in these two taluks from starvation, unless in the case of some of the wanderers whom it is so difficult to control. Cholera keeps constantly appearing here and there among the villages. Cattle are dying in great numbers; to this fact the enormous number of hides constantly brought to market testifies. People have driven their cattle down off the Shevaroy and other hills because of the want of water there. In the low lands there is no absolute dearth of water either for man or beast.

6. At Dhurumpooree 2,300 labourers were inspected, of whom about 200 were on daily wages at the $1\frac{1}{2}$ anna rate; and the rest were on piece-work, earning about two annas for each male adult. Most of these people had been employed for three or four months. About two-fifths of them belonged to Pariah, and three-fifths to other castes. Among them were some 400 men and women who were remarkably stout and strong; these sturdy gangs have to do 20 per cent. more work for the rupee than the other gangs, and they are going to be drafted on to tank work elsewhere. The rest of these workpeople were in fair (but not first-rate) physical condition; some few were below par. There was only one really emaciated person, and he had been at work for three months; *but*

Relief in Salem district.

he had been supporting two sick relations at home out of his wage. The children were, as a rule, in very fair condition. The tahsildar and a pensioned Rajpoot Subadar, who lives in Dhurumpooree, considered that the people in these gangs were decidedly below the physical condition of such people in ordinary years, but if we could, by our relief operations, keep the suffering poor up to the standard of these gangs till the end of the famine, we should be very successful.

7. Some 400 applicants for work were inspected. Most of these people have till very lately been on other relief works, and their condition was on the whole fair.

8. On inquiry into the causes of the depressed condition of the labourers as reported by the Relief Officer and Collector several weeks ago, it appeared that the relief wage had been kept at 1 anna 6 pie for adults, even when food was selling at 11 and 12 lbs. per rupee. Under the Madras Government orders of the 30th January, the man's wage ought to have been about 1 anna 10 pie or 1 anna 11 pie when the price of food was so dear. Prices in Dhurumpooree are now much cheaper, ranging at 16 or 17 lbs. per rupee for rice in the Dhurumpooree bar, and 15 or 15½ lbs. in the outlying villages.

9. The aspect of the relief camp made it clear that we have not succeeded in keeping the condition of all the suffering poor of this taluk nearly up to the standard of the labour gangs of the Dhurumpooree Fort. There were 930 inmates, and among the children there were many, nearly 10 per cent., very emaciated little creatures. Most of these little things had been two or three months in the relief camp, and they had not picked up at all. Side by side with them were fat, happy little creatures, who got no larger allowance than the thin ones. The explanation given by the Relief Officer and the Native doctor is that some of the children came into the camp in very bad condition, and that they cannot assimilate the rice and rice broth. The Native doctor said that these poor little things passed their food in an undigested state, they had been tried with ragi, with rice and with cholum, and some of them had been treated in hospital with sago, but nothing would bring them round. Among the adults, too, were some people who had been in the camp for months, and yet were still very emaciated. The death-rate was for weeks six per diem in this camp.

10. The ration of rice in the camp has recently been raised from 16 ounces to 20 ounces per diem for adults, and the results of this change remain to be seen. But when the greater number of inmates, adults and children, flourish on the ration, the circumstance that a per-centage fail to recover condition does not by itself prove the ration to be insufficient. Probably the only way of getting these poor creatures into good condition will be to send them back gradually to their homes, with sufficient care for their maintenance on the road, and then to bring them upon the village relief now organised by the Collector. The change home, with assured hope of food while the trouble lasts, would give these poor people a chance of recovering. There seems to be something in the air or circumstances of the camp that prevents some of the people from picking up strength. Not that the camp is badly organised,—much otherwise,—the sheds are well ventilated and clean; and the camp is locally more popular than any other of the relief camps yet visited in the interior of the presidency.

11. It may not be possible to send some of the famine babies and their mothers home just yet; and for them the Relief Officer is, under the Collector's instructions, arranging some kind of nursery apart from the camp for the children which do not recover under present circumstances.

12. On some of the roads round Dhurumpooree and in the town were to be seen a certain number of emaciated people, women and young men, whose physical condition showed them to be in real need of relief. The village relief now being organised will, it is to be hoped, suffice to save such people from the risk in which they are now. In and round Dhurumpooree indeed are now to be seen more pronounced signs of famine than have been noticed anywhere outside the Madras camps.

No. 216.

No. 237. XCIX.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding Relief Operations in the most distressed parts of the Salem District, dated Raneepet, the 17th April 1877.

Relief in Salem district.

In forwarding the accompanying memorandum regarding the most distressed parts of the Salem district, I have a few remarks to record.

2. The taluks above the Ghât range adjoining the Mysore plateau are among the most distressed tracts in the whole of the Madras Presidency. Some parts of these taluks have not had crops for two years. The endurance of the inhabitants and the relieving zeal of the officers are being tasked to the utmost.

3. On further examination the system of relief works in this district is found to merit all the praise bestowed upon it in my minute of the 12th March. As regards strict tasking by the Civil officers, utilising of the Public Works establishments, discharging relief labourers wherever showers enable the people to plough, preserving the relief labourers in sufficiently good condition without offering any undue temptation, selecting useful and beneficial works for the employment of relief labour, there is little left to be desired. And the management of the whole affair by the Collector, Mr. Longley, is entirely worthy of confidence. Relief in Salem district.

4. The relief camp at Dhurumpooree, in the midst of the scene of the greatest distress, is comparatively popular. The camp at Salem is not unpopular, or at least is fairly well attended. There is some light suitable work afforded, or about to be afforded, to the weavers of the finer fabrics in that city.

5. The system of village relief and visitation is being carried out all over the district and nowhere is it more needed than here. In some of the worst tracts it was probably not commenced soon enough in full force. I trust that it is now going on rightly. At first there was some difference of opinion between the Collector and the Board of Revenue. The Board seem to have rightly deemed the Collector's proposals too large for the commencement, as indeed they were. But although the Collector could not carry out his own proposals in their integrity, he could fall back upon the general orders of Government to collect in large camps all those destitute persons who could be collected, and to sustain in the villages those who could not be so collected; and he doubtless did so. This plan is being carried out fully, as I understand, in the worst tracts.

6. There is one tract however where the system was not being carried out at the time of my visit, the 7th and 8th April, and where it is much wanted, namely, the low hills and valleys and jungly places in and about the Shevaroy hills inhabited by various Malayali tribes. Many wretched persons were met with going up to Yercand (the settlement on the Shevaroy hills), and some equally miserable were on a relief work at Yercand. Information reached me to the effect that others, in equally bad case, might be lingering in the huts and hamlets among these hills. I was glad to see that the subject was attracting the attention of the authorities on the spot. It certainly seemed to me that some special official ought to be deputed to examine immediately all the inhabitants of that group of hills. And I have been glad to hear that the Collector has since taken steps to effect such examination.

No. 217.

CI.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the Need for Improved Relief Arrangements in the Kalustri Zemindari. No. 245.

Raneepet, 17th April 1877.

I have again inspected the relief camp at Arcot (Raneepet), and have inquired further into the circumstances of the inmates. The number is now just about 800. Fresh admissions are constantly being made; or rather fresh persons are daily being sent in, having been picked up or found on the roads or in the villages of the interior. But then there are desertions going on just as constantly, and so the numbers are not progressive. Indeed they are rather retrogressive, for recently there were, I understand, 1,200 inmates. If this be so, it would seem to follow that some hundreds of persons sent in by the local authorities in consequence of destitution must have deserted the camp and reverted to a most precarious existence. This necessarily causes grave apprehension, and suggests the necessity of re-doubled precautions for village inspection and relief. It might have been expected that many of the most wretched of them come from the zemindaris of Kalustri and Kárvetnagar, and this has led me to inquire further into the system of village inspection specially recommended for these tracts in my minute of the 5th March. It is the more necessary to pursue the subject, inasmuch as the distress is becoming more and more severe as the season advances. Kalustri Zemindari need for improved relief.

2. The local authorities appear to have given the requisite orders in these very distressed tracts, that is to say, Government officials are sent round to inspect the villages, to cause those who cannot move to be relieved in their homes and those who can move to be sent to the relief centres, and some relief centres are in working order, though my impression is that the number of these centres might be increased with advantage. Taking the cases which I have just seen together with what I hear, I am under the impression that, however excellent the local arrangements may be in these two zemindaris, especially in Kalustri, they require to be further strengthened by European supervision of a superior kind. There ought to be the means of knowing whether the Native officials are really and faithfully performing that which must be a toilsome and irksome duty, on the due performance of which very many human lives may depend.

Otherwise I fear that many deaths from starvation may occur in Kalustri before the season of distress is over. I bear in mind that many destitute persons from the Madhoo Pauk portion of Kalustri resort to the camps at or near Madras, which are nearer than Kalustri, the head-quarters of the zemindari. Still I should apprehend that even this part needs more of trained and competent inspection than it now receives. And this remark is still more applicable to the more distant parts of the zemindari. I know that the Collector has not at his disposal any European officer for the work of such inspection. But the Government might be able to send an officer for this purpose.

3. I would therefore most earnestly and urgently recommend for the consideration of the Madras Government that a selected European officer of smartness and ability be deputed to Kalustri to reside there, and under the direction of the Collector to see that the village inspection and relief is thoroughly carried out, for the general carrying out of which he would feel himself responsible. He would understand that no destitute person is to be permitted to perish of hunger; that every destitute person who can move must be sent to a relief centre, where relief can be dispensed without compulsory residence in camp, and that every destitute person who cannot move (of whom there may be one or more in every village) must be fed at home. He might reside at Kalustri where there is good accommodation. And Kárvetnagar might be included in his jurisdiction.

No. 218.

No. 245.

CII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, respecting passages in the Report of the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras.

Cuddalore, the 18th April 1877.

The reduced scale of wages. Sir Richard Temple in reply to Dr. Cornish.

It is necessary for me to make a few brief remarks upon the minute of the 6th April by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras regarding the reduced wage for the relief labourers of Madras, inasmuch as this minute refers to some of my own previous minutes on the subject. Having regard to the importance of the subject, I refrain from making the objections which might ordinarily be made to the tone of some parts of the Sanitary Commissioner's minute as an official paper.

2. In order to show the uncertainty of medico-chemical dicta regarding such a matter as relief wages, I pointed out certain discrepancies between the Sanitary Commissioner's opinion and the Madras Manual of Hygiene on a particular point. The Sanitary Commissioner now says that the Manual of Hygiene is wrong on this point. Very possibly it is.

3. It is not necessary, however, to pursue this point, or any such like points, because I understand that the medico-chemical theories upon which the Sanitary Commissioner seems still to rely are not implicitly accepted by the highest sanitary authorities in India, and do not entirely coincide with the newest development of scientific thought regarding the carbonaceous and nitrogenous elements necessary for the nutrition of the human frame. Nor is it practically necessary to discuss further the Sanitary Commissioner's opinion regarding the sufficiency or otherwise of the reduced wages, because in his present minute he admits that, as now applied, it is sufficient. His previous objections appear to have been diminished by the granting of the wage on Sundays as well as week-days, and by the granting of a small allowance for the support of the young children of persons employed on the works.

4. I had myself always contemplated that the reduced wage should be allowed on Sundays. As regards the very young children, their case did not at first suggest itself for consideration, as all children of seven years and upwards were admitted to relief. But as soon as the case of the children under seven years of age was brought to my notice, I recommended that they also should receive a small allowance. I found, however, that this had been already ordered by the Madras Government.

5. Though I do not undertake to pronounce any opinion upon a medico-chemical point, yet I do undertake to say whether thousands of relief labourers inspected by me are physically in fair working condition or not. And I adhere to the opinion previously expressed that the many gangs which I inspected working on the reduced wage were in such condition, regard being had to the condition of such persons in ordinary times. In this opinion I was confirmed by the experienced medical officer on my staff, who had seen the realities of famine in other parts of India. But in order that no doubt might remain upon the point, I asked for and obtained the opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India. And after inspecting in different parts of the country some 35,000 relief labourers, he pronounced them to be, with some individual exceptions, in fair physical condition. This then is the true test of the sufficiency or otherwise of the reduced wage to which I have always appealed and still appeal. According to this test the wage appears to be sufficient at present. If at any time any

marked deterioration of the physical condition were to indicate that the reduced wage is insufficient, then I shall be the first to make a revised recommendation. The reduced scale of wages.

6. But I must advert for a moment to certain parts of the argument of the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras which seem to amount to this, that because there is mortality among the recipients of gratuitous relief, who are admitted to particular relief camps, therefore the wages of relief labourers must be insufficient. Whether the Sanitary Commissioner intends to convey this idea I know not, but something of the sort would, I apprehend, be gathered by ordinary readers of that which he has written. Therefore I have to explain that there is no connexion whatever between recipients of gratuitous relief on the one hand and the recipients of relief wages on the other. The gratuitous rations allowed to the inmates of relief camps have nothing whatever to do with the wages paid on relief works. The inmates of these camps who are admitted there as being unable to work are a class totally different from those who are admitted to the relief works as being able to work. Inferences deduced from the condition of the recipients of gratuitous relief are wholly irrelevant if attempted to be applied to the condition of relief labourers. If unhappily there be mortality among the inmates of relief camps, it by no means follows that there is any mortality among relief labourers. In point of fact there is no mortality among relief labourers except from cholera, small-pox, or other diseases, and when sometimes cholera has stricken and dispersed large gangs of relief labourers, there has never been any reason to suppose that the scourge arose from want of food. Again, if notwithstanding scientifically arranged diet, the condition of the inmates of relief camps continues bad, no amelioration whatever could be afforded by raising the wage of relief labourers who are a totally different class. These poor inmates have never gone to relief works at all. Indeed the very reason of their admission to the relief camps is this, that they are incapable of going to relief works. They are diseased or infirm, or being indisposed to work have wandered about, or passing by means of relief close at home have wandered to a distance. Sir Richard Temple in reply to Dr. Cornish.

7. Being thus helpless for one reason or another they are picked up and taken care of, but when picked up they are often beyond the reach of human aid. No analogy therefore drawn from these persons can possibly be applicable to relief labourers, and to mention the two cases with any sort of parallelism and in any kind of connexion would be to produce confusion of ideas and other misapprehension.

8. If indeed persons who were pale on being admitted to relief works were to become thinner and thinner and weaker and weaker till at last they had to be drafted off to gratuitous relief camps as unfit to work, then that would be a reason for reconsidering the wage, but this is just what has not occurred, and is not occurring. If I saw or knew any signs of it occurring, then I should be the first to move. Many relief labourers indeed have left the works of their own accord, not so much however because the wage was reduced, but rather because task-work was enforced, or because the scene of labour was removed to a distance from their homes.

9. How it happens that so many of the destitute poor sank so low before being taken up for gratuitous relief is a question which need not be discussed in this minute. I may reiterate however that the proper remedy lies in the institution of house-to-house visitation throughout the distressed districts, and from the time of entering the Madras Presidency I have never ceased to urge upon the Government and the local authorities the necessity of such a visitation. And indeed this visitation has generally been instituted. But that it has not always been perfectly carried out is proved by the mortality which has occurred, or still occurs, in some of the relief camps.

No. 219.

CIII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated 18th April 1877, regarding the present condition of Relief Affairs in the District of Madura. No. 245.

I have paid a second visit (13th to 16th April) to the Madura district to see the Collector, Mr. MacQuhae, and some of his officers, because, as already stated in the memorandum of the 24th January, the month of April is likely to be a critical season in determining whether there is to be distress or not in that season. By the 15th of April some of the ordinary spring showers had fallen, causing some partial revival of agriculture, but except in one place (Periakolum, at foot of the Pulnee Hills), there had not been enough rain to place the district or any part of the district beyond the reach of distress in May. Madura district,

2. The grain markets continue to be well stocked; the main source of supply is the port of Negapatam, though supplies come also from Tuticorin. In fact, it is the strong

demand in Madura that attracts the grain which might otherwise have gone from Negapatam to Mysore. At present the grain goes in the Mysore direction as far as Trichinopoly, and is thence diverted to the Madura district.

3. Meanwhile, the proprietary ryots seem to be bearing up well against the consequences of the long-continued drought. Either they have material resources of their own, or they possess credit whereby they can obtain such resources. Field labourers, notwithstanding the want of labour in the fields, appear to receive some support from their employers; but doubtless one great means of support for this class is emigration to Ceylon, which appears to have attained during this year nearly double its ordinary proportions. I could not learn that the excess number who had gone to Ceylon are faring badly, though perhaps they are not receiving so much remuneration as would have been given had the numbers been less. There is, of course, the usual proportion of the poorest classes, but it is understood that they are receiving some support from private charity.

Relief afforded by emigration to Ceylon.

4. The relief labourers are as yet but few in number. Care has been exercised by the Collector to prevent the number increasing unnecessarily, and the task-work is being strictly exacted. It would have been better, perhaps, if the works had been placed altogether under the Public Works Department. The assistance of that Department, however, is used for measuring up the task-work. Arrangements are made for giving all the gratuitous relief that is really needed, though happily the amount needed is as yet but little. Relief centres in sufficient number have been established. On the whole, I should think that the consequences of the drought are being prudently and firmly dealt with by the Collector, and at present I have nothing further to suggest.

No. 220.

No. 245. CIV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Cuddalore, 18th April 1877, suggesting the Use of Coal on the Madras Railways as some check against the Destruction of Forests of the Madras Presidency.

Rainfall affected by destruction of forests.

There is a point connected with the supply of fuel to the several railways of the Madras Presidency which has a bearing upon the rainfall and the prospects of future harvests, and which I desire to represent to the Madras Government as follows:—

2. The failure of the periodical rains, and the consequent loss of crops, seem to be becoming more frequent in Southern India. This circumstance is attributed by many, with much show of probability, to the gradual denudation of the forests with which the country used to abound. The effects are felt throughout the Presidency generally, but more particularly in those tracts which adjoin the sources or upper courses of some of the rivers, upon which irrigation works, great or small, depend. One potential cause of this denudation has been, and still is, the demand of fuel for the consumption of the locomotives on the several railways.

3. As an instance out of a great many, I would mention that at this moment there is understood to be a contract between the Madras Railway Company and a Native contractor for the supply of a very large quantity of wood fuel—a quantity large enough to cause a heavy drain, if not an utter exhaustion, of the particular forests from which the supplies are drawn. It unfortunately happens that these forests lie, as I understand, near the upper course of the Palar River. Their destruction doubtless tends to aggravate the uncertainty which hangs more and more over the water-supply of this river. And such uncertainty is peculiarly unfortunate, inasmuch as from this river are drawn the channels which fill an extensive series of tanks for irrigation in the districts of North Arcot and Chingleput. Seldom does this river descend in seasonable and propitious floods. One year it will come down with violent inundation demolishing its dams, tearing up its channels, breaching its tanks; another year it will leave them all high and dry. I merely adduce this as a type of what is going on too often and in too many parts of the country, and which is in part at least attributable to denudation of forests.

4. Of course there are difficulties arising out of private rights with reference to the preservation of forests. There are also many means of overcoming those difficulties. I am now addressing myself to one measure only for mitigating the evil, viz., the diminution of the demand which is at present so greatly stimulated by the railway requirements for wood fuel.

5. The question immediately arises, why should not the Madras railways burn coal in the same way as do the East Indian Railway, the Eastern Bengal Railway, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, the Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway, and various of the State railways? The Madras Railway, it is true, does not pass through the heart of a rich

coal basin as the East Indian Railway does, nor does it touch a coal-field at any of its extremities, as the Great Indian Peninsula Railway does; but compared with any other of the railways mentioned it is favourably situated. It touches the sea-coast at Madras and Beypore, and at either of these ports it can land English and Australian coal at the same rate per ton as the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company does at Bombay, or as both the southern lines do at Madras and Negapatam or Tuticorin. And although from a commercial company trading at its own risk, grave objections might be offered to a course which will undoubtedly at first increase its expenditure on fuel, I have to repeat that this is a case* where present economy may, and in the opinion of most thoughtful men undoubtedly will, aggravate the calamity of famine in future.

* NOTE.—And I cite the Madras Railway Company as a sample.

6. The increased cost, as far as the Madras Railway Company is concerned, is likely, for many years to come, to fall upon the Government, and it may be possible to form an approximate estimate of its amount.

7. The cost of working 2,400,000 train miles per annum would, I am informed by Captain Bisset, be approximately Rs. 8,00,000 at the present cost of fuel to the Madras Railway Company. Considering the advantages of the two ports, it may fairly be estimated that the cost of working the same number of train miles with coal fuel only will not much exceed Rs. 9,00,000. And when local enterprise enters into the business of carrying coal from the fields of Bengal to the coast ports of Madras, it is not unreasonable to expect that the cost of Indian coal delivered at these ports (which is at the present time quoted at Rs. 22 per ton, or from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 higher than English coal of rather higher cash value at the pit's mouth) will be so far reduced as to make coal fuel even less expensive to the Madras Railway than wood fuel is at the present time.

8. There are some minor advantages in the use of coal fuel which are too well known to require mention in this minute, although they are of some importance to economical working. And I conclude by reiterating my opinion that the interests of the Madras districts require a more careful guarding of the forests, especially the hill forests, from destruction, and that one practical way of checking this destruction would be to burn coal instead of wood on all the Madras Railway lines, and so stop entirely a heavy and constant drain on the forests and undergrowth of the hill-sides of the Madras country.

No. 221.

No. 21 of 1877. No. 263

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 19th April 1877.

Our latest information from the famine districts is contained in the following telegram from Sir Richard Temple, despatched from Arcot on the 17th instant, but referring exclusively to the Presidency of Madras.

"After telegraphing to Government India account of Negapatam trade, I visited Madura district. Situation of Southern Peninsula, including Madura and Tinnevelly, is as follows:—Rain has begun falling in most parts, especially under Ghât mountains. Emigration to Ceylon affords relief. Agricultural classes possess resources. No general distress yet, but some slight scattered distress relieved with discrimination. Markets filled with grain from ports of Negapatam and Tuticorin. Neighbouring parts of Tanjore and Trichinopoly almost free from distress, but rain has recently ceased, and until it falls sufficiently, situation somewhat critical. In Salem and North Arcot considerable scattered distress relieved by village visitation. Central relief camps still unpopular, this aggravates necessity for village relief. In districts near Madras wanderers and stray beggars still going about in bad condition. Whenever found they are relieved, but despite medical treatment they often die, and these cases affect public mind. Agriculture partly reviving after recent showers. In Bellary rain has fallen, but situation not likely to improve in that quarter at present. Relief labourers generally keep well. Better success beginning in despatch of relief labourers to Nellore Canal and Railway from Bellary towards Dharwar. Failure to utilise Public Works Department in relief works generally continues, and is to be regretted."

2. We enclose several papers received from Sir Richard Temple during the present week, of which the most important is the report made by Dr. Townsend,* Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, regarding the physical condition of the labourers employed on the relief works, with reference to the alleged insufficiency of the reduced rate of wages. In our Despatch of the 12th instant, we stated the

* No. 196. Question of the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

As to sufficiency of reduced scale of wages.

conclusion at which Dr. Townsend had arrived, as communicated to us by telegraph, viz., that the reduced rate is sufficient to support the labourers in fair condition, provided that care is taken that the individual recipient is the only person supported on it. The grounds of this conclusion are fully stated in Dr. Townsend's report. It is based on an inspection of gangs containing some 32,000 persons (34,000 was the number erroneously given in our last Despatch, owing to some error in the telegram) in the districts of Sholapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, and North Arcôt.

At Sholapur the labourers employed under the Public Works Department were in good condition, men, women, and children, and there was no doubt on the part of the officers superintending the works that the wage was quite sufficient for the support of the labourers in health. The labourers on the Civil works were in a less satisfactory condition; but a large proportion of them were above middle age, and they had come on the works in January in an enfeebled state. Dr. Townsend thinks it probable that at the best of times they were below the average physique.

At Adoni, in the Bellary district, the labourers, as a rule, were in fair condition, and, in the opinion of the relief officers, they had not deteriorated since the reduced rate of wage had been in force. There were here and there weakly and feeble people; but these exceptions consisted of persons who had never been in good health or condition, or it was found on inquiry that they shared their wages with a child or other relative.

At Bellary, where task-work was exacted, the great majority were receiving less than the reduced rate; but there was no sickness among them, and the relief officers stated that these gangs had improved greatly in appearance since the works were established, and they certainly had not fallen off since the reduced rate of wage had come into force.

At Cuddapah, where Dr. Townsend inspected two bodies of labourers, one close to the town, which he visited in company with Dr. Cornish, the Madras Sanitary Commissioner, and on which the women greatly outnumbered the men, the people were in appearance little, if at all, below the standard of health common in the town populations of this country. In the other gang, composed chiefly of the agricultural population of the surrounding villages, the appearance of the people "was very good." A very large number of the men and women were as stout and healthy looking as they could be in the best of times. Here and there thin and weakly persons were observed; but on inquiry it did not appear that their weakly condition was attributable to want of food. The relief officer stated that when the people received the higher rate of wages, they did not spend more on food than they do now, but saved the difference, and they have not deteriorated in condition since the wage was reduced.

At Vellore, in a relief gang consisting of 1,600 people, who had been for a time on the reduced rate of wages, which apparently had been recently raised, the people were in fair condition, and, as far as Dr. Townsend had been able to ascertain, "they did not "deteriorate or show signs of weakness during the five or six weeks that they were on "the reduced rate of wages."

3. The facts stated in the foregoing extracts from Dr. Townsend's report appear to us to justify the conclusion at which he has arrived, that there are not yet any sufficient grounds for any general raising of the relief wage rates in the Madras Presidency. The Madras Government have very properly directed, as Sir Richard Temple points out in the 5th paragraph of his minute, that relief officers shall treat specially all cases of relief labourers who from any cause have fallen into a reduced condition of body. They have also directed that the relief wages shall be paid daily. If these instructions be duly enforced, and if care be taken to carry out a systematic house-to-house visitation in the villages, and to search out wanderers on the high roads, as has been frequently suggested by Sir Richard Temple, and ordered by the Government of Madras, we see no reason to doubt that the objects which the Government have in view, viz., the saving of life and the prevention of severe suffering, may be accomplished without any general raising of relief wages. At the same time we do not overlook the fact that the recent reports of the Madras Sanitary Commissioner contain very lamentable descriptions of the condition of the people at some of the places visited by him. We have requested the Madras Government to communicate to us the result of the inquiry directed in their orders* on Dr. Cornish's report, with reference to the unsatisfactory physical condition of many of the relief labourers at Maddanapalli, where the reduced rate of wages had not been introduced.

4. With reference to the remarks made in the 7th paragraph of the Despatch addressed by the Madras Government to your Lordship, under date the 7th instant, to the effect that no communication had been made to them regarding Dr. Townsend's

* Reported to Secretary of State in Madras Despatch of 7th April, No. 25.

deputation, we have explained to that Government that Dr. Townsend not having been sent on an independent mission, but merely having been placed under the orders of Sir Richard Temple to aid him in conducting certain inquiries which he desired to institute in the two Presidencies, it was not deemed necessary to make any communication to either Government on the subject of Dr. Townsend's deputation.

5. The prospect of the supply of grain to the ceded districts from the north, as explained in Captain Bisset's memorandum of the 31st ultimo, appears to be satisfactory.

Difficulty in devising large works in Madras.

6. Reference has more than once been made, in the correspondence regarding the famine in Madras, to the difficulty which appeared to be experienced in that Presidency in devising large works on which the relief labourers could be employed. The only works of magnitude which have been proposed are the East Coal Canal, the railway from Bellary towards Hubli, and the extension of the railway from Conjeveram to Chingleput. To these may perhaps be added the doubling of the railway line from Madras to Arconum. Recently, on a suggestion from our Public Works Department, we asked Sir Richard Temple for his opinion as to the expediency of employing relief labour on the earth-work of three short branch railways which were proposed some years ago for connecting the Madras Railway with the towns of Arcot, Vellore, and Salem. His reply, which is contained in his minute of the 6th instant (No. XCVII.), is adverse to the proposition. He does not consider these lines to be adapted as relief works. The amount of earth-work and ballast is not considerable. It is doubtful whether the work could be begun before the first week in May, and if good rain falls in that month, it is probable that relief labour would not suffice to finish even the banks and ballast; nor does Sir Richard Temple consider that it would be practicable to organise large gangs of skilled relief labourers (such as stone-cutters of the Waddah caste) for employment on these lines in time enough to do any considerable quantity of work before the rainy season begins. These objections appear to us to be conclusive against the adoption of the works in question as relief works, at all events, at the present. Should the famine unhappily last longer than we at present anticipate, the question may have to be reconsidered.

Mysore relief administration.

*No. 206.

7. Sir Richard Temple in his short minute on the present condition of Mysore (No. XCV.),* repeats the favourable opinion expressed by him on the 14th February last, regarding the progress of relief administration in that province. The labourers on relief works are all employed on piece-work at rates somewhat cheaper than the piece-work rates of the Public Works Department in ordinary years. They can earn in this way enough to support themselves, and are in fairly good physical condition. Villages are really visited, and patels (village headmen) are kept up to their duty by responsible officers, whose weekly diaries show what is being done, and how useful the village relief is.

No. 161.

8. In connexion with Mysore, we enclose a correspondence which has passed between the Chief Commissioner and the Government of Madras, regarding the incidence of certain charges incurred in affording relief to inhabitants of Mysore who had migrated into the adjoining Madras districts, together with a minute recorded on the subject by Sir Richard Temple. We have not received any communication on the subject from the Government of Madras, and at present no orders appear to be required.

9. The following extract from our telegram of the 14th instant gives the numbers of persons on the relief works, and on the receipt of charitable relief according to the latest returns :—

"In Madras Presidency relief labourers increased to 693,000, and charitably relieved to 114,000; latter increase chiefly young children. In Mysore 75,000 on works, and 52,000 charitably relieved. In Bombay further increase to 256,000 on works; 62,000 charitably relieved."

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) F. P. HAINES.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.

No. 222.

Revenue, No. 32.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 19th April 1877.

No. 133.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 2nd March, No. 13, of 1877, giving a summary of the matters which had engaged the attention of your Government in connexion with the famine in Southern and Western India during the week ending 27th February, has been considered by me in Council.

2. I approve of your resolution to sanction the earth-work of the railway from Bellary to Hubli as a relief work, on the understanding that your Government is not pledged to carry on the line to Karwar.

3. The equalisation of the through rate for grain from the port of Negapatam, in Tanjore, to Bangalore, and the suspension of port dues at Negapatam in the case of vessels importing grain equal to a quarter of their whole cargo, will, I trust, greatly diminish the difficulties now experienced in carrying grain into the interior. Such also will be the effect of doubling the line from Ambatur to Arconum. It is also to be hoped that some of the grain now sent from Calcutta, Burma, and elsewhere to Madras may be shipped to Negapatam, and thus find its way to the distressed districts in the south of the Madras Presidency.

4. The intelligence received from Sir R. Temple relative to Nellore, Bellary, and Tinnevelly, and also to the spring crops in Cuddapah and North Arcot, is, on the whole, satisfactory.

5. I have already, in my Despatches of the 15th March and 6th April, Nos. 24 and 28 of 1877, expressed my opinion that, while the utmost efforts are made to preserve life, Government relief should be accompanied by such conditions as to prevent it being accepted by any but the really destitute. I concur, therefore, with the principles which have guided you in your instructions upon this subject to the Government of Bombay.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 223.

Nos. 227. 256.

No. 375, dated Simla, 19th April 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department.

The deputation of Dr. Townsend.

With reference to the remarks made in paragraph 7 of the Despatch addressed by the Madras Government to the Secretary of State under date the 7th instant, No. 25 (Miscellaneous), to the effect that no communication had been made to them regarding Dr. Townsend's deputation, I am directed to explain that Dr. Townsend not having been sent on an independent mission, but having merely been placed under the orders of Sir R. Temple to aid him in conducting certain inquiries which he desired to institute in the two presidencies, it was not deemed necessary to make any communication to either Government on the subject.

No. 224.

Nos. 225. 245.

Memorandum by Mr. C. Bernard respecting the Condition of Affairs in the South Arcot District and Cuddalore, 19th April.

South Arcot and Cuddalore.

Sir Richard Temple met in the South Arcot district the Collector Mr. Hughesdon, the Sub-Collector Mr. Wallace, the Head Assistant Mr. Thomson, as well as the Collectorate Sheristadar and other Native officials.

2. Sir Richard Temple also visited Pondicherry, and learnt that severe drought had afflicted the French territory, and that gratuitous relief was being distributed to a considerable number of persons. He did not understand that relief works had been opened.

3. The taluks of South Arcot, in parts of which there is risk of severe distress being felt, are—

Trinomalai,
Tindevenum,
Kallukoorchy,
Tricaloor,
Vridacheilum,

where the rainfall last year failed, where there is comparatively little "wet" cultivation, and where the crops were extremely short. As yet there has been no severe distress, but if the rain holds off till the end of May trouble must arise. Relief works were opened in parts of Tindevenum, Trinomalai, and Vellapoorum about the end of January, but people would not come readily to work, so very little was done, and during the last two weeks there has been small demand for relief employment. One relief centre was opened for distributing gratuitous relief in Trinomalai. Some little relief was also given

about a month ago in Villapoorum by private charity. But this has since stopped as the demand slackened; now that the late rice, the ragi, and ground-nut is being harvested. A good deal of work is being given by the South Indian Railway to people in the Vellapoorum, Cuddalore, and Chellumbrum taluks; a very little is being given in Tindevenum. All this helps to support the labouring poor. South Arcot and Cuddalore.

4. The Public Works Department has projects, namely, repairs of tank, dams, and irrigation channels on hand to do. The grant for the whole year for the district is about one lakh of rupees. Of this perhaps Rs. 15,000 would, under ordinary circumstances, be spent during May. The work is done by contract; but the village headmen are usually the people to whom contracts of this kind are let. The Public Works Department could undertake and supervise works costing much more than this sum of Rs. 15,000, provided only that certain restrictions were foregone, which compel the range officer to inspect and pay for every work himself.

5. There is plenty of food in the district, and the dealers have stores of imported rice. Prices are high. But there has not hitherto been any starvation or any famine anywhere. The jumabundi (annual verification of cultivated holdings) is now going on everywhere; Revenue Inspectors and higher Revenue Officers are seeing a great deal of the people at their villages; and the district officers are satisfied that there is not at present anything worse than distress in any part of the district. So far as they can judge, the best way of preventing increase of distress would be for the Public Works Department to push on at once its works in the worst taluks, and to keep sufficient works going until the rain sets in. If the grants made to the District Engineer from ordinary sources should be nearly exhausted, then more grants might be given, debitable to famine. Under this system, if adopted, relief labour would be utilised to the utmost on necessary district works. The work would be done by petty contract, but the people needing relief would get the work, and at present the people are strong enough to do such work at ordinary contract rates.

6. Major Mead, District Engineer, considers that he could, without additional engineering establishment, do all that may at present be needed. If further grants were made, he could spend them most usefully on much needed irrigation repairs. But he would require discretion to relax the present rules as to completion certificate for works costing less than Rs. 1,000 a piece. And also he would want to have temporarily in abeyance the order which forbids the District Engineer and Collector to sanction any petty irrigation repairs for which the estimate exceeds the average annual revenue from the work. The District Engineer would of course be careful in acting upon the additional discretion allowed him. But unless it be granted, there is risk that, if much relief employment is suddenly wanted, we may have to drift, in South Arcot as elsewhere, into the practice of leaving the relief works to be managed by professionally unskilled and (at time of jumabundi) hard-worked Civil officials.

No. 225.

CV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, respecting the condition of Affairs in the South Arcot District. No. 245.

20th April 1877.

In forwarding the accompanying memorandum regarding my recent visit to the district of South Arcot, I have to record some few brief remarks. South Arcot district.

2. Though the south-west monsoon of 1876 failed here as elsewhere, still there was a good fall of rain at the end of the north-east monsoon in the south-east part of the district, and saved especially the taluks of Cuddalore, Vellaporum, and Chellumbrum. The south-western and the central parts of the district received but little rain on this occasion. Being near to the coast taluks which received rain and to the Coleroon and Cauvery basin where the crops have been good, these parts have not yet suffered distress. And hope was entertained that if the April showers should prove propitious, distress might be staved off until the next monsoon. As yet however (20th April) these showers (which have fallen favourably to the westwards) have held off in this district, one taluk only (Kallukoorchy in the south-west) having received any rain during the spring season. They may yet come; of course if they do, trouble will be averted. But if they do not come by the middle of May, and if the south-west monsoon should be late, and it is usually late in this quarter, not arriving till July, then some severe distress can hardly be avoided in certain parts of this district.

3. As yet the district authorities have prudently refrained from giving any encouragement to the agricultural classes to resort to relief. In some taluks satisfactory reports

are heard of the efforts made by the people themselves to save their crops by digging wells. That they had the means of sustaining themselves during the winter months is proved by the fact that, when some small relief works were opened tentatively, they did not avail themselves of the opportunity.

4. If relief works have to be opened at all, I would earnestly recommend that this be not done through the Civil officers who have so much else to attend to, but should be entrusted to the regular Public Works Department, which in this district is strongly represented by the Irrigation Engineers. There is much work for them to do by way of repairing and improving the tanks, and if they undertake this they will be able to afford all the relief that is needed for the able-bodied, who will be thus employed on works not scattered but concentrated and under professional supervision.

5. To the Civil officers would then be left what may be described as their legitimate work, that is, visiting the villages in search of destitute and helpless persons, affording gratuitous relief to some, and assigning light work to others, who though weakly can yet do something.

6. We need not yet, however, abandon the hope that seasonable showers may yet ward off the threatened distress.

No. 226.

No. 245. **CVI.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, respecting the Management of Relief Works in the North Arcot District through the Public Works Department Agency.**

Madras, 20th April 1877.

North Arcot relief works. In continuation of my minutes of the 29th March regarding Bellary and Kurnool, and of the 10th April regarding Salem, the purport of which was to represent the expediency of placing relief works as much as possible under the regular Public Works Department, I desire to submit a similar representation regarding the district of North Arcot, which I have passed through once more, visiting the anicut over the Palar and the Cauvery Pauk Lake.

2. In reference to the apprehensions which arose during February or March regarding distress breaking out here and there in this district, relief works have been opened (not under professional officers, but such Civil officials as can be obtained for the occasion) in many and various places, and doubtless have done good so far as they have gone. But while appreciating the reasons which induced the local authorities to take these proceedings, I must yet represent that these numerous petty and scattered works are very much open to all the objections which have been elsewhere urged against relief works of this description, except that the wage having been reduced the temptation is so far lessened. But even now there are, I fear, hundreds, perhaps thousands, of instances of persons who avail themselves of these works, not exactly to keep off distress, but slightly to enlarge their narrow income,—for instance, men who still have some employment of their own at home, send their wives and elder children to the relief works close at hand, in order to make just a little money for the family. Besides this, the season is advancing, the spring harvest has been partly reaped, the demand for relief employment is slightly increasing. On the other hand there is still some spring harvest to be reaped. The spring showers have caused ploughing to be commenced in most parts of the district. And the spring harvest itself, which owing to the wells in which the district abounds is proving to be fairly good, will afford a considerable augmentation of the food supply. Notwithstanding all this, the numbers on relief works about 40,000, according to the latest information, have been mounting up and may mount higher still; thus the aggregate is becoming sufficiently large and serious to necessitate the consideration of the introduction of some further checks.

Should be under control of Public Works Department. 3. The obvious check is, of course, the placing of the relief works under the regular Public Works Department.

4. Already the Madras Government have ordered that petty relief works, within easy reach of the operations for the doubling of the railway line to Arconum, should be closed. This order will doubtless have the beneficial effect of compelling many able-bodied persons seeking relief to place themselves under the professional supervision of the railway engineers.

5. Similarly, I believe that the Government intend to order the closing of any petty relief works which exist near the railway line from Chingleput to Conjeveram, of which the earth-work is about to be commenced. Although this work pertains to the Chingleput district, possibly some able-bodied persons might be sent to this work from North Arcot district.

6. But in North Arcot the main point is this :—The Government, as I understand, have signified a wish that the irrigation works, repairs and improvement of tanks, and the like, should be pressed on as much as possible, and that the available funds appropriated to irrigation for the year should be made use of, as soon as possible, for purposes of relief, under the engineering establishments. There can be no doubt of the excellence of this policy. The only precaution necessary would be to provide that none should be thus employed save those able-bodied persons who are in need of relief. The Engineers might be directed to fill their rolls in the first instances with able-bodied persons selected from the Civil relief works. In that case it would be very desirable to instruct the Collector to draft off to the irrigation works under the Engineers all able-bodied persons who are now on the petty relief works. If any such persons, on being ordered, refuse to go, they might be discharged altogether, as evidently being not in need of relief. The effect of this would be excellent. And then the petty relief works would have but those who are weakly and who have from any reason a claim to indulgence, and the apprehension which now arises from the recent augmentation of numbers on these works would be mitigated. I believe the Collector understands this already, and he may be perhaps acting on this principle. Still it might be well to order this explicitly.

No. 227.

No. 200, dated Tadputree, 21st April 1877.

Nos. 253. 256.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I., Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Deputation of Dr. Townsend.

At paragraph 9 of the Madras Government Despatch (No. 28 of the 14th April) to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, allusion is made to Dr. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner's visit to the Madras Presidency. And Sir Richard Temple directs me to lay before the Government of India certain explanations relating thereto.

2. Dr. Townsend was deputed by the Government of India to advise Sir Richard Temple concerning the sufficiency of the reduced relief wage and its effect on the condition of the people. Dr. Townsend joined the mission when Sir Richard Temple was in the Bombay Presidency; and he inspected gangs of labourers at and near Sholapore. The long railway journey from Calcutta to Sholapore in the heat had, however, brought on an attack of dysentery, and Dr. Townsend was unable to do as much as he wished.

3. On the day Dr. Townsend entered the Madras Presidency, Sir Richard Temple wrote and informed his Grace the Governor of Dr. Townsend's coming and of the work he was to do in connexion with the mission. On the same day I informed Mr. Garstin, the Secretary to the Madras Government, of Dr. Townsend's arrival and of the inspections he hoped to make.

4. Dr. Townsend inspected some 30,000 labourers, and then drew up a report of what he had seen, and of the impressions he had received. A copy of that report with a minute recorded by Sir Richard Temple was immediately forwarded to the Government of Madras. And Sir Richard Temple arranged with his Grace the Governor that Dr. Townsend, whose early return to ordinary duty with the Government of India was much desired, should visit Madras and wait upon his Grace.

5. Meanwhile, Dr. Townsend had gone southwards to inspect certain Coimbatore gangs, regarding the physical condition of which there had been doubt. He was to have visited Madras according to the appointment already made on his way back from Coimbatore. But at that place he was again attacked by the same complaint which had afflicted him previously. And as the complaint did not at first yield to treatment, he decided not to go into Madras, but to return to Bombay at once. He at once intimated to his Grace the Governors's Private Secretary the reasons which had, to his regret, compelled him to leave the Madras Presidency without waiting upon his Excellency. And afterwards I explained more at length to Mr. Garstin, the Famine Secretary, the circumstances of Dr. Townsend's departure. Sir Richard Temple also explained to his Excellency the Governor the sickness which prevented Dr. Townsend from presenting himself at Madras.

6. Sir Richard Temple regrets much that Dr. Townsend should thus have been unavoidably prevented from waiting on his Grace the Governor of Madras, and laying before his Excellency the impressions he had received from his inspections of relief labourers in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies.

7. Dr. Townsend had, however, the advantage of meeting at Cuddapah, by special appointment and arrangement, the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras.

EXTRACT, paragraph 9, from the MADRAS GOVERNMENT DESPATCH No. 28 of 14th April 1877, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Para. 9.—We have not been favoured with any intimation from the Supreme Government of the outline of the instructions given to Dr. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, who left the presidency without having reported to us his arrival in it, or made any other communication with us. He did not visit the city of Madras or the camps in its neighbourhood.

No. 228.

Nos. 230. 45.

CIX.—MEMORANDUM by Mr. C BERNARD, regarding the PRESENT STATE of RELIEF AFFAIRS in the CUDDAPAH DISTRICT, dated Tadputri, 21st April 1877.

State of relief in Cuddapah.

Mr. Benson, one of the relief officers of the Cuddapah district, met Sir Richard Temple at Tadputri on the railway line; he brought with him the Serishtadar who was acquainted with the relief statistics of the whole district.

2. There was good rain (averaging about one inch) over the whole district in the middle of last month (March), and there have been partial light showers since. One result has been that a certain small quantity of fodder has come up, and the cattle are not dying at the same rate as before, but many of the weakly animals have previously been carried off.

3. The numbers on relief for the second week of April are—

On relief works - - - - -	80,000
On gratuitous relief - - - -	30,000

About 5,000 labourers in all have gone off to the Nellore Canal. Twelve annas a head (8 annas to the labourer and 4 annas to the recruiter) is paid under Government orders for every adult man who reaches the canal work; and he gets rations for himself and his family on the road. In the Palampett taluk one half of the labourers are working under the Public Works Department,* and effort is being made to hand still more labourers over to professional officers. In Sidhout all the labourers are supervised by a Public Works Department overseer, who is now serving directly under Mr. Benson. Payments to these labourers are, however, made by the revenue officials on certificates furnished by the Public Works Department officers. On the Civil works some task is exacted; but the majority of people do their full task, the deductions for short work, amounting to barely two per cent. of the total wage. No figures are here available to show the proportion of labourers under Public Works Department's supervision in other taluks.

* NOTE.—This includes the labourers on the Cheyair embankment under Mr. West, the railway engineer.

4. Regarding the condition of his labourers, Mr. Benson says that the men and women on the works seem to him to be generally in fair condition. But among the small children (on 3 pie per diem) he finds, especially at Kodoor, a considerable number of emaciated little creatures. Many of these were found on inquiry to have come on the 3 pie allowance within the last few days only. Perhaps they will come round on the 3 pie; meanwhile those who were very reduced have been handed over to the village headmen (reddies) to be fed at home. On the Cheyair embankment the labourers were till recently on the 2 annas scale, but they were reduced to the $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas rate about 20 days ago. Since the reduction took place, Mr. Benson has visited them twice, and he did not observe any sensible reduction in their condition. But then though the wages are reduced, these labourers now get the Sunday's wage, and also get the 3 pie allowance for children, whereas previously they enjoyed neither of these advantages.

5. Out of the number on gratuitous relief (30,000), nearly one-half are the 3-pie children on the works. For the rest there is a relief camp (in the Madanpally division, one of several centres for outdoor relief) at the head-quarters of each taluk. Additional relief camps are being erected in Mr. Benson's taluks. There is a first class relief camp at Cuddapah itself, where over 330 inmates are fed. The smaller camps are to hold 250 a piece; but as yet none of Mr. Benson's camps have more than 80 inmates, as they have only just been completed. A certain number of people, who cannot be brought into the relief camps, are being relieved through the village headmen in their villages.

6. The village relief is supervised by inspectors, of whom there are two to four to each taluk. But Mr. Benson fears that it is only very recently that the village headmen are fulfilling their duties. They are and always were prompt enough to relieve ryots and people of the middle class. But it is very difficult to make them look after and relieve the pariahs, although they are fully repaid for all their expenses, and though each reddy has an advance of Government money to meet such charges. The duty of the reddy is

to relieve on the spot the helpless, to relieve and send into the nearest camp such paupers as can be moved, and to send in weekly accounts of their expenditure. The inspectors, with their peons, go round and enforce these duties on the reddies. Each inspector has from 30,000 to 50,000 people in his circle. Mr. Benson has been on tour for ten weeks and has inspected many villages. He found in many places, especially in the larger villages, a small number of people of pariah caste who were much reduced by want. Such cases are, he hopes, being gradually picked up and relieved. But the most emaciated cases he has seen anywhere were the 3-pie children newly brought upon the works, to which reference has been made at paragraph 4.

State of relief in Cuddapah.

No. 229.

No. 245.

CVII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, regarding the discharge of Paupers from the Relief Camps.

Gooty, 22nd April 1877.

There is one suggestion which I wish to lay before the Government of Madras, respecting the treatment and retention of paupers in the large relief camps. At the beginning of the distress it was no doubt quite necessary to confine wandering paupers and other non-labouring poor in relief camps, because the restrictions accompanying indoor relief are irksome, and prevent persons who are not absolutely in need from seeking (and even from accepting) admission to the camps. Moreover, the village relief system, which is still in many places incomplete, was not begun; and so there was little hope of the indigent poor being relieved anywhere except on relief works or at relief camps. And, as we know, there were in January, and are still, many thousands who seem to prefer the chances of wandering and begging to the moderate certainty of the relief wage.

The very helpless should be removed from the relief camps to their own homes.

2. In most of the relief camps which I have visited, and notably in the relief camps round Madras, all that humane care and medical skill could, within reasonable limits, desire, has been done to improve the condition of the inmates of relief camps. In many cases there is marked improvement in the physical condition of the older inmates of these camps. But still the fact remains that the death-rate among the inmates of camps is terribly high; that such diseases as are engendered among gatherings of poor people often appear and reappear, and that the air and surroundings of these camps are very depressing. For the little children especially the life must be very depressing indeed. Some of these troubles will, I fear, be aggravated when rain and cold come on, and make relief camp life even less endurable than it now is.

3. When I thus point out the evils of relief camp life, I would not be understood to find any fault whatever with the humane and diligent officers who manage these camps. The experience of relief camps in Orissa during 1866 was the same. And I should anticipate that some of the very best of the relief camp officers feel how difficult it is for the poor creatures under their care to recover health and strength under the conditions of the relief camps.

4. The question then arises what remedy can be suggested. It seems to me that a remedy may be applied on this wise. Able-bodied people are drafted on to the works, and regarding them nothing further need be said. But the old, the cripples, the women burdened with children, and the children, cannot be drafted to the works. I would recommend that such people, when they are able to move, should be sent under proper arrangements to their homes, to be brought upon the village relief lists there.

5. At the homes of some of the inmates of the Madras relief camps, such as those who live in the Kalustri or Karvetnagar zemindaris, full reliance cannot yet be placed on the village relief arrangements which have been or are being organised; and people from these tracts cannot yet be sent home. But in the Chingleput district, in most parts of Nellore and Cuddapah, and in many parts of North Arcot such reliance may be placed on the organisation of relief circles, and on relief inspectors who enforce their duties on the village headmen (reddies or moonsiffs). And people belonging to these tracts might safely be sent home from the relief camps near Madras, and in the same way people might gradually be sent home from other relief camps, such as the Vellore, the Dhurmpuri, the Salem, and the Cuddapah relief camps.

6. The poor people could not be sent away suddenly or in large numbers. But the plan might be begun gradually; the inmates of the camps might be sent away a few at a time under care of a camp servant; and they could be made over to the relief inspector* of this circle, whose duty it would be to see that the poor people were brought upon the village relief lists.

* Note.—In all the worst districts the taluks are divided into circles containing 15,000 to 20,000 inhabitants each. And the inspector of each of these circles has more or less close relations with the village headman of his circle.

7. The District Collector and his officials would work in unison with the relief camp officer. And in this way the inmates of the camps would gradually be conveyed to their homes and would be cared for there. Eventually the survivors of the camps must be so sent back, and provided the village relief system is efficient, the sooner they go the better it will be for them. And it will also be to the advantage of the public treasury; for inmates of relief camps probably cost, all told, from 3 annas a head at the relief camps of Madras to $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a head at the cheaper relief camps in the interior; whereas the village relief allowance proposed by the Board for Salem is only 1 anna per diem, while in no district it is more than $1\frac{1}{4}$ or $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a day for adult men.

8. I recommend, therefore, that an attempt be made, on some such plan as is here suggested, to gradually draft, not only the able-bodied but the infirm and helpless poor from the relief camps to their homes. In regard to orphan children difficulty may arise; but this difficulty will have to be met under any circumstances; and the longer the parents are kept in relief camps, the larger the number of orphans is likely to become.

No. 230.

No. 245. CVIII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Gooty, 22nd April 1877.

State of relief in Cuddapah.

Passing through the Cuddapah district, I had the advantage of once more considering the returns of relief labourers and recipients of gratuitous relief, as presented by Mr. Benson, the Head Assistant Collector, and by the Collectorate Serishtadar.

2. The present number of relief labourers is 80,000, the lowest number was 67,000, the highest number in January was 204,000. In no district since January last has stricter care been exercised in preventing relief being given to those who do not need it, or in confining relief to those who really are in need. The vigilance and discrimination exercised in this respect seem to me to be very creditable to the Collector (Mr. Price). Considering, however, the comparatively good spring harvest which has been and is still being reaped in this district, and the fall of rain, timely though moderate, which has fallen in this quarter, I should think that much caution ought to be exercised in permitting the number of relief labourers to rise materially, unless indeed from the rain holding off, or from other cause, matters should take a turn for the worse.

3. On the other hand, my impression is that the numbers on gratuitous relief in the interior of the district (some 30,000 persons*) is probably not large enough, and that the system of village inspection and relief is still incomplete. I fail to gather favourable accounts of the conduct of the village headmen in this respect. As the staff of European officers is now so strong, there ought to be no difficulty in seeing that the village headmen do their duty. This seems to me more necessary in the Maddanpally subdivision of the district than anywhere, from which quarter accounts of distressed individuals scattered here and there are received.

* The majority of whom are little children.

4. An examination of the return of relief work makes me apprehend that they are too numerous in some parts of the district, especially in the north-western taluks; if they could in such places be more concentrated that would facilitate check and control.

5. Some of the relief works are really under the control of Public Works officers, but most of the works are not so. In the latter works, which constitute the great majority, the Public Works Department merely helps and advises, but does not take actual charge of the works. This is, as it seems to me, to be regretted, especially as there are three ranges or executive divisions in the district in each of which there is a professional establishment. I would recommend that this establishment be utilised by being ordered to take charge of as many of the relief works as possible.

No. 231.

No. 245. CX.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple after Inspection of certain Relief Gangs at Gooty and Goondakal.

Bellary District, 24th April 1877.

Relief gangs of Gooty and Goondakal.

Having again paid a brief visit to a part of the Bellary district, I have to submit the following remarks:—

2. One gang (500 strong) of relief labourers employed on the railway at Gooty under professional supervision, on reduced wage and good tasks, were found by me to be in very fair condition. Another large gang (1,000 strong) inspected by me at Goondakal consisted of 800 women and children in fair condition (with some few exceptions), and

of 200 men of whom one-third were in indifferent condition, some even in bad condition, most of these latter being new arrivals. From information received from Bellary and Adoni, I learn that in several gangs there are found some persons in weakly condition. These points will doubtless cause some to think that the relief wage ought to be raised. Looking, however, to Dr. Townsend's recent evidence as to the good condition of the able-bodied labourers on the reduced wage, which is again confirmed by my own recent observation, and to the importance of not holding out any temptation to able-bodied men to come on relief who might be otherwise able to sustain themselves, I would still strongly deprecate raising of the wage to the able-bodied.

3. In some places the Sunday wage is not allowed, as no work is done on that day. It is in these cases supposed that the men have some other slight means of support besides their relief wage. If, however, there be any doubt on this point, then the Sunday wage might be allowed on the ground that the subsistence afforded by the wage is as much needed on Sundays as on week-days. But as it is inconvenient to pay the wage on Sundays ($1\frac{1}{2}$ annas), then in commutation $\frac{1}{4}$ of anna might be paid on each week-day, raising the wage to $1\frac{3}{4}$ annas.

4. If any person now in the gangs fall into bad health, or come on to the works in a low state, the existing orders amply provide for their being specially treated either by extra special allowance or by nominal work.

5. But it is very important at this season to avoid offering more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a day to the able-bodied people outside, who are possibly considering in their own minds as the season advances whether they will or will not come on to the works.

6. The number of persons who are unable to work and who are seeking for food is increasing fast. I believe that the system of relief centres and village relief is being fairly well worked in this district. But the subject is so important that I must be excused for making reiterated mention of it.

No. 232.

CXI.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, bringing to Notice the State of Affairs on the Bellary-Dharwar Railway. No. 245.

Bellary District, 24th April 1877.

Having had a share in recommending the commencement of the earth-worth of the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar, and having inquired much during my visit to Bellary (on the 26th March) as to the possibility of making a speedy commencement, I deem it my duty to report to the Madras Government that, from what I learn while passing through the district, the commencement is apparently not being made with the expected rapidity by the local Engineers. I am under the impression that the Civil officers have got, or could immediately get, from 10,000 to 12,000 relief labourers ready for this work, and the expectation was that at least this number would be employed. Whereas not more than 3,000 persons are actually being employed. This is excellent so far as it goes; but as much more is needed, it would seem to follow either that some further instructions from Government to the local Engineers, or else that, if such instructions have been given to these officers, they have not yet been sufficiently followed. As so much stress was laid by the Madras Government on the undertaking of this work as a means of employing and tasking relief labour under professional officers, I trust I shall be excused in bringing this subject again to notice. Bellary-Dharwar Railway.

2. It is the more necessary to press the point, as this is the only large work in the district where relief labour can be professionally tasked, no action having apparently been taken on my minute of the 10th April recommending that relief labourers be drafted on to certain selected public works,—a suggestion which I would still commend to the consideration of the Government of Madras.

No. 233.

CXII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, suggesting the deputation of an experienced European Officer to the Western Taluks of the Bellary District. No. 245.

Bellary District, 24th April 1877.

My last visit to the Bellary district brought to recollection a point which I have often heard discussed namely, the need of some European officer being deputed to inspect the relief operations in the western taluks of that district, namely, Harpanhally, Havind-Hudgully, and Kudlegi. These operations are no doubt under able Native officers, and European officer required for western taluks.

the distress is not very bad apparently in that quarter. Still the work would be all the better for a visit from an experienced European officer vested in the principles and practice of relief. It is probable that such an officer would effect good as regards the discharge of persons not fit objects of relief, the tasking of the relief labourers, and the prevention of waste or fraud. All the other parts of the district have the advantage of European supervision save these western taluks. I would represent to the Madras Government the expediency of despatching thither such an officer if he could be spared, as someone might probably be spared for a time at least. I understand that the Collector, who has been for some time past in camp, intended to visit the taluks, but he has not (I believe) done so yet.

No. 234.

No. 245. CXIII.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, comparing the per-centage of relief recipients in Kurnool with those in the Bombay Deccan, and suggesting the concentration of relief works under Public Works officers.

Goondakal (Bellary District), the 24th April 1877.

Large number receiving relief in Kurnool district.

Having again paid a brief visit to a part of the Kurnool district, I find the numbers of persons on relief wages and gratuitous relief together to be so high, that I must invite the consideration of the Madras Government to the points set forth in my minutes of the 17th March and of the 29th March. These points are doubtless well known to the Madras Government, and they certainly have been brought to the notice of the local authorities. But as there is no change in those respects perceptible, I must again represent the case.

2. The per-centage of recipients of relief of both kinds in the Kurnool district may be compared thus with the per-centages in other districts of the Madras and the Bombay Presidencies :—

	Distressed Districts.	Total Numbers on Relief Works and on gratuitous Relief during the First Week of April.	Per-centage of Persons receiving Relief of both kinds on the Total Population of the District.
Madras Presidency	Kurnool	236,000	24½ per cent.
	Bellary	269,000	17 ,,
	Cuddapah	80,000	6 ,,
	Nellore	69,000	5 ,,
	Chingleput (inclusive of Madras city)	29,000	2 ,,
	North Arcot	32,000	1½ ,,
	Salem	58,000	3 ,,
	Coimbatore	27,000	1⅔ ,,
	Madura	12,000	½ ,,
	Tinnevelly	3,000	⅕ ,,
Bombay Presidency	Sholapur	49,955	7 ,,
	Kaladgi	27,120	3½ ,,
	Part of Poona	57,691	6⅛ ,,

3. Many of the Madras districts have been so economically managed from the first that it is difficult to make a comparison. But Kurnool may be fairly compared with Bellary, in which the failure of harvests has been worse, and in which there was quite as much liberality of relief at the outset as in Kurnool. There cannot be any good reason why the per-centage should be 24 in Kurnool, while it is only 17 per cent. in Bellary. Indeed, if the per-centage (17) in Bellary he deemed reasonable, the per-centage in Kurnool ought to be under 15.

4. The contrast with the Bombay Deccan is still more striking. It is, I believe, impossible to account for the difference in the extent of relief save by assuming that there is a difference in system. And what is that systematic difference? Why! just this, that in the Bombay Deccan the relief labourers are systematically tasked by engineering establishments and under professional supervision, while in Kurnool they are not so tasked. I have been unable to ascertain the precise value of the work done by the Kurnool relief gangs, but I understand that it costs many times as much as it would in ordinary times under the Department of Public Works, and that the tasks are very light.

In the Bombay Deccan the Department of Public Works has real control over the relief labourers, while in Kurnool it has not. This matter was represented to the Madras Government by my minute of the 29th March. I do not know exactly how far the recommendations therein submitted have been approved.

Large number receiving relief in Kurnool district.

5. The per-centage of relief recipients to the whole population in the Kurnool district may be better seen from the details of the "taluks" or divisions into which the district is divided:—

Taluks.	Population according to Census of 1871.	Number of Persons		Total.	Per-centage of Relief Recipients to Population.
		On Relief Works.	On gratuitous Relief.		
Ramalkota - - -	146,195	40,391	16,060	56,451	$38\frac{1}{2}$
Nandikotkur - - -	101,866	12,330	2,205	14,535	$14\frac{1}{4}$
Nandial - - - -	107,320	31,103	5,750	36,853	$34\frac{1}{3}$
Sirwell - - - -	71,066	16,449	2,776	19,225	27
Koilkuntla - - -	98,844	32,679	5,409	38,088	$38\frac{3}{5}$
Pattikonda - - -	173,434	26,289	10,652	36,941	$27\frac{1}{4}$
Cumbum - - - -	123,042	46,346	3,172	49,518	$40\frac{1}{5}$
Markapur - - - -	92,665	11,178	817	11,995	$12\frac{4}{5}$
	914,432	216,765	46,841	263,606	$28\frac{3}{4}$

6. The numbers on gratuitous relief are probably not too high; the excess must be in the numbers on relief works, which is specially apparent in the "taluks" of Cumbum, Koilkuntla, and of Nandial. Perhaps in Ramalkota the apparent excess may be accounted for by the Kurnool city being situate therein; otherwise there also the per-centage is very high.

7. The measure primarily to be suggested is the concentration of the gangs on public works (specified in the minutes of the 17th and 29th March) under Public Works officers. Then they will be sent to some longer distance from their homes than at present, and will be better tasked that at present. The effect of this on the numbers of the labourers would, I am sanguine, be soon apparent.

8. In submitting these remarks I am far from being forgetful of the efforts made by the Collector and his officers to enforce system and economy; but it is impossible to overlook the statistical facts which show that some further efforts are still necessary.

No. 235.

CXIV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, comparing the system of tasking relief labourers in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, and suggesting the utilisation of the Public Works officers in Madras on relief works in certain districts. No. 245.

Bellary District, the 24th April 1877.

Public Works officers should superintend relief works in Madras.

Before quitting the Madras Presidency, I would beg to represent to the Madras Government one remarkable difference between the system heretofore pursued in that presidency and the system followed from the first in the Bombay Presidency, and which is being followed there more and more. Though the point has previously been brought by me to the notice of the Madras Government, it is so important that I may be excused representing it once more.

2. There will doubtless be no question as to the superiority of the plan whereby relief labourers are tasked under a settled departmental system by professional establishments specially trained for the business, over the plan by which they are tasked by Civil officers not trained to the business. In the former case the tasking will be strict and hard and will be endured only by those who are in need; in the latter case it will often (though not always) be either light or nominal, and will be undergone by many who are not in need.

3. In the Bombay Presidency the plan has been so advanced that now almost all the relief labourers are under the Public Works Department. Out of 287,760 persons in all, 259,057 are under that department, and only 28,703 are under Civil officers.

4. In the Madras Presidency, out of 716,507 in all, there are not more than 83,000* under the Public Works Department, the remainder, 633,507, being under Civil officers. Out of this latter number it may be admitted that 24,140 in Coimbatore, 28,000 in Salem, 13,626 in Madura, in all 65,766, are well and fully tasked. The remainder, 568,741, are (with the exception of a certain number in Cuddapah, which I cannot state precisely) under the Civil officers, and are for the most part lightly tasked. It is especially remarkable that in the two districts showing the largest numbers, Bellary and Kurnool, having both together 422,784 persons, the whole are under Civil officers, and lightly tasked, with the exception of the 3,000 on the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar.

*East Coast Canal - - -	40,000
Arconum doubling - - -	15,000
Bellary-Dharwar Railway - -	3,000
Salem district - - -	25,000
Total -	83,000

Some may be very shortly expected on the Chingleput Railway, and some also on the irrigation works of North Arcot.

5. I am sure that this difference in system is the main cause of the difference in the proportion of relief labourers to the whole population between these two districts on the one hand, and the Bombay Deccan on the other hand. The per-centage of relief labourers on the whole population is in Bellary 12¾ per cent. and in Kurnool 21¼; while (Bombay Presidency) in Sholápur it is only 6·69, in Kaládgi 4·8, and in the distressed part of Poona 10·5.

6. There is no want of engineering and professional establishments in the districts of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah; on the contrary each District is under a district Engineer, whose executive charge is divided into so many "ranges," in each of which there is an Engineer officer. But, as shown by me in former minutes, these excellent and competent establishments only help in a general way, and have no actual charge of any relief work. They might be utilised fully for this important purpose at any moment the Madras Government may see fit.

7. The same remarks apply equally to North Arcot, and would similarly apply to South Arcot if any relief works shall have to be opened there. They apply too in a considerable degree to Nellore.

No. 236.

Nos. 240. 256.

MEMORANDUM by CAPTAIN W. S. S. BISSET, R.E., on Special Duty, dated Dhond, the 25th April 1877.

Movements of food grains in Madras.

The three accompanying statements abstracted from returns furnished, at Sir Richard Temple's request, by the officers of the Madras Railway Company, contain statistics of considerable interest to the mercantile world.

The first exhibits the movements of food grains on the Madras Railway for March 1877, the second shows month by month the quantity of food grain delivered by rail into each district, and the third exhibits the total quantities received in each district from the 1st August to the 31st March, as well as the source from which the supplies have been drawn. In Statement No. II. the last column professes to show the total delivery of each month by the Madras Railway, but it is necessary to explain that a considerable portion of the grain invoiced from Northern India in December 1876 and January 1877 was not actually delivered in the Madras Presidency till the month of February.

The best month's work out of Madras has been that of March, when nearly 35,000 tons of grain were despatched; the best month's work from Beypore that of January, when over 10,000 tons of grain were carried; and the best month's work from the northern end that of February, when the actual quantity of grain sent southwards from Raichore was approximately 18,000 tons.

Up to the end of March there was no effective increase to the engine power, for although the additional engines were in the hands of the Madras Railway Company, the drivers for these engines had not reached their posts till the first week of April.

With the increased demand which is just beginning to be felt in the ceded districts of Madras, and which, in my humble opinion, is likely to grow daily till the rains fall, the additional engine power will be fully engaged; and it may be worthy of notice that, while the despatches of grain from Madras cannot be largely increased without suspension of the ordinary traffic, there is even now train room for many more grain waggons from the north.

Movements of food grains.

No. I.—Madras Railway.

Movement of Food Grains for month ending 31st March 1877.

Forwarded from	Received at											
	Madras District.	North Arcot District.	Mysore Territory.	Salem District.	Coimbatore District.	Malabar District.	Between Codoor and Wontimettah.	Cuddapah and Yerragoontla.	Gooty and Tadputri.	Bellary.	Adoni.	Total.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Madras - - -	29	4,677	12,958	2,358	465	—	407	7,426	2,955	2,955	517	34,747
Beypore - - -	—	293	1,679	2,308	3,017	372	—	—	—	—	—	7,669
South Indian Railway -	2	26	499	636	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,209
Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	30	1	64	16	—	—	—	338	343	4,441	3,293	8,226
North Arcot - - -	15	47	97	70	—	—	6	28	—	4	—	267
Salem - - -	—	4	87	189	10	—	—	4	—	—	—	294
Coimbatore - - -	—	8	100	209	74	—	—	—	—	—	—	391
Total - -	76	5,056	15,484	5,786	3,612	372	413	7,796	3,298	7,100	3,810	52,803
							8,209					

Traffic Manager's Office, Madras, the 24th April 1877.

H. E. CHURCH,
Traffic Manager.

No. II.—Madras Railway.

Statement exhibiting month by month the Total Amount of Food Grain received from all sources in the following Districts per Madras Railway from 1st August 1876 to 31st March 1877.

—	Received in								
	Madras or Chingleput District.	North Arcot District.	Mysore Territory.	Salem District.	Coimbatore District.	Malabar District.	Cuddapah District.	Bellary and Kurnool Districts.	Total Delivery of the Month.
1876.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
August - - -	429	653	3,049	642	1,667	2,169	782	3,359	12,750
September - -	328	1,949	6,173	1,264	1,238	615	762	5,040	17,369
October - - -	234	1,863	14,485	1,643	925	839	2,641	8,466	31,096
November - -	368	1,879	10,194	2,183	1,962	1,324	4,760	15,189	37,859
December - -	107	6,755	11,515	4,475	3,451	868	10,091	21,729	59,011
1877.									
January - - -	201	5,034	12,072	4,908	3,567	966	8,856	20,455	56,059
February - - -	143	4,165	9,220	4,037	3,826	525	9,389	13,614	44,919
March - - -	76	5,056	15,484	5,786	3,612	372	8,209	14,208	52,803
Total -	1,886	27,354	82,192	23,610	20,248	7,678	45,490	102,161	310,957

W. S. S. BISSET.

No. III.—Madras Railway.

Statement exhibiting the Total Quantities of Food Grain forwarded from and received at the following places per Madras Railway from 1st August 1876 to 31st March 1877.

Forwarded from	Received at								
	Madras or Chingleput District.	North Arcot District.	Mysore Territory.	Salem District.	Coimbatore District.	Malabar District.	Cuddapah District.	Bellary and Kurnool Districts.	Total.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Madras - - -	514	22,316	45,542	5,486	1,869	9	33,045	37,335	146,454
Beypore - - -	67	2,501	11,858	7,184	10,773	1,856	523	678	35,430
Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	329	297	2,208	148	10	—	4,138	53,553	60,683
South Indian Railway -	78	514	8,197	3,170	1,617	824	585	362	15,347
North Arcot District -	761	701	3,561	769	795	283	3,160	640	10,670
Salem District - -	84	381	4,025	1,540	453	78	467	271	7,299
Coimbatore District -	17	410	3,337	3,747	1,177	225	647	250	9,810
Malabar District - -	16	130	2,559	1,467	3,548	4,399	44	4	12,167
Mysore Territory - -	9	43	883	89	1	4	—	25	1,054
Cuddapah District -	11	28	—	1	—	—	1,296	1,236	2,572
Bellary and Kurnool Districts.	—	53	22	9	5	—	1,585	7,807	9,481
Total -	1,886	27,374	82,192	23,610	20,248	7,678	45,490	102,161	310,957

W. S. S. BISSET.

No. 237.

No. 22 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 26th April 1877.

Nos. 215. 216. Bad report from Madras.

We enclose a minute by Sir Richard Temple regarding the condition of the upland taluks in the district of Salem, which he describes as being among the most distressed tracts in the whole of the Madras Presidency. Some parts of these taluks have not had crops for two years. One of them, Utangiri, was one of the taluks which suffered most severely in the scarcity of 1866. The relief operations appear to be conducted with care and judgment.

2. Yesterday we received the following telegram from Sir Richard Temple :—

"Since last weekly telegram I have visited South Arcot, revisited districts North Arcot, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary. In Southern India situation changed slightly for worse contrary to expectation, because showers ceased middle April; any moment rain might alter whole case, otherwise distress must gradually increase. Near Madras, on East Coast, no rain at all; country there quite parched. Northwards, above Ghâts, in Bellary and Kurnool, situation worse, according to previous expectation. Season of trouble approaching. Agricultural and able-bodied classes still sustain themselves; but famine beginning to seize lower classes. Numbers on gratuitous relief rising. Many come to relief works in reduced state. Village inspection and relief being better developed but still not complete everywhere; I have again urged its full development. Those who cannot work becoming badly distressed; in relief gangs able-bodied still healthy, but weaker ones sometimes fall into low condition. A sort of scurvy appearing; many think reduced wage should be raised. I deprecate raising wages for able-bodied, fearing influx of persons to work who could otherwise support themselves; but I have recommended special allowance for all who are found reduced, also concession Sunday wage. Efforts with some success to send labourers to Nellore Canal; but earth-work slowly and feebly begun on railway from Bellary towards Dharwar. Active markets supplied. Draught cattle sustained. Inferior animals languishing or perishing in large numbers. Imports to Madras steady, but from Bombay direction increasing. No actual want of drinking water. I have just quitted Madras Presidency."

From the facts stated in this telegram it is evident that, unless rain falls within the next week or so, there will be a very great increase in the numbers of persons needing relief, and also in the loss of cattle, already, it is to be feared, very grievous. Your Lordship will have learnt from our telegram of the 21st instant that the number in receipt of relief in the Madras Presidency had then reached very nearly a million, which, however, is still considerably below the estimate for April submitted by the Madras Board of Revenue in December last, according to which the numbers likely to require relief in April were put down at 1,405,000. The greatest increase is perceptible in the number in receipt of gratuitous relief, which amounted to 241,000 persons; and from Sir Richard Temple's allusion in his present telegram to the insufficient development of the system of village inspection, we may look for a still further increase in the numbers requiring State relief in this form.

3. The situation is serious and critical; but the trade in grain is active, and there is, we trust, no reason for apprehending any deficiency in the supply in any of the districts. Sir Richard Temple, who is now on his way to Bombay to assume the Government of that Presidency, is about to furnish us with a comprehensive report on his mission, which will doubtless embody his latest impressions on the present aspect of the famine, and which we shall lose no time in forwarding to your Lordship.

4. The following is an extract from our telegram of the 21st instant regarding the numbers on the relief works and in the receipt of charitable relief according to the latest returns :—

"In Madras 726,000 on relief works, and 241,000 charitably relieved. In Bombay 270,000 on works, and 66,000 charitably relieved. In Mysore 64,000 on works, and 59,000 charitably relieved."

5. Since the above was written we have received the following supplementary telegram from Sir Richard Temple, despatched yesterday from Dhond in the Poona district, the point from which the railway starts which is to connect the Northern and Southern

sections of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and which has been commenced as a relief work :—

"I have seen some local officers, districts Sholapur, Poona, and Ahmednagar, have inspected 3,500 relief labourers, person by person, on Dhond and Munmar Railway, found them doing well on new wage. General situation of Bombay Deccan appears thus: Pressure becoming harder everywhere, numbers on relief works slightly increasing, system steady. Vast majority of relief labourers under professional officers, task-works well enforced, numbers on gratuitous relief increasing fast, village inspection developed. Prices slightly rising. Trade active. Markets well supplied. Draught cattle sustained, but numbers of other cattle perishing. Fate of animals sent to Ghât mountains for grazing uncertain. Many dying there. Anxiety about bullocks for future ploughing. Showers have fallen, but do not effect material good. I found water in rivers Tungabadra and Krishna increased in volume since last visit. Drinking water scarce occasionally, but failure averted by excavating wells.

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) F. P. HAINES.
E. C. BAYLEY.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
E. B. JOHNSON.
WHITLEY STOKES.

No. 238.

Revenue No. 33.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 26th April 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 9th March, No. 14 of 1877, relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, has been considered by me in Council. No. 147.

2. The insufficiency of the means at present available for the transport of grain from Madras to the interior, and especially to the ceded districts and Kurnool, must reasonably have caused much anxiety. The efforts hitherto made to increase the carrying power of the railway have been met by unforeseen difficulties, but as the subject is now engaging the earnest attention of your Excellency's Government and that of Madras, I trust that means will be devised for overcoming the present obstacles.

3. Your instructions to the Government of Madras relative to the necessity of removing the misapprehensions which exist in the public mind as to the relations between the Government and the firm of Arbuthnot and Co. have my approval. If, after consultation with the Madras Government, your suggestion for the sale of the Government reserve stock be acted upon, I trust that the periods of sale and quantities sold may be so arranged as not to disturb the ordinary operations of trade.

4. I trust that the local authorities in Nellore, the ceded districts, and Kurnool, will succeed in carrying into execution the plan suggested by Sir R. Temple of drafting labourers from the relief works in those districts to the great work of the East coast Navigation Canal. The end to be attained is so important, that I trust no exertions will be spared to make use of the present opportunity for the completion of this useful work.

5. I shall await the result of your deliberations on the subject to which the Sanitary Commissioner of the Madras Government has drawn attention, of the alleged insufficiency of the reduced rate of wages lately prescribed for the relief works in that Presidency.

6. I fully concur in the views expressed in the Resolution of your Excellency's Government on the returns received from the Chief Commissioner of Mysore relative to the scarcity in that province. The Chief Commissioner and the officers of the Administration appear to have well deserved the praise bestowed on them by your Excellency in

Council for the zeal, judgment, and humanity which have characterised their arrangements and exertions to meet the great calamity which has fallen on the province.

7. I concur with your Excellency in the emphatic recognition which you record of the value of Sir R. Temple's labours.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 239.

Revenue, No. 36.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 26th April 1877.

No. 170. Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 16th March, No. 15 of 1877, relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras, has been considered by me in Council.

2. I will await the result of the deliberations of your Excellency in Council, after full communication with the Government of Madras, on the Sangam project. As a reproductive work, it is well worthy of consideration at such a crisis as that which now engages your attention.

3. I am glad to learn that the conclusions at which Sir R. Temple arrived, after his repeated visits to North Arcot, are, on the whole, favourable, and that he considers everything has been done which ought to have been done in respect to measures of relief by the local authorities.

4. Sir Richard Temple has discussed with ability the views stated by Dr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner at Madras, as to the scale of rations for labourers on relief works. The question at issue is, without doubt, one of great difficulty, and one on which it would be unwise to lay down an inflexible rule. I am confident that the humane principles already laid down by your Excellency will be scrupulously carried out by the officers of the Government, and that no scale of rations will be maintained which is not adequate to the sustenance of the labourer.

5. It is very satisfactory that progress has been made towards enabling the Madras Railway Company to carry 1,400 tons a day, twice the amount which it has hitherto been able to carry.

6. The statement that the number of persons on the relief works in the two presidencies has, during the week under review, been reduced by 49,266, is satisfactory.

7. I feel it my duty to record my approbation of the discrimination and judgment with which the calamity before you has been met by your Excellency in Council, by Sir Richard Temple, by the Governments of Madras and Bombay, and by the local authorities in those presidencies.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 240.

Nos. 241. 256. MEMORANDUM by CAPTAIN W. S. S. BISSET, R.E., on Special Duty, dated Bombay, the 28th April 1877.

Imports of food grains. The following notes are based upon returns which have just been obtained from Madras. The very extensive importation into Madras of grain from the subordinate ports during the months of August, September, and October 1876 had escaped my notice, and I have to express my thanks to Captain Coaker, R.E., Deputy Consulting Engineer, and to Mr. H. E. Church, Traffic Manager of the Madras Railway, for having called attention to the matter and for having assisted me in obtaining the additional statistics now presented.

For the months of August, September, and October 1876, the published statements of the Madras Board of Revenue show the import of food grains into the port of Madras at a total of 5,637 tons. During the same period the Madras Railway alone carried out of Madras 20,446 tons of grain, and the question arose where this supply came from.

The figures thus published are found to be the imports from non-subordinate ports only, the imports of food grains from the ports subordinate to the Madras Presidency

during these months having actually amounted to 38,000 tons in addition to the 5,637 tons above mentioned. Imports of food grains into Madras.

During November and December 1876, 55,466 tons were delivered in Madras from beyond the presidency, and 30,000 tons from the subordinate ports, while during the first three months of 1877 the imports of food grains into the port of Madras amounted to 165,852 tons from ports beyond, and 36,000 tons from other ports within the jurisdiction of the Local Government. The imports into the port of Madras commencing in August with a total of 15,000 tons steadily rose up to January 1877, when the total imports from all sources into Madras alone exceeded 80,000 tons.

The total food supply made available in Madras from August 1876 to the end of March was therefore—

	Tons.
From subordinate ports - - - - -	104,000
From non-subordinate ports - - - -	227,000
Total - - -	331,000

Of this vast supply, the Madras Railway forwarded from Madras over 146,000 tons, its maximum despatches having amounted to 35,000 tons during the month of March.

Up to the end of March the minor East Coast ports of Negapatam, Tuticorin, and others imported 25,000 tons of grain, and this supply enabled Southern India to send to the more distressed districts served by the Madras Railway over 15,000 tons of food grain; Mysore taking over 8,000 tons of this amount.

During the same period, Beypore and Calicut received approximately 63,000 tons of food grains. Of this, over 35,000 tons was sent up by rail, nearly all to Coimbatore, Salem, and Mysore. The Malabar district probably received much of this by land, for it sent away by rail 5,000 tons of grain more than it received.

The other ports on the West Coast are said to have received 52,750* tons up to the end of February, and this large supply has all been distributed by cart.

* The total up to the end of March has been assumed at 55,000 tons.

If the period from August to October 1876 be included, the total imports into the Madras Presidency will be seen to be as follows :—

IMPORT of FOOD GRAINS into the PRESIDENCY of MADRAS.

Madras received in	From Ports beyond the Presidency or Non-Subordinate Ports.	From Subordinate Ports.	Total.
	tons.	tons.	tons.
August 1876 - - - -	1,769		
September „ - - - -	875	38,000	43,637
October „ - - - -	2,993		
November „ - - - -	26,792	30,000	85,466
December „ - - - -	28,674		
January 1877 - - - -	72,985		
February „ - - - -	57,421	36,000	201,852
March „ - - - -	35,446		
Total - - -	226,955	104,000	330,955
Other East Coast ports received from all sources - -			25,000
Grand total Madras and East Coast - - -			355,955
Beypore and Calicut received from all sources - -			63,000
Other West Coast ports „ „ - -			55,000
Grand total of West Coast ports - - -			118,000

	Tons.
The Northern districts received by rail from Great Indian Peninsula Railway - - - - - - - - -	61,000

Imports of food grains into Madras.

The above figures abstracted show the total imports as follows :—

	Tons.
By sea from Bengal, Burma, Orissa, and Ganjam to Madras, Tuticorin, &c.	356,000
By sea into Beypore and other West Coast ports	118,000
By Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Northern and Central India into the Madras Presidency	61,000
Grand total	535,000

No. 241.

No. 256.

CXV.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, on the subject of the Imports of Grain into the Presidency of Madras and its Transport by the Madras Railway.

Bombay, the 28th April 1877.

Later information makes it desirable to state finally the statistics of the imports of food grains into the Presidency of Madras since the commencement of the scarcity of 1876–77. Copies of certain notes and memoranda by Captain Bisset are forwarded.

2. It was assumed originally on the published data of the Madras Board of Revenue that the imports before the month of November were altogether inconsiderable. The despatches of grain by rail from Madras were, however, during the months of August, September, and October so much in excess of the total imports thus shown that it was doubted whether the Board's statements were complete. And on further inquiry it was ascertained that the 5,637 tons shown as imported during August, September, and October from beyond the presidency were supplemented by an import amounting to 38,000 tons from ports known by the Madras Board of Revenue as "subordinate ports."

3. Thus before November, the month previously recognised by me as the beginning of heavy imports, there were delivered into Madras a total of 44,000 tons of food grains. Some corrections have been made in the returns for the period from November onwards, the estimated imports for March having been very much exceeded by the actuals both at Madras and at the minor ports on the East and West Coasts, and the whole supply taken by the Presidency has to be stated at 535,000 tons.

4. The following is the abstract of importations in the Presidency of Madras :—

	Tons.
By sea from Bengal, Burma, Orissa, and Ganjam to Madras and other East Coast ports	356,000
To Beypore	118,000
By the Great Indian Peninsula Railway	61,000
Grand total	535,000

5. The following is an abstract of the quantities of grain which were carried away by rail from Madras into the interior :—

	Tons.
To Chingleput district	514
„ North Arcot	22,316
„ Mysore territory	45,542
„ Salem district	5,486
„ Coimbatore and Malabar	1,878
„ Cuddapah district	33,045
„ Bellary and Kurnool	37,335
Total	146,454

6. The despatches of grain from Madras from 3,000 tons in August rose to over 10,000 tons in October, and to more than 13,000 tons in November, from which time the despatches have been limited only by the carrying powers of the Madras Railway.

7. Hence it is apparent that there was a very great activity in the grain trade of Madras during the autumn, a fact very material to the estimate which was formed of the conjuncture arising at that period.

No. 242.

No. 214, dated Bombay, the 28th April 1877.

From the PRIVATE SECRETARY to SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA. No. 262.

I am directed by Sir Richard Temple to submit a printed copy of his minute, dated 14th April, being a general report on his late mission to the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. This report being submitted for the information or consideration of the Government of India, no copy has as yet been sent by Sir Richard Temple to the Government of Madras, as he deemed that perhaps the Government of India would prefer communicating the report to the Local Government. Forwarding Sir Richard Temple's report on his mission. No. .

2. The report will, it is hoped, be found to be drawn up in sufficient detail to speak for itself. But it had, by reason of Sir Richard Temple's approaching departure from the Presidency, to be completed and sent to press on the 14th April, which date represents a critical point in the season, when a change for the better or for the worse was to be expected. Therefore Sir Richard Temple desires to add that during the ten days subsequent to the 14th April, say up to the 25th April, when he left the Madras Presidency, the season declared itself adversely. The expected change came indeed, but it was for the worse. Consequently the position of affairs on the 25th April was somewhat more unfavourable than that described in Part IV. of the Report, which applied to the period ending on 14th April. The cause is the cessation of the usual spring showers of Southern India, which fell propitiously until the middle of April, and then ceased. To this, however, the country on the east coast around Madras itself formed an exception, having received no rain at all, great drought therefore prevailed in the Chingleput district up to the 25th April. The mortality in the relief camps near Madras was as bad as, if not worse than, ever; and the need was becoming apparent of sending to their homes, to be relieved there, all those inmates of the camps who could possibly be moved. Distress was certainly becoming worse in Madura, perhaps was arising in Tinnevelly, and was to be shortly expected in South Arcot. Affairs were somewhat better in Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot, and Nellore; but if rain should be withheld for a few days longer in those districts, then some aggravation of trouble was to be feared. In Cuddapah and Kurnool matters were going on according to expectation, save that in one subdivision of Cuddapah (Mudanapulli) there seemed to be some degree of administrative failure. In Bellary the famine seemed to be making some strides onwards. The applications for gratuitous relief were fast increasing. And in the relief labourer gangs working upon the reduced wage the proportion of persons needing special concessions was rising. Subsequent change for the worse.

3. Even now a timely fall of rain (which is ordinarily to be expected at this season in Southern India) would change the whole face of affairs. But if there be no more showers until the coming of the south-west monsoon, then the unfavourable features indicated in this letter will become aggravated gradually, week by week, almost day by day.

4. I am to add that the grain trade continued active as ever, and the carrying power of the several railways was still sufficient for the conveyance of the grain supplies. But if, as is possible, there should be a rapid influx of grain during the month of May, then Sir Richard Temple apprehends that additional engines will be much wanted. Activity of grain trade.

No. 243.

NOTIFICATION by the GOVERNMENT of INDIA. No. 245.

Simla, April 30, 1877.

The Hon. Sir Richard Temple, Bart., K.C.S.I., being about to assume the office of Governor of Bombay, to which he has been appointed by Her Majesty, and being in consequence under the necessity of closing the special mission on which he has been employed since the beginning of January in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and in the territories of his Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council desires to give public expression to the high sense which the Government of India entertain of Sir Richard Temple's services on this occasion. Acknowledgement of Sir Richard Temple's services.

When in January last it was deemed expedient that a high officer fully acquainted with the views of the Government of India should visit the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay for the purpose of inspecting the districts afflicted with scarcity, and communicating personally with the two Governments regarding the measures which were being carried out for the relief of distress, the choice of the Government of India at once fell upon Sir Richard Temple as the officer whose experience, ability, and energy pointed him out to be specially qualified for the duty. At a considerable sacrifice of personal comfort and convenience, Sir Richard Temple promptly responded to the call made upon him, and has conducted his arduous and delicate mission with signal ability and success.

The energy and devotion which have enabled him to undergo an amount of physical exertion which few could have accomplished are not more remarkable than the thoroughness of his inquiries and the judgment and tact which have characterised his communications with the Local Governments and their officers. To the Government of India Sir Richard Temple has rendered invaluable assistance at this trying juncture, in enabling it by his clear and lucid reports to appreciate the actual facts of the situation; and his Excellency in Council is persuaded that the Government to which he was accredited must recognise the advantage of his practical suggestions for the relief of distress and for promoting a judicious economy in the heavy expenditure which is being necessarily incurred.

The Governor-General in Council has no doubt that if life and health be spared to him in the high office which he is about to assume, Sir Richard Temple will add fresh and important services to those which he has already rendered to the State during his long and distinguished career. In entering upon his new duties he carries with him the best wishes of the Government of India.

No. 244.

Revenue, No. 39.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 3rd May 1877.

No. 181. Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 23rd March, No. 16 of 1877, relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, has been considered by me in Council.

2. With your Despatch you have transmitted 12 minutes and memoranda by Sir Richard Temple on various questions connected with the famine. The views therein expressed will doubtless receive every attention from the Government of Madras, but they do not at the present time demand remarks from me.

3. Your judgment in determining that relief operations should be so conducted as not to interfere with private trade was sound, and has been fully justified by the event. All doubt as to the manner in which the grain in the hands of the Madras Government will be employed has been set at rest by the public declaration of that Government that the grain shall be retained in reserve to meet future emergencies, and will not be utilised so long as private trade meets the requirements of the distressed districts. Under these circumstances, and with this reservation, I am of opinion that the movement and utilisation of the reserve may be left to the discretion of the Madras Government.

4. The intelligence that there has been a good fall of rain in Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Nellore, Trichinopoly, Tinnevelly, and other of the afflicted districts, is very satisfactory.

5. The small increase of 2,608 persons on the relief works in the two presidencies may also be deemed satisfactory, when the period of the year is taken into consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 245.

No. 23 of 1877. No. 265.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 3rd May 1877.

We enclose several minutes written by Sir Richard Temple during the last fortnight of his stay in the Madras Presidency, referring to various questions connected with the administration of famine relief.

2. The most important questions discussed in these papers are—

1st. The expediency of utilising the officers of the Public Works Department in the superintendence of the relief works. No. 235.

2nd. The sufficiency of the rate of relief wages. No. 218.

3rd. The expediency of gradually reducing and eventually abolishing the relief camps, by drafting able-bodied persons to the works, and sending the infirm and helpless poor to their homes, as the system of village relief becomes sufficiently organised. No. 229.

4th. The substitution of coal fuel for wood on the Madras Railway lines, with the object of preventing the destruction of the forests, and especially the hill forests, the gradual denudation of which has a prejudicial effect on the regularity of the rainfall. No. 220.

The last of these "proposals will require to be carefully examined; and while we fully recognise its importance, we are not at present in a position to offer any definite opinion as to its feasibility.

3. The question of more effectively utilising the large public works establishments in the Madras Presidency, on the duty of superintending the relief works, has been repeatedly pressed by Sir Richard Temple upon the attention of the Madras Government, not only in the minutes now sent, but in other minutes which have been already laid before your Lordship. In his minute of the 29th March* (No. LXXXVII.), adverting to the defects in the exaction of task-work, which characterised many of the relief works in Madras, Sir Richard Temple remarked that the main cause of the failure consisted in this, "that the Public Works Department in each of the distressed districts "is not sufficiently employed (indeed is sometimes hardly employed at all) in the "tasking,—an affair which is of all affairs the very one which it is most competent to "manage, and which can be thoroughly managed by it alone." In most of the districts, and especially in Bellary and Kurnool, the number of the relief works under the department of public works is very small, while the majority of the relief works are under civil officers. The result is that the tasking is at the best but light, and when the supervision is Native only, the tasking is too often nominal. The subject is referred to in several of the minutes enclosed in this Despatch, and more particularly in that of the 24th ultimo, written on the eve of Sir Richard Temple's departure from the Madras Presidency, wherein he points out that, while in the Bombay Presidency the plan of tasking the relief labourers under a settled departmental system by professional establishments, specially trained for the business, has been so advanced, that out of 287,760 persons on the relief works in that presidency, 259,057 are worked under the Public Works Department, and only 28,703 are under civil officers; in the Madras Presidency, out of 716,507 in all, there are not more than 83,000 under the Public Works Department, the remainder, 633,507, being under civil officers—

On question of relief works being placed under control of Public Works Department. *No. 192.

"Out of this latter number it may be admitted that 24,140 in Coimbatore, 28,000 in Salem, 13,626 in Madura, in all 65,766, are well and fully tasked. The remainder, 568,741, are (with the exception of a certain number in Cuddapah which I cannot state precisely) under the civil officers, and are for the most part lightly tasked. It is especially remarkable that in the two districts showing the largest numbers, Bellary and Kurnool, having both together 422,784 persons, the whole are under civil officers, and lightly tasked, with the exception of the 3,000 on the railway from Bellary towards Dharwar."

This difference in system, in Sir Richard Temple's opinion, is the main cause of the difference in the proportion of relief labourers to the whole population between these two districts, on the one hand, and the Bombay Deccan, on the other hand. The percentage of relief labourers on the whole population is in Bellary 12·75 per cent., and in Kurnool 21·25; while in Sholapur, in the Bombay Presidency, it is only 6·69, in Kaladgi 4·8, and in the distressed part of Poona 3·7. Making every allowance for

the greater intensity of the famine in the Madras Presidency, these facts appear to us to afford strong presumptive evidence of the superiority of the Bombay system, and of the expediency of adopting it in Madras. Another consideration which is adverted to in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 20th ultimo, regarding the South Arcot district, is that, if this plan were adopted, the civil officers would then have more leisure for effectively superintending the system of village relief. We are about to address the Madras Government on this subject, with reference to the remarks contained in the 8th paragraph of their despatch to your Lordship, under date the 7th ultimo, No. 25, and also regarding the proposal contained in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 22nd ultimo, for the gradual abolition of the relief camps.

The question of the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

* No. 218.

4. The remarks recorded in Sir Richard Temple's minute of the 18th ultimo* appear to us fully to dispose of the objections advanced by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras to the reduced rate of wage. We would draw your Lordship's particular attention to the following passages in the minute:—

"I must advert for a moment to certain parts of the argument of the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, which seem to amount to this, that because there is mortality among the recipients of gratuitous relief, who are admitted to particular relief camps, therefore the wages of relief labourers must be insufficient. Whether the Sanitary Commissioner intends to convey this idea I know not, but something of the sort would, I apprehend, be gathered by ordinary readers of that which he has written. Therefore, I have to explain that there is no connexion whatever between recipients of gratuitous relief on the one hand, and the recipients of relief wages on the other. The gratuitous rations allowed to the inmates of relief camps have nothing whatever to do with the wages paid on relief works. The inmates of these camps who are admitted there as being unable to work are a class totally different from those who are admitted to the relief works as being able to work. Inferences deduced from the condition of the recipients of gratuitous relief are wholly irrelevant if attempted to be applied to the condition of relief labourers. If unhappily there be mortality among the inmates of relief camps, it by no means follows that there is any mortality among relief labourers. In point of fact, there is no mortality among relief labourers except from cholera, small-pox, or other diseases, and when sometimes cholera has stricken and dispersed large gangs of relief labourers, there has never been any reason to suppose that the scourge arose from want of food. Again, if, notwithstanding scientifically arranged diet, the condition of the inmates of relief camps continues bad, no amelioration whatever could be afforded by raising the wage of relief labourers; who are a totally different class. These poor inmates have never gone to relief works at all. Indeed, the very reason of their admission to the relief camps is this, that they are incapable of going to relief works. They are diseased or infirm, or being indisposed to work have wandered about, or passing by means of relief close at home have wandered to a distance.

"Being thus helpless for one reason or another they are picked up and taken care of, but when picked up they are often beyond the reach of human aid. No analogy, therefore, drawn from these persons can possibly be applicable to relief labourers, and to mention the two cases with any sort of parallelism and in any kind of connexion, would be to produce confusion of ideas and other misapprehension.

"If, indeed, persons who were pale on being admitted to relief works were to become thinner and thinner and weaker and weaker till at last they had to be drafted off to gratuitous relief camps as unfit to work, then that would be a reason for reconsidering the wage, but this is just what has not occurred, and is not occurring. If I saw or knew any signs of its occurring, then I should be the first to move. Many relief labourers indeed have left the works of their own accord, not so much, however, because the wage was reduced, but rather because task-work was enforced, or because the scene of labour was removed to a distance from their homes.

"How it happens that so many of the destitute poor sank so low before being taken up for gratuitous relief is a question which need not be discussed in this minute. I may reiterate, however, that the proper remedy lies in the institution of house-to-house visitation throughout the distressed districts, and from the time of entering the Madras Presidency I have never ceased to urge upon the Government and the local authorities the necessity of such a visitation. And, indeed, this visitation has generally been instituted. But that it has not always been perfectly carried out is proved by the mortality which has occurred, or still occurs, in some of the relief camps."

5. Regarding the condition of the Bombay Presidency, Sir Richard Temple telegraphed as follows on the 1st instant:—

"Situation of Bombay Deccan same as described in my telegram of 25th. Recent showers in Konkan and South Mahratta country have encouraged people, improved

water supply, and benefited cattle. Poona and Sholapur plough cattle suffering severely, but draught cattle sustained, and trade active. Great Indian Peninsula Railway continues doing well. Emigrants who left Deccan districts beginning to return home to resume agriculture. Movement discouraged as premature. Number on relief works slightly reduced, and on gratuitous relief increased. This was expected. General condition of the people fairly good. Special concessions allowed to return emigrants in South Mahratta Country. Similar allowance authorised in individual cases of need everywhere; but relief labourers on reduced wages are sustained in fair health. One pound grain per diem still thought sufficient if work light. Endeavours made to render village relief efficient as pressure on poorest classes increases. In Bombay city much sickness, and death-rate high, due to fever attacking all classes alike. Causes not connected at all with famine. Those who come from interior find employment in city."

6. According to the latest returns which have reached us, the numbers in the receipt of relief were as follows:—

In Madras	- - -	702,923 on relief works. 299,325 charitably relieved.
In Bombay	- -	311,000 on relief works. 77,700 charitably relieved.
In Mysore	- -	59,701 on relief works. 68,641 charitably relieved.

7. Last week's season reports showed that there had been a good fall of rain in parts of Bellary, Madura, and Tinnevelly, and showers in Kurnool, Tanjore, Coimbatore, and Salem, and in most of the Bombay districts, as well as in the western districts of Mysore.

8. We enclose copy of a notification* which we issued on the 1st instant, giving public expression to the high sense which we entertain of Sir Richard Temple's services in the difficult and delicate mission on which he has been employed since January last. We shall advert to this subject more fully in our review of Sir Richard Temple's final report, which we expect to receive in the course of a few days. *No. 243.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.

No. 246.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, dated Simla, the 5th May 1877. No. 256.

RESOLUTION.

In the month of January 1876, some remarks in the weekly "season and crops" telegram from the Government of Madras, referring to the unsatisfactory prospects of certain districts in that presidency, attracted the attention of the Government of India, and the Local Government were requested to give further information on the subject. From some papers then submitted, and subsequently from a more comprehensive report received in the month of July, it appeared that, in consequence of the deficiency of the north-east monsoon, failure of crops had taken place in parts of four districts. In Bellary and Cuddapah there had been a considerable decrease of cultivation, and some remissions would be required, but prices were steady, and the condition of the labouring classes did not appear to call for the interference of the State. In North and South Arcot the loss of crops had been rather more severe, larger remissions were needed, and a general want of drinking water and pasturage was complained of. At the same time, slight falls of rain had taken place in all the districts, and while nothing could be safely predicted as to the coming south-west monsoon, the Government of Madras reported that they had taken every precaution for guarding against the serious effects of famine which its failure would occasion, and had sanctioned relief works for execution in the event of the provision of labour for the poorer classes becoming indispensable. In the month of August 1876 the Madras Government applied for a grant of Rs. 41,000 from Imperial revenues for relief purposes, but it was not until the receipt of telegrams, dated October the 24th and 27th, that the Government of India became aware that the condition of Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah was very serious, and that if the north-east

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Review of Madras returns.

monsoon should not set in favourably within fifteen days, the gravest results were to be apprehended in those districts.

2. In accordance with the experience of the past, as summarised in paragraphs 9 and 11 of the Resolution of the Government of India on the Bengal famine of 1873–74, dated February 13th, 1875, the Madras Government were on October the 25th requested by telegraph to supply detailed information on various important points with reference to the distressed districts. The replies to this call being incomplete in essential particulars, such as the extent of failure of crops and of relief works organised, it was followed on the 2nd December by a request for a complete review and forecast of all distressed districts, like that which had been required from the Government of Bombay on the 30th of November, to be submitted to the Government of India by the 15th of January. The Chief Commissioner of Mysore also was, on the same date, directed to submit similar information.

3. The reports of the Bombay local officers were sent in to their immediate superiors, in a generally complete state, about the close of the year, and, together with the views of the Government of Bombay, were received by the Government of India in time to be considered and summarised, with orders thereon, in the "Gazette of India" of the 23rd February last. The reports from Mysore, though not quite so complete or trustworthy as those from Bombay, were similarly dealt with by the 10th of March. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council regrets to observe that the reports of the local officers in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency have not, with some notable exceptions, been characterised by the same punctuality, accuracy, or completeness. Their various deficiencies in important particulars have been sufficiently commented on by the Madras Board of Revenue, and have been to a great extent supplemented by the series of elaborate and able reviews of the several districts by the Board itself which have accompanied them. His Excellency in Council is willing to make the most ample allowance for the irksomeness and difficulty which must have been felt in submitting detailed statistics by officers who were labouring under the practical difficulties of organising relief for clamorous and starving multitudes, but is constrained to observe that had they more generally grasped the imperative need of temperate and thorough diagnosis of the condition of affairs around them at a very early stage of famine, the exaggerated impressions which were in many instances received, and the excessive and uncalled for relief which was consequently given, might have been alike avoided, and the general policy of Government might have been, in important particulars, different from what it was. While thus commenting on a general tendency which has had a not unimportant influence upon the conduct of affairs, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council cannot withhold a tribute of admiration to the energy, ability, and self-devotion which the local officers of the Madras Presidency, of all grades, have uniformly displayed, to the humanity by which their measures, even if at times in excess of the occasion, have been prompted, and the loyalty with which they have accepted and endeavoured to carry out the famine policy of the Government of India, as set forth in the instructions of the 16th of January last, and personally explained by Sir Richard Temple in the course of his mission.

4. The delay which has taken place in submitting the review and forecast which was due on the 15th of January last has necessarily altered its character and diminished its use. The detailed information supplied is in some cases, and not in others, brought down to much later periods than that originally intended, and it is no longer possible by its aid to view, from a fixed standpoint, either the facts of the past or the prospects of the future. Fortunately, there is no longer the same necessity for doing so, as the progress of events, together with the mission of Sir Richard Temple, has solved many problems which, before the close of the year, presented themselves for earnest consideration. At the same time, his Excellency in Council is of opinion that the information which has now been collected, although in some instances incomplete in matters of calculation, and in others incongruous in point of time, may not prove to be devoid of value as a record of the earlier stage of a great famine, and of the attempt to deal with it on a basis of actual facts.

5. The area of the Madras Presidency, exclusive of Native States and of the city of Madras, is 138,291 square miles, and the total population 30,883,625. This tract is divided into 20 districts, of which Ganjam, Vizagapatam and Godavery on the extreme north, South Arcot and Tanjore towards the east centre, and South Canara, Malabar, and Nilgiris, on the west, have escaped any approach to actual famine, though the distress in parts of some of them, owing to high prices induced by partial failure of crops or extensive exportation, has not been inconsiderable. The remaining 12 districts have been subjected throughout to varied, but still severe pressure, which in parts of

many of them has reached the extremities of famine. The 12 districts comprise 121 separate taluks or subdivisions (of which 13 are zemindars' estates), and for each of these separate information has now been submitted by the local officers, and reviewed by the Madras Board of Revenue. The total area and population of the 12 districts, and the area and population actually affected by famine, on the basis of considering as affected all taluks in which the crop saved amounts to less than one-half, are shown in the margin. If, however, taluks in which the crop saved amounts to one-half be included, the affected area and population will be raised to 71,849 and 15,432,393 respectively. Considering that the quantity of land not cultivated at all has in many instances been omitted by the Madras local officers from their calculations of failure, these latter figures probably afford, in the case of Madras, a juster estimate than the former. The extent of the famine in Madras is contrasted in the subjoined table with that in the Presidency of Bombay and the Province of Mysore :—

Review of Madras returns.

	Total.	Affected.
Area in square miles -	81,852	63,910
Population - -	18,592,534	13,713,307

	Bombay.			Mysore.			Madras.		
	Total.	Affected.		Total.	Affected.		Total.	Affected.	
		Including half crops.	Excluding half crops.		Including half crops.	Excluding half crops.		Including half crops.	Excluding half crops.
Area in square miles	54,355	41,254	33,873	27,077	16,160	14,479	81,892	71,849	63,910
Population - -	7,963,927	6,180,209	4,981,616	5,055,412	3,141,747	2,849,329	18,592,534	15,432,393	13,713,307

6. Proceeding on the more favourable course of excluding taluks with half crops saved, it will be found that in Bombay the affected area and population are 62 per cent. of the total area of the districts concerned, in Mysore they are 53 and 56 per cent. only, while in Madras they reach 78 and 74 per cent. respectively. If taluks with half crops saved be included, the results are almost the same: Bombay appears somewhat less favourably, Mysore more so, but Madras still considerably exceeds the others. These facts, together with the large excess of the affected area and population in Madras over that of Bombay and Mysore combined, are sufficient evidence both of the magnitude of the calamity which has overtaken that presidency, and the difficulties with which the Local Government and its subordinates of all grades are called upon to contend.

7. The total rainfall during the past season, as reported up to the close of the year, or to dates since which no appreciable increase has occurred, is shown in the margin for 112 taluks. For the other nine, which are zemindari, no returns are available. The results, as thus shown, are less favourable, though not greatly so, than those ascertained regarding Bombay, which, again, held a lower place than those for Mysore. In order, however, fully to appreciate the severity of the failure of rain which has fallen upon the Madras Presidency, the fact must be remembered that the latter is dependent upon two monsoons instead of one, in proportions which vary greatly but rarely exceed two-thirds of one to one-third of the other. A fair supply during one monsoon, though it helps materially to raise the general proportion, is therefore no compensation for extensive failure during the other. This will be more fully understood from the accompanying statement :—

Proportion.	Number of Taluks.
Full or nearly so - -	9
Three-fourths - -	12
Two-thirds - -	23
One-half - - -	31
One-third - - -	24
One-quarter - -	7
One-fifth - - -	1
One-sixth - - -	3
One-eighth and under -	2
	112

Districts.	April to September.		October to December.		Districts.	April to September.		October to December.	
	Average.	1876-77.	Average.	1876-77.		Average.	1876-77.	Average.	1876-77.
Kistna - -	20·4	16·1	11·8	0·8	Chingleput -	20·8	19·8	15·2	4·8
Nellore - -	14·4	9·3	20·2	2·1	Salem - -	20·5	15·8	9·9	2·0
Bellary - -	16·7	7·7	8·3	0·3	Coimbatore -	12·5	14·0	10·2	3·1
Cuddapah - -	21·9	7·1	10·5	0·5	Madura - -	12·1	10·7	15·0	6·2
Kurnool - -	25·7	7·5	7·4	0·4	Trichinopoly -	14·8	17·8	16·1	5·2
North Arcot -	25·6	16·0	11·3	2·5	Tinnevelly -	6·3	4·3	11·6	6·3

The later rains were, in all cases, of great importance, but in some their failure alone produced the severity of famine.

Review of Madras returns.

8. The obscurity involving the estimates of the proportion of crops saved, in consequence of omission to take into account land left uncultivated, failure of later crops, or other particulars, has been in several instances pointed out by the Board of Revenue. The marginal table gives such a summary as can be made, but it probably shows matters somewhat better than they really are. It does not, moreover, show fully the actual relative pressure of famine, as some districts which have lost more are, from previous good seasons or other circumstances, better off than others which have saved a larger proportion of their crops. Contrasting this table with the similar ones relating to Bombay and Mysore which have already been made public, the following results are obtained:—The failure has been total, or nearly so, in 21 taluks of Bombay, 18 of Mysore, and 35 of Madras, or 22½, 26½, and 29 per cent. respectively; the taluks which have lost from one-sixth to one-half, both inclusive, are 48, 25, and 68, or 51½, 36½, and 56 per cent. in the three cases; while, finally, those which lost less than one-half are 24, 25, and 18, or 26, 37, and 15 per cent. The Madras losses, even on the figures now obtainable, which have been described above as probably unduly favourable, are consequently heavier in every instance than those experienced by either Bombay or Mysore.

Districts.	Number of Taluks in which the Crop was								
	Full average.	Three-fourths.	Two-thirds.	One-half.	One-third.	One-fourth.	One-sixth.	One-eighth.	Nil.
Kistna		1	1	2	6	—	1	1	—
Nellore	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	3	3
Kurnool	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	3
Bellary	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	2
Cuddapah	—	—	—	3	2	2	2	2	—
North Arcot	1	1	1	1	3	3	1	2	1
Chingleput	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	—
Salem	1	—	—	—	1	4	1	2	—
Coimbatore	—	2	—	1	4	3	—	—	—
Madura	—	—	—	3	2	2	—	1	—
Trichinopoly	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tinnevelly	4	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—
Total	8	8	2	11	23	20	14	26	9

9. The estimates of probable remissions submitted by the local officers amount to Rs. 1,24,33,758, or about one crore and a quarter of rupees. The Board of Revenue, in their reviews, make reductions in the case of Coimbatore, Kistna, Kurnool, Madura, and Nellore, which reduce this amount to about one crore, and express their belief that further large reductions are practicable in Cuddapah, Salem, and Tinnevelly. The question of remissions of land revenue has been the subject of a special correspondence with the Governor of Madras, in consequence of suggestions submitted to them by Sir Richard Temple for suspension of portion of the demand with a view to its recovery in future years. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council decided to leave the matter in the hands of the Government of Madras, on the understanding that the local officers would be warned against too free remissions, and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appeared likely that the landholder would be able, without undue pressure, to pay up next season. It is satisfactory to find that the remissions now stand at a lower figure than the previous estimate, and that the Board of Revenue consider further considerable reductions to be practicable.

10. The condition of the cattle and agricultural stock has occupied in all districts that attention which its importance deserves. According to the Administration Report of 1874–5, the numbers of cattle and sheep in the 12 affected districts were as shown in the margin. The fact that these numbers, compared with the population, betoken a wealth in this respect inferior to that of the affected districts of Bombay, enhances both the severity of losses and the urgency of reducing them to a minimum. According to the local reports, the condition of the cattle appears to be good in 46 taluks, indifferent in 38, and bad in 37. In some districts the mortality has already been extremely heavy. In Bellary the Madras Board of Revenue consider it unlikely that more than 25 per cent. of non-agricultural cattle, and from 60 to 70 per cent. of the agricultural cattle, will survive; Cuddapah and Kurnool have likewise suffered severely, while the heavy losses which have befallen the well-known breed in Nellore will be felt, for years to come, far beyond the limits of the district itself. Such relief as was practicable, by means of throwing open reserves and digging wells, has already been resorted to, and it may be hoped that the showers which have begun to fall may tend to freshen the pastures, and to diminish the further mortality which is so generally apprehended.

Cattle	5,323,000
Sheep	5,894,000
Total	11,217,000

11. The means of water-supply do not appear to have been so extensively impaired as might have been expected, and as has been the case in Mysore. The condition of 45 taluks is considered to be good, of 48 indifferent, and of 28 bad, but though the inconvenience caused by scarcity will be in many instances extreme, no actual calamity is anywhere anticipated. Already the rains, partial though they have been, have brought relief, and difficulties in this particular are not now likely to be prolonged.

12. Regarding the course of prices, the only remarks which may be made are that the rise appears mostly to have commenced at a very early date, so that the rates at the beginning of October were abnormally high; that the increase appears to have been continuous, though in some cases more sudden than in others, until the close of the year; and that staple grains were at that period generally dearer than in the Bombay Presidency. Review of Madras returns.

13. The extent of the local stocks is a point at all times most difficult to ascertain, and the practice of hoarding until the nature of the coming season is assured tends to defeat any attempt at exact calculation. In districts such as Cuddapah, Kurnool, Madura, and Nellore, which had suffered from previous bad seasons, the supplies in hand were undoubtedly low, and in others, where they were originally fair, they were drawn forth for exportation by the high prices obtainable elsewhere. The Madras Presidency enjoys, however, in its system of railways, penetrating almost every one of the distressed districts, and conveying supplies both from Northern India and the Coast, as also in its extensive seaboard, lying open to the trade of Bengal and Burma, exceptional advantages for supplementing deficiencies in its food supply. The experience of the past four months has amply demonstrated that it has at its command, both within and beyond its limits, a body of merchants both competent and ready to utilise these advantages to the utmost, in accordance with the ordinary laws of supply and demand, and that any attempts to supplement their operations are entirely unnecessary, and cannot but prove prejudicial.

14. The condition of the mass of the people in the distressed districts, with the exception, perhaps, of Tinnevelly, is poor. There are, however, in certain districts, large zemindari estates of a nature nowhere to be found in Bombay and Mysore, the owners of which ought to be in a position to assist their tenants, but exhibit, with a few noteworthy exceptions, no disposition to do so. The proportion of agriculturists generally exceeds considerably that of other classes, and there can be no doubt that the population as a whole, after exhausting what little accumulated means individuals may possess, are dependent, on an emergency like the present, upon such aid as the State can afford.

15. The emigration reported amounts to only 174,925, or 1·3 per cent. of the total affected population, but some persons, whose numbers are unascertained, have probably left other taluks. The principal known emigration has occurred in the districts named in the margin. From Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah persons have resorted to the adjacent territories of the Nizam and to Mysore, as well as to British districts, but their movement is altogether abnormal, and they have probably already returned in large numbers. In the southern districts it is difficult to distinguish the emigration to Ceylon and the coffee plantations of the western range of Ghâts which has been caused by famine, as the population annually use to a great extent these outlets for their labour. Practically, the difficulties of the famine have, in the Madras Presidency, been but little affected by the movement of the people. It may be added, in connection with this subject, that the Government of India have recently approved of proposals submitted by the Chief Commissioner of British Burma for encouraging, by means of advances, the emigration of 20,000 labourers to that province.

Tinnevelly	49,511
Salem	38,831
Bellary	21,316
Cuddapah	19,000
Madura	17,171
Kurnool	15,746

16. Relief works on an extensive scale had been started before the close of the year in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, and to a less, though still considerable, extent in Nellore. In Kistna, Coimbatore, North Arcot, Chingleput, and Salem a commencement had been made, while in Madura, Trichinopoly, and Tinnevelly the necessity for relief had barely made itself felt, and local funds were mostly supplying what little could be said to be necessary. In the two last-named districts, indeed, actual distress has continued to be so limited that even up to April 14th only Rs. 18,857 had been expended. The works undertaken were, and have on the whole continued to be, what may be termed small and local, with the exception of the East Coast Canal, the Junction Canal, the Penair Embankment, and one or two minor undertakings. The construction and repair of roads, repair of tanks, and their supply channels, digging or deepening wells, and village improvements of a petty nature have been generally resorted to. This material difference between the nature of the Madras works and those undertaken in Bombay is attributed by Sir Richard Temple, in his minute of the 10th of February, to the alleged fact that the facilities in the Madras Presidency for large projects are remarkably few. The Madras works also differ from those of Bombay in another important particular—that they have been, and are, conducted mainly by Civil officers, without taking, to a greater extent than about 11½ per cent., advantage of the more strict and disciplined organisation of the Public Works Department.

Review of Madras returns.

17. The numbers in receipt of gratuitous relief at the end of the year were 56,042, of whom 36,342 were in Bellary, and 10,512 in Nellore, other districts contributing the remainder in figures mostly quite insignificant. The system was mostly that of giving cooked food at central points to the aged or infirm, and authorising the village officers to relieve destitute travellers or other special cases of distress. The organisation of house-to-house visitation, and the admission of the children of labourers on the works to a charitable allowance of three pies per diem, are measures of recent origin, and not yet universally in force, but their effect has been apparent in the increase of the number gratuitously relieved, which on April 24th had reached 295,256. The operations of the Government in this respect have been materially aided by conspicuous efforts of private charity.

18. In the case of Madras, as in that of Bombay, three estimates, which are shown in the margin, have been framed of the numbers likely to be on relief works at various periods. The first was submitted by the Board of Revenue to the Government of Madras on the 19th of December 1876; the second is for the 1st of March, May, and July only, and is the total of the estimates of local officers contained in the reports now under review; the last is that contained in Sir Richard Temple's minute of February 5th, 1877, and based, as shown by the remarks on its reverse, on information obtained, in almost all cases, from the local officers, at a time when, on the one hand famine had assumed, in some districts, a severer aspect than before, while, on the other, the policy to be followed in dealing with it had been defined and generally made known.

Months.	Board of Revenue, December 19th.	District Reports, Christmas.	Sir Richard Temple, February 5th.	Actual Monthly Average.
December -	577,000	—	—	—
January -	820,000	—	1,089,000	1,025,025
February -	1,095,000	—	1,228,000	821,357
March - -	1,290,000	1,646,189	1,480,000	640,117
April - -	1,405,000	—	1,840,000	702,076
May - -	1,355,000	1,857,245	1,530,000	—
June - -	1,140,000	—	795,000	—
July - -	780,000	1,804,196	316,000	—
August - -	405,000	—	—	—
September -	100,000	—	—	—
	8,967,000	—	8,222,000	—

For the numbers on charitable relief no separate estimate is offered by the Board of Revenue in their letter above referred to, but the local reports, and Sir Richard Temple's minute based on later local information, afford the results shown in the margin. The measures adopted for more thorough relief of this description, which have been already alluded to, will, no doubt, cause a large access to the numbers in receipt of it in the months of pressure which are yet to come.

Months.	District Reports, Christmas.	Sir Richard Temple, February 5th.	Annual Monthly Average.
January -	—	50,000	81,219
February -	—	100,000	44,850
March -	176,064	250,000	62,282
April - -	—	500,000	209,860
May - -	213,471	600,000	—
June - -	—	700,000	—
July - -	225,782	500,000	—
August -	—	160,000	—
	—	2,860,000	—

The actual numbers relieved according to the latest accounts, both by the works and charitably, have been placed in juxtaposition with the estimates, and his Excellency the Governor-General in Council is glad to observe that, severe as is the amount of suffering which they disclose, it has fallen far short of the most careful estimates which circumstances permitted to be made.

19. In conclusion, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, while recording his deep concern at the calamity which has befallen so large a portion of British India as the Presidency of Madras, would add the expression of his warm sympathy with the extraordinary exertions which are being put forth by the officers of Government in all departments for the mitigation of the suffering by which they are surrounded, and his confidence that their judgment and caution will be alike successful in the preservation of life and the watchful husbandry of the resources of the State.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copies of this Resolution be communicated to the Secretary of State for India, the Governments of Madras and Bombay, Sir Richard Temple, and the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, and that it be published in the "Gazette of India."

No. 262.

No. 247.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, No. 14 I., dated 7th May 1877.

ORDER by the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS.

The Sungum project.

To enable Government to address the Government of India further on the subject of the Sungum project, His Grace the Governor in Council considers it desirable that the question of returns should be further considered in the Revenue Department, particularly

as regards the probable growth of revenue, and the time within which it may be expected that the ultimate revenue will be reached.

2. To furnish the information asked for by the Government of India as to the nature of the repairs and improvements which will require to be carried out to existing tanks and channels, should the Sangam project be abandoned, and as to the cost of such work, a special investigation would be required which would occupy a considerable time, and cost a good deal of money, but the district engineer, Nellore, will furnish such information as may be available as to the probable outlay which will be required to render the existing works fairly efficient. He will also, with reference to paragraph 4 of the letter from the Government of India, state whether any and what drainage works consequent on the completion of the Sangam project are likely to be required, and in support of any opinion which he may express on this point, he should show generally what the present drainage arrangements, natural or artificial, of this tract of country are.

No. 248.

Nos. 252, 256.

MEMORANDUM by Surgeon-Major I. B. LYON, F.C.S., Chemical Analyser to Government.

Bombay, 7th May 1877.

Sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

During the year 1876, 534 Native prisoners (all on hard labour) were discharged from the Bombay House of Correction. Their average weight on admission was 105 lbs. = 7 stone 7 lbs. On discharge they were found to have gained in weight on an average 1 lb. 10¼ oz. each. Their daily diet, while in jail, is shown at (*a.*) Table I., its value in nitrogen and carbon, calculated by the factors given in Table II., is, as shown (Table III. *a*), nitrogen 201·6 grains, carbon 4,011 grains daily.

These quantities of nitrogen and carbon are very much less than the quantities laid down by authorities as requisite for a European of average weight in moderate work. Thus many authorities estimate the quantities required by a European, of average weight in moderate work, at about nitrogen 300 grains, carbon 4,850 grains daily (*see* Table IV., 1 and 2). Letheby, taking a mean calculated from the researches of various physiologists, estimates the quantities required by a European male adult of average weight on ordinary labour as nitrogen 307 grains, carbon 5,688 grains (Table IV., 3). The hard labour diet of English convicts contains nitrogen 281 grains, carbon 5,140 grains per diem (*see* Table IV., 10).

The experience of the Bombay House of Correction that Native prisoners at hard labour gain weight on a diet containing less nitrogen and carbon than the quantities laid down by authorities as requisite for European adults of average weight in moderate work, is confirmed by the experience of the jails of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts. The hard labour diet of these jails is shown in Table I. (*b'*), and its value, nitrogen 230·5 grains, carbon 4,600 at Table III. (*b'.*). On this diet, the lowest, except the Bombay House of Correction diet, of the hard labour diets of the Indian jails, the prisoners are found to be "very healthy." Again, the new scale for all Indian jails proposed by the Jail Conference recently assembled at Calcutta (Table I. (*c.*)), values (*see* Table III. (*c.*)) nitrogen 213·2 grains, carbon 4,454 grains.

Considering together the experience of the Bombay House of Correction and the experience of the Hyderabad Assigned District jails, and considering also this proposal of the Jail Conference which, it may be presumed, is founded on the experience of officers well qualified to judge of the requirements of native prisoners, there seems to be no doubt but that hard labour prisoners in Indian jails require a diet containing less carbon and nitrogen than the amounts laid down by authorities as required by Europeans of average weight in moderate work. There thus appears to be a difference between Indian experience and European authorities.

If, however, the weight of Natives of India as compared with Europeans is taken into account, this apparent difference practically disappears, for taking the Bombay House of Correction diet, shown by experience to suffice for labouring prisoners averaging 105 lbs. in weight and raising its value in the proportion of 105 to 150, the quantities become nitrogen 288 grains, carbon 5,730 grains, quantities not greatly different from—1, Letheby's estimate for ordinary labour (Table IV., 3), viz., nitrogen 307 grains, carbon 5,688 grains, and 2, the value of the hard labour diet of English convicts (Table IV., 10), viz., nitrogen 281 grains, carbon 5,140 grains. The proportion 105 to 150 is employed, because, while the average weight of the prisoners discharged from the Bombay House of Correction in 1876 was on admission 105 lbs., the average weight of a European male adult is given by most authorities as 150 lbs.

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

There certainly appears to be no theoretical objection to the proposition that the quantity of food required by adults is proportionate to their weight; provided, of course, always that the quantity of work expected from them is likewise proportioned to their weight. In order, however, to place the three diet scales I now propose (*see* Tables V. to IX.) as much as possible on the basis of experiences, I take as the foundation of the scales the experience of the Bombay House of Correction, viz., that Native prisoners averaging 105 lbs. in weight did well at jail labour on a daily diet, containing nitrogen 201·6 grains, carbon 4,011 grains. From this I derive the three proposed scales as follows:—

1. *Scale No.* 1.—The labour scale is simply the Bombay House of Correction scale, raised and lowered proportionally to the weight of the individuals to be fed.
2. *Scale No.* 2.—The light labour scale is scale No. 1, reduced in the same proportion that the light labour diet of English convicts (Table IV., 12) is lower than English convict hard labour diet (Table IV., 10).
3. *Scale No.* 3.—The bare sustenance scale is scale No. 1, reduced in the same proportion that a mean between Edwin Smith's and Letheby's estimates for bare sustenance (Table IV., 16 and 17) is lower than English convict hard labour diet (Table IV., 10).

On these three scales the quantities of nitrogen and carbon required daily by men averaging 105 lbs. in weight is in grains (Table V.):—

	Nitrogen.	Carbon.
On Scale No. 1, Labour - - - -	201·6	4,011
On Scale No. 2, Light labour - - -	173·6	3,528
On Scale No. 3, Bare sustenance - - -	136·7	3,195

These quantities are represented respectively by the following weights in ounces (*a*) of jowari and pulse; (*b*) of bajri and pulse, plus in each case half an ounce of fat:—

	Jowari.	Pulse.	Total.
(*a.*)—Scale 1, Table VII., columns 3 and 6 -	16·98	5·62	22·60
„ 2, „ VIII., „ „ -	15·08	4·68	19·76
„ 3, „ IX., „ „ -	15·23	2·56	17·79

	Bajri.	Pulse.	Total.
(*b.*)—Scale 1, Table VII., columns 3 and 9 -	18·60	4·00	22·60
„ 2, „ VIII. „ „ -	16·50	3·26	19·76
„ 3, „ IX., „ „ -	16·67	1·12	17·79

TABLE I.

DAILY ALLOWANCE (exclusive of salt and condiments) of certain INDIAN JAILS.

(*a.*) *Bombay House of Correction* (*for Labouring Prisoners*).

	Ounces.
Rice - - - - - - - - - -	8·0
Wheat - - - - - - - - -	4·57
Bájri - - - - - - - - -	3·43
Dhall - - - - - - - - -	5·0
Vegetables - - - - - - - -	8·0
Fat - - - - - - - - -	·5

On this diet 534 Native prisoners, all on hard labour, discharged during 1876, gained in weight on an average 1 lb. 10¼ oz. each. The average weight of the prisoners on admission was 7 stone 7 lbs. Of the 534 discharged during the year:—

295 gained in weight on an average - - - -	4 lbs. 3 oz. each.
102 lost in weight on an average - - - -	3 lbs. 8 oz. each.
137 neither gained nor lost weight.	
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Of these prisoners—

130 had been under 3 months in jail.
89 had been over 3 and under 6 months in jail.
217 had been over 6 and under 12 months in jail.
71 had been over 12 and under 24 months in jail.
27 had been 2 years in jail.

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The non-labour diet of the Common Jail, Bombay, is the same as the above, less daily—

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

	Ounces.
Wheat or bájri	2
Dholl	1
Vegetables	2

Other Dietaries.

(*b.*) Jails, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, labouring prisoners.
(*c.*) New proposed scale for all Indian jails ,,
(*d.*) Jails, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, non-labouring prisoners.
(*e.*) Oudh jails, non-labouring prisoners.

Daily (exclusive of Salt and Condiments).	Cereals.	Pulses.	Vegetables.	Fatty Matter.
	Ozs.	Ozs.	Ozs.	Grains.
(*b.*) Hyderabad Assigned Districts (labour)	20·7	4·8	3·4	192
(*c.*) New scale (labour)	20·0	4·0	6·0	218·75
(*d.*) Hyderabad Assigned Districts (non-labour)	16·3	4·5	3·4	144
(*e.*) Oudh (non-labour)	17·5	1·5	5·5	90

Dr. Cruickshank, Inspector-General of Prisons, Bombay, in forwarding the above scales, writes:—"Please look at the diet scales of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, where the prisoners are very "healthy."

TABLE II.

FACTORS employed in estimating the value of the various DIETARIES, and in the construction of TABLES VII., VIII., and IX.

(1.) Rice	nitrogen, grains per ounce	-	-	5·07
(2.) Barley	,,	(E. Smith)	-	5·81
(3.) Jowari	,,	(Parkes)	-	5·97
(4.) Common millet	,,	,,	-	6·40
(5.) Maize	,,	(Mean)	-	6·93
(6.) Bájri	,,	(Parkes)	-	7·00
(7.) Oatmeal	,,	(Letheby	-	8·70
(8.) Wheat	,,	(Mean)	-	9·22
(9.) Pulse	,,	,,	-	17·86
(10.) Succulent vegetables, grains per ounce		,,	-	·70
(11.) Average carbon of cereals and pulse, grains per ounce			-	170·0
(12.) ,, of succulent vegetables	,,		-	33·5
(13.) Carbon of fat, grains per ounce		(Parkes)	-	345·6

See also Appendix.

TABLE III.

VALUE in NITROGEN and CARBON of the INDIAN DIETARIES enumerated in TABLE 1.

	Nitrogen, Grains Daily.	Carbon. Grains Daily.
(*a.*) Bombay House of Correction (labour)	201·6	4,011
(*b.*) Hyderabad Assigned District jails (labour)	230·5	4,600
(*c.*) New proposed scale for all Indian jails (labour)	213·2	4,454
(*d.*) Bombay Common Jail (non-labour)	165·8	3,434
(*e.*) Hyderabad Assigned District jails (non-labour)	194·9	3,764
(*f.*) Oudh jails (non-labour)	151·2	3,485
The above values raised $\frac{3}{10}$ths, or in the proportion of 105 to 150.		
(*a.*) Bombay House of Correction (labour)	288	5,730
(*b.*) Hyderabad Assigned District jails (labour)	329	6,571
(*c.*) New proposed scale for Indian jails (labour)	305	6,363
(*d.*) Bombay Common Jail (non-labour)	237	4,906
(*e.*) Hyderabad Assigned District jails (non-labour)	278	5,377
(*f.*) Oudh jails (non-labour)	216	4,979

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

TABLE IV.

DAILY NITROGEN and CARBON of EUROPEAN DIETARIES.

	Nitrogen, Grains Daily.	Carbon, Grains Daily.
1. Standard diet (Moleschott)	316·5	4,862
2. „ (Parkes, Pavy, Church)	300	4,850
3. Mean for ordinary labour (Letheby)	307	5,688
4. Hard working labourers (Playfair)	389	6,086
5. Active labourers „	373	4,473
6. Active labourers, Royal Engineers (Playfair)	350	6,504
7. Moderate exercise (Playfair)	291	5,094
8. English soldier, Home service (Playfair)	293	5,164
9. „ „ (Parkes)	266	4,718
English Government Convict Establishments.		
10. (*a.*) Hard labour	281	5,140
11. (*b.*) Industrial employment	256	4,766
12. (*c.*) Light labour	242	4,520
13. Mean of English, Scotch, Welsh, and Irish farm labourers (E. Smith)	300	6,478
14. English farm labourers, lowest of the four (E. Smith)	228	5,810
15. Low-fed operatives average (E. Smith)	214	4,881
16. Bare sustenance diet (E. Smith)	200	4,300
17. „ „ (Letheby)	181	3,888
18. „ „ (Playfair)	161	3,103

Notes to Table IV.

1. For a male European adult of average height and weight (5 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 10 inches, and 140 to 160 lbs.), in moderate work.

2. Average weight (154 lbs., Church) and moderate work.

3. Mean calculated from researches of various physiologists for adult males.

5. Soldiers during war.

6. Calculated from amount of food consumed by 495 men of the Royal Engineers at work at Chatham.

7. Mean of English, French, Austrian, and Prussian soldiers during peace.

16. Average representing the daily diet of an adult man during periods of idleness.

17. Mean calculated from researches of various physiologists, representing the amount required by an adult man during idleness.

18. Mean of diet of needle-women in London, certain prison dietaries, common dietary for convalescents, Edinburgh Infirmary, average diet during cotton famine of 1862 in Lancashire.

The three diet scales now given (*see* Tables V. to IX.) are calculated as follows:—

Diet Scale No. 1.—This is the Bombay House of Correction diet ([*a.*] Tables I. and III.) raised and lowered in proportion to weight. The average weight of the prisoners on admission into the House of Correction being 105 lbs., nitrogen 201·6 grains, carbon 4,011 grains (the value in nitrogen and carbon of the House of Correction diet) is placed opposite the weight, 105 lbs. For every 5 lbs. in weight over or under 105 lbs. $\frac{1}{21}$ of these quantities of nitrogen or carbon is added or deducted as the case may be. It will be observed that at weight 150 lbs., the quantities of nitrogen and carbon become respectively 288 and 5,730 grains. At 150 lbs., therefore, the nitrogen is very slightly above the nitrogen of the English convict hard labour diet (Table IV., 10), viz., 281 grains; the carbon, however, is considerably higher than the carbon of the English convict hard labour diet, viz., 5,730, as compared with 5,140 grains, or 11·47 per cent. higher. Letheby's mean estimate for ordinary labour (Table IV., 3), viz., nitrogen, 307 grains, carbon, 5,688 grains, comes as regards carbon very near diet scale No. 1, at weight 150 lbs. The quantity of nitrogen in Letheby's estimate, however, is higher, viz., 307, as compared with 288 grains.

Diet Scale No. 2.—This is (Diet Scale No. 1) lowered in the same proportion as English convict light labour diet (Table IV., 12) is lower than English convict hard labour diet, *i.e.*, as 281 is to 242 for the nitrogen, and as 5,140 is to 4,250 for the carbon. Lowered in this proportion, the quantities become—

At 105 lbs., nitrogen 173·6 grains, carbon 3,528 grains.
At 150 lbs., „ 248·0 „ „ 5,039 „

At 105 lbs., therefore, Diet Scale No. 2, is very similar in value to the non-labour diet of the Common Jail, Bombay (Table III. [*d.*]), and somewhat better than the Oudh Jails non-labour diet (Table III. [*f.*]) at 150 lbs. Diet Scale No. 2 is better than the average diet of low-fed English operatives, as estimated by Edwin Smith (Table IV., 15); it is, of course, also better than the light labour diet of English convict establishments in the same proportion that Diet Scale No. 1 is better than the hard labour diet of the same establishments.

Diet Scale No. 3.—This is calculated as follows:—Of the three estimates for bare sustenance diet the mean of the two highest (Edwin Smith's and Letheby's Table IV., 16 and 17) is nitrogen 190·5, carbon 4,094 grains; both these estimates are for average adult males. Playfair's estimate, (Table IV., 18), which is considerably lower than the other two, is excluded, as it does not wholly refer to adult males. Raising this mean in the same proportion as diet scale No. 1 at 150 lbs., exceeds

English convict hard labour diet, the figures become nitrogen 195·3 grains, carbon 4,564 grains. These quantities placed opposite weight 150 lbs. form the foundation of diet Scale No. 3. For the other weights shown in the table, the quantities are proportionally reduced. Comparing diet Scale No. 3 with Playfair's estimate for bare sustenance (Table IV., 18), it will be seen that the nitrogen of the scale does not run below Playfair's estimate until after weight 125 lbs. is reached, and, similarly, it is only when the weight runs below 105 lbs. that the amount of carbon becomes lower than that given in Playfair's estimate.

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

TABLE V.

SHOWING the quantity of NITROGEN and CARBON required daily on each of three scales, viz.:—

Scale 1. A labour scale, the Bombay House of Correction diet raised and lowered in proportion to weight.

Scale 2. A light labour scale, Scale No. 1 reduced in the same proportion that English convict light labour diet bears to English convict hard labour diet.

Scale 3. A bare sustenance scale, Scale No. 1 reduced in same proportion that a mean bare sustenance estimate for Europeans (mean of 16 and 17, Table IV.) bears to English convict hard labour diet.

Weight—lbs.	Scale No. 1, daily.		Scale No. 2, daily.		Scale No. 3, daily.	
	Nitrogen, grains.	Carbon, grains.	Nitrogen, grains.	Carbon, grains.	Nitrogen, grains.	Carbon, grains.
80	153·6	3,065	132·3	2,688	104·2	2,434
85	163·2	3,247	140·5	2,856	110·7	2,586
90	172·8	3,438	148·8	3,024	117·2	2,739
95	182·4	3,629	157·0	3,192	123·7	2,891
100	192·0	3,820	165·3	3,360	130·2	3,043
105	201·6	4,011	173·6	3,528	136·7	3,195
110	211·2	4,202	181·9	3,696	143·2	3,347
115	220·8	4,393	190·2	3,864	149·7	3,499
120	230·4	4,584	198·4	4,032	156·3	3,652
125	240·0	4,775	206·7	4,200	162·8	3,804
130	249·6	4,966	21 ·9	4,368	169·3	3,956
135	259·2	5,157	223·2	4,536	175·8	4,108
140	268·8	5,348	231·5	4,704	182·3	4,260
145	278·4	5,539	239·8	4,872	188·8	4,412
150	288·0	5,730	248·0	5,039	195·3	4,564

TABLE VI.

SHOWING the Total Quantities of mixed CEREAL and PULSE which, plus half an ounce of Fat, are equivalent to the quantities of Nitrogen and Carbon shown in each of the three Scales of Table V.

Weight—lbs.	Scale No. 1, ounces daily.	Scale No. 2, ounces daily.	Scale No. 3, ounces daily.
80	16·98	14·81	13·32
85	18·10	15·80	14·21
90	19·23	16·79	15·11
95	20·35	17·78	16·00
100	21·48	18·77	16·90
105	22·60	19·76	17·79
110	23·72	20·74	18·69
115	24·85	21·73	19·58
120	25·97	22·72	20·48
125	27·10	23·70	21·37
130	28·22	24·69	22·27
135	29·35	25·68	23·16
140	30·47	26·66	24·06
145	31·59	27·65	24·95
150	32·71	28·64	25·85

The three tables which now follow, viz., Tables VII., VIII. and IX., show in what proportions each of the eight cereals—rice, barley, jowári, common millet, bájri, maize, oats, and wheat—must respectively be mixed with pulse in order to furnish the quantities of nitrogen and carbon shown on each of the three scales of Table V.

In Tables VII., VIII. and IX. the first two columns give average weights of persons to be fed, and the third column the total quantity in ounces of mixed cereal and pulse which, plus half an ounce of fat,

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will furnish the necessary carbon. The remaining eight columns, each headed by the name of a cereal, give the quantities in ounces of the cereal, which must be abstracted from the total quantity shown in column 3, and replaced (in order to furnish the required nitrogen) by an equal weight of pulse. The examples at the end of the tables show how they may be employed, all three tables are subject to the general remarks following the examples.

TABLE VII.

Diet Scale No. 1.—Labour Scale.

1. For the weight shown in columns 1, 2, take the quantity (plus always half an ounce of fat) of mixed cereal and pulse shown in column 3.

2. Opposite the quantities shown in column 3, under the name of each cereal, is a number representing the number of ounces of the quantity shown in column 3, which must consist of pulse, the remainder to consist of the cereal heading the column. (*See* Examples.)

Weight of Individuals to be fed.		3.	Ounces of Cereal to be replaced by Ounces of Pulse (average Nitrogen per oz. of Pulse 17·86 Grains.)							
1.	2.		4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
Weight in Lbs.	Weight in Stones and Lbs.	Ounces of Cereal and Pulse required + ½ an ounce of Fat daily = (C ÷ 170) − 1.	Rice— Nitrogen per oz. 5·07 grains.	Barley— Nitrogen per oz. 5·81 grains.	Jowari— Nitrogen per oz. 5·97 grains.	Common Millet— Nitrogen per oz. 6·40 grains.	Maize— Nitrogen per oz. 6·93 grains.	Bajri— Nitrogen per oz. 7·00 grains.	Oatmeal— Nitrogen per oz. 8·70 grains.	Wheat— Nitrogen per oz. 9·22 grains.
80	5·10	16·98	5·28	4·56	4·39	3·92	3·29	3·20	·64	— ·35
85	6·1	18·10	5·59	4·82	4·64	4·13	3·46	3·36	·63	— ·43
90	6·6	19·23	5·89	5·07	4·88	4·34	3·62	3·52	·61	— ·52
95	6·11	20·35	6·20	5·33	5·13	4·55	3·79	3·68	·59	— ·61
100	7·2	21·48	6·50	5·58	5·37	4·76	3·95	3·84	·57	— ·70
105	7·7	22·60	6·81	5·84	5·62	4·97	4·12	4·00	·55	— ·79
110	7·12	23·72	7·11	6·09	5·87	5·18	4·28	4·16	·53	— ·88
115	8·3	24·85	7·42	6·34	6·09	5·39	4·45	4·32	·50	— ·96
120	8·8	25·97	7·72	6·60	6·33	5·60	4·62	4·48	·48	—1·05
125	8·13	27·10	8·03	6·85	6·58	5·81	4·78	4·64	·46	—1·14
130	9·4	28·22	8·33	7·11	6·82	6·02	4·95	4·80	·44	—1·22
135	9·9	29·35	8·64	7·36	7·07	6·23	5·11	4·96	·42	—1·31
140	10·0	30·47	8·94	7·62	7·31	6·44	5·28	5·12	·40	—1·40
145	10·5	31·59	9·25	7·87	7·56	6·55	5·44	5·28	·38	—1·49
150	10·10	32·71	9·55	8·13	7·80	6·86	5·61	5·44	·37	—1·57

TABLE VIII.

Diet Scale No. 2.—Light Labour Scale.

1. For the weight shown in columns 1, 2, take the quantity (plus always half an ounce of fat) of mixed cereal and pulse shown in column 3.

2. Opposite the quantities shown in column 3, under the name of each cereal, is a number representing the number of ounces of the quantity shown in column 3, which must consist of pulse, the remainder to consist of the cereal heading the column.

Weight of Individuals to be fed.		3.	Ounces of Cereal to be replaced by Ounces of Pulse (average Nitrogen per oz. of Pulse 17·86 Grains.)							
1.	2.		4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
Weight in Lbs.	Weight in Stones and Lbs.	Ounces of Cereal and Pulse required + ½ an ounce of Fat daily = (C ÷ 170) − 1.	Rice— Nitrogen per oz. 5·07 grains.	Barley— Nitrogen per oz. 5·81 grains.	Jowari— Nitrogen per oz. 5·97 grains.	Common Millet— Nitrogen per oz. 6·40 grains.	Maize— Nitrogen per oz. 6·93 grains.	Bajri— Nitrogen per oz. 7·00 grains.	Oatmeal— Nitrogen per oz. 8·70 grains.	Wheat— Nitrogen per oz. 9·22 grains.
80	5·10	14·81	4·47	3·84	3·69	3·27	2·71	2·63	·37	— ·49
85	6·1	15·80	4·72	4·04	3·88	3·44	2·84	2·75	·33	— ·60
90	6·6	16·79	4·97	4·25	4·08	3·61	2·97	2·88	·30	— ·70
95	6·11	17·78	5·22	4·46	4·28	3·78	3·10	3·00	·26	— ·79
100	7·2	18·77	5·47	4·67	4·48	3·95	3·23	3·13	·23	— ·88
105	7·7	19·76	5·72	4·88	4·68	4·12	3·36	3·26	·19	— ·97
110	7·12	20·74	5·97	5·09	4·88	4·29	3·49	3·38	·16	—1·07
115	8·3	21·73	6·23	5·30	5·08	4·46	3·62	3·51	·12	—1·17
120	8·8	22·72	6·48	5·51	5·28	4·63	3·75	3·63	·09	—1·27
125	8·13	23·70	6·73	5·72	5·48	4·80	3·88	3·75	·05	—1·37
130	9·4	24·69	6·98	5·93	5·68	4·97	4·01	3·88	·02	—1·46
135	9·9	25·68	7·23	6·14	5·88	5·14	4·14	4·00	—·02	—1·56
140	10·0	26·66	7·48	6·35	6·08	5·31	4·27	4·12	—·05	—1·66
145	10·5	27·65	7·73	6·56	6·28	5·48	4·40	4·24	—·08	—1·76
150	10·10	28·64	7·98	6·77	6·48	5·64	4·53	4·37	—·12	—1·86

TABLE IX.

Diet Scale No. 3.—Bare Sustenance Scale.

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

1. For the weight shown in columns 1, 2, take the quantity (plus always half an ounce of fat) of mixed cereal and pulse shown in column 3.

2. Opposite the quantities shown in column 3, under the name of each cereal, is a number representing the number of ounces of the quantity shown in column 3, which must consist of pulse, the remainder to consist of the cereal heading the column.

Weight of Individuals to be fed.		3.	Ounces of Cereal to be replaced by Ounces of Pulse (average Nitrogen per oz. of Pulse 17·86 Grains.							
1.	2.		4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
Weight in Lbs.	Weight in Stones and Lbs.	Ounces of Cereal and Pulse required + ½ an ounce of Fat daily = (C ÷ 170)—1.	Rice—Nitrogen per oz. 5·07 grains.	Barley—Nitrogen per oz. 5·81 grains.	Jowari—Nitrogen per oz. 5·97 grains.	Common Millet—Nitrogen per oz. 6·40 grains.	Maize—Nitrogen per oz. 6·93 grains.	Bajri—Nitrogen per oz.—7·00 grains.	Oatmeal—Nitrogen per oz. 8·70 grains.	Wheat—Nitrogen per oz. 9·22 grains.
80	5·10	13·32	2·85	2·23	2·08	1·65	1·09	1·01	—1·27	—2·03
85	6·1	14·21	3·01	2·34	2·18	1·71	1·12	1·03	—1·41	—2·22
90	6·6	15·11	3·16	2·45	2·28	1·78	1·15	1·05	—1·55	—2·42
95	6·11	16·00	3·32	2·56	2·37	1·85	1·17	1·07	—1·69	—2·61
100	7·2	16·90	3·47	2·66	2·47	1·92	1·20	1·10	—1·83	—2·80
105	7·7	17·79	3·63	2·77	2·56	1·99	1·22	1·12	—1·97	—2·99
110	7·12	18·69	3·78	2·88	2·66	2·06	1·25	1·14	—2·11	—3·18
115	8·3	19·58	3·94	2·98	2·76	2·13	1·28	1·16	—2·25	—3·37
120	8·8	20·48	4·10	3·09	2·86	2·19	1·31	1·19	—2·39	—3·56
125	8·13	21·37	4·25	3·20	2·96	2·26	1·34	1·21	—2·53	—3·75
130	9·4	22·27	4·41	3·30	3·05	2·33	1·36	1·23	—2·67	—3·94
135	9·9	23·16	4·56	3·41	3·15	2·39	1·39	1·26	—2·81	—4·13
140	10·0	24·06	4·72	3·52	3·25	2·46	1·42	1·28	—2·95	—4·32
145	10·5	24·95	4·87	3·63	3·35	2·53	1·45	1·30	—3·09	—4·51
150	10·10	25·85	5·03	3·74	3·45	2·60	1·48	1·32	—3·23	—4·70

Examples illustrating the method of employing Tables VII., VIII., and IX.

Average weight of individuals to be fed say 105 lbs. (= 7 stone 7 lbs. (Table V. shows that—for this weight, the amount of nitrogen and carbon daily required is in grains—

	Nitrogen.	Carbon.
On Scale 1.—The labour scale	201·6	4,011
On Scale 2.—Light labour scale	173·6	3,528
On Scale 3.—Bare sustenance scale	136·7	3,195

Table VI. shows that these quantities of nitrogen and carbon may be supplied by the following quantities of mixed cereal and pulse plus half an ounce of fat, *e.g.*, ghee or oil, viz.: —

For Scale No. 1	22·60 ounces.
For Scale No. 2	19·76 „
For Scale No. 3	17·79 „

The proportions which the cereal and pulse should bear to one another in the 22·60 ounces required by Scale No. 1 are shown for each of 8 cereal grains in Table VII. Tables VIII. and IX. show similarly the proportions which the cereal and pulse should bear to one another in respectively the 19·76 ounces required on Scale 2, and the 17·79 ounces required on Scale 3.

One or two examples will serve to show how from the tables these proportions can be ascertained. Take for example the 22·60 ounces of cereal and pulse required for men averaging 105 lbs. in weight on Scale No. 1. A reference to Table VII. shows, opposite 105 lbs. in the column headed Rice (column No. 4), the number 6·81; this means that if rice is the cereal given 6·81 ounces out of the 22·60 ounces of mixed cereal and pulse must consist of pulse and the remainder 15·70 ounces of rice. These quantities, plus half an ounce of fat, will supply the amount of nitrogen and carbon required. The calculation may be proved by employing the factors given in Table II., thus—

Rice	15·79 × 5·07 =	Nitrogen grains	80·0
Pulse	6·81 × 17·86 =	ditto	121·6
	22·60 oz. mixed rice and pulse =		201·6
	Calculation for carbon 22·60 × 170 =		3,842 grains
	plus for half an ounce fat		172 „
	= Total carbon grains		4,015

or if instead of rice the cereal employed is bájri, in column 9, Table VII. under bájri, opposite 105 lbs., is the number 4·00. Hence of the 22·60 ounces of mixed cereal and pulse (column 3, Table VII.) 4·00 ounces must be pulse if bájri is the cereal used.

Proof.

Bájri	18·60 × 7·00 =	Nitrogen grains	130·20
Pulse	4·00 × 17·86 =	ditto	71·44
	22·60 oz. mixed bájri and pulse =		201·64

Calculation for carbon as in previous example.

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

Where, as in column 11, Tables VII., VIII., and IX., and in column 10, Table IX., and the last portion of column 10, Table VIII., the figures of the column are preceded by a minus sign, no pulse need be employed ; the number of ounces of the cereal heading the column shown opposite the weight containing more than the required quantity of nitrogen,—*e.g.*, the 22·60 ounces required on Scale 1, for men averaging 105 lbs. in weight contain in the case of wheat $22{\cdot}60 \times 9{\cdot}22 = 208{\cdot}37$ grains of nitrogen, a quantity slightly in excess of that (201·6) required by the scale. These minus figures come into use when mixed cereals are employed, as will be seen by the following examples :—

1. Men, averaging 120 lbs., require on Scale 1 (*see* Table V.) nitrogen 230·4 grains, carbon 4,584 grains daily. The number of ounces of cereal and pulse necessary (*see* Table VI.) is 25·97. If the cereals available are rice and bájri in about equal proportions the calculation becomes—

Rice -	- 25·97 − 7·72 (*see* Table VII., col. 4) = 18·25 ÷ 2 =	9·12 oz.
Bájri -	- 25·97 − 4·48 (*see* Table VII., col. 9) = 21·49 ÷ 2 =	10·75 „
Pulse -	- 7·72 + 4·48 = 12·20 ÷ 2 =	6·10 „

Proof.

Rice	-	9·12 × 5·07 =	Nitrogen grains	-	- 46·24
Bájri	-	10·75 × 7·00 =	do.	-	- 75·25
Pulse	-	6·10 × 17·86 =	do.	-	- 108·95
		25·97 oz. mixed cereal and pulse =		-	- 230·44

Calculation for carbon 25·97 × 170 = 4,415 grains.
Plus for ½ an oz. fat - - 172 „
= Total carbon - - 4,587 „

2. If, however, the cereals to be used are rice and wheat, then the use of the minus figures under wheat is shown as follows :—

Rice -	- 25·97 − 7·72 (*see* Table VII., col. 4) = 18·25 ÷ 2 =	9·12 oz.
Wheat	- 25·97 + 1·05 (*see* Table VII., col. 11) = 27·02 ÷ 2 =	13·51 „
Pulse -	- 7·72 − 1·05 = 6·67 ÷ 2 =	3·34 „

Proof.

Rice	-	9·12 × 5·07 =	Nitrogen grains	-	- 46·24
Wheat	-	13·51 × 9·92 =	do.	-	- 124·56
Pulse	-	3·34 × 17·86 =	do.	-	- 59·65
		25·97 oz. mixed cereals and pulse =		-	- 230·45

Calculation for carbon as in previous example.

It will be observed that in this last example the minus figures of the wheat column are added to the wheat and deducted from the pulse, and are employed in fact in exactly the reverse way to that in which the figures unpreceded by a minus sign are employed.

General Remarks applicable to all Three Scales.

1. It of course must be understood that the weights for which these scales are calculated are weights of individuals fairly nourished, not weights of individuals reduced by disease or famine below the normal condition.

2. The Tables VII., VIII., and IX. are based on the supposition that grains fairly clean and fairly free from husk are employed. Should this not be the case a proportionate allowance must be made. Taking all circumstances into consideration, it seems to me that (save in very exceptional cases) an increase of 5 per cent. on the quantities of grain shown in the tables would fairly suffice as compensation for husk.

3. Where a cereal is so deficient in nitrogen that a large proportion of it requires to be replaced by pulse, it is desirable to mix it with a more nitrogenous cereal, so that a smaller quantity of pulse may suffice, *e.g.*, rice, especially on Scale 1, and in a less degree on Scale 2, (*see* Tables VII. and VIII., column 4), may advantageously be mixed with wheat or bájri.

4. Where a cereal is so rich in nitrogen that according to the tables little or no pulse is required to be mixed with it, no objection exists to replacing a larger proportion of it by pulse than is by the tables shown to be necessary, provided always that the total quantity of pulse given is kept within reasonable limits, say under 4 to 5 ounces.

5. If on any of the scales the quantity of fat given is raised from ½ an ounce to 1 ounce, a withdrawal of 1½ ounces of cereal and an addition of ½ an ounce of pulse serves to compensate for the change.

Note in regard to the Limits of Error of the Tables.

It will be observed that the amount of carbon required regulates the aggregate quantity of cereal and pulse, while the amount of nitrogen required regulates the proportion which pulse ought to bear to cereal.

In calculating the value of the Bombay House of Correction diet and in constructing Tables VI. to IX., all cereals and pulses have been assumed to contain 170 grains per ounce of carbon.

The probable limits of error due to this assumption of a uniform carbon value for all cereals and pulses may be stated as follows.

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

It will be observed that the three scales of Tables V. to IX., are comparable (weight for weight) with certain European scales, viz. :—

Scale No. 1 with English convict hard labour diet.

Scale No. 2 with English convict light labour diet.

Scale No. 3 with a mean bare sustenance estimate for male European adults.

And that as regards carbon the three scales of the tables are just 11·5 per cent. richer than the corresponding European scales.

Now suppose that the cereals and pulse supplied to the Bombay House of Correction were exceptionally rich in carbon and contained 175 instead of 170 grains of carbon per ounce, then in order to keep up the correspondence of the three scales with the amended value of the Bombay House of Correction diet, the quantities of carbon shown in Table V. would have to be raised from 11·5 to 14·4 per cent. above the quantities of carbon contained in the corresponding European scales.

Taking an extreme case the other way, suppose that in any particular instance the cereals and pulse available for food-supply happen to be so exceptionally poor in carbon as to contain only 155 instead of 170 grains per ounce,—then the amounts of carbon yielded by the quantities of cereal and pulse laid down in the tables for the three scales would only be 1·9 per cent. higher than the quantities contained in the corresponding European scales.

Hence, even with the cereals and pulses exceptionally poor in carbon, the quantities of cereal and pulse provided by the three scales would still yield 1·9 per cent. more carbon than is contained in the corresponding European scales ;

Hence also, even with cereals and pulse exceptionally poor in carbon, an increase of ten per cent. on the quantities laid down in Tables VI. to IX., would raise the carbon value of the three scales to that shown in Table V. ;

Hence also, even supposing that the cereals and pulse supplied to the Bombay House of Correction were exceptionally rich in carbon and the cereals and pulse available for food-supply happen to be exceptionally poor in carbon, an increase of 12½ per cent. on the quantities of cereals and pulse, laid down in Tables VI. to IX., would bring the carbon value of the three scales into correspondence with the carbon value of the Bombay House of Correction diet, and would raise the carbon value of the same scales to 14·4 per cent. above that of the corresponding European dietaries.

The possible nitrogen error of the scales is more difficult to estimate. An error due to over-estimation of the quantity of nitrogen in a cereal or pulse would be always to some extent met by any increase (as allowance for deficient carbon [*see* above]) of the aggregate quantity of cereal and pulse laid down in Table VI. Any minus nitrogen error not met in this way must be met by increased replacement of pulse for cereal.

I. B. LYON, F.C.S., Surgeon,
Chemical Analyser to Government, Bombay.

APPENDIX.

Data from which the Factors of Table II. have been derived.

Nitrogen of Cereals.

Grains per ounce.

A. Rice—

Calculated from Letheby	4·34
,, ,, Polson	4·96
,, ,, Poggiale	5·39
Rice supplied to a hospital in Bombay (Lyon)	5·77

B. Barley—

Calculated from E. Smith	5·81
,, ,, Payen	7·68
,, ,, Fehling and Faisst	8·14
,, ,, Polson	9·12
,, ,, Poggiale	5·39
,, ,, Mayer	7·85

C. Jowari—

Mean of three samples (Lyon)	7·01
Calculated from Parkes	5·97
,, ,, Church	5·65

D. Common Millet—

Panicum Milliaceum (free from bran), Parkes	6·40

E. Bajri—

Calculated from Parkes (free from bran)	7·00

F. Maize—

Calculated from Letheby	7·66
,, ,, Polson (mean of four)	6·08
,, ,, Poggiale	6·84
,, ,, Mayer	6·62
,, ,, Payen	7·44

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G. Oats—

Oatmeal calculated from Letheby	8·70
Oats calculated from Fehling and Faisst, mean	7·87
„ „ „ Poggiale, mean	7·74
„ „ „ Mayer, mean	6·49

H. Wheat—

Parkes (wheat-flour)	7·60
Wheat calculated from Peligot	10·09
Wheat-flour „ „ Payen	9·98
„ „ „ Wanklyn	8·29
„ from a hospital in Bombay (Lyon)	10·15

Nitrogen of Pulses.

Grains per ounce.

Toor dhall (calculated from Forbes Watson)	15·31
Indian pea „	17·09
Bhoot „	26·84
Cooltee „	16·08
Mussoor „	17·38
Gram „ Parkes	15·69
Mulmunda (Gray)	16·76
Toor dhall, from a hospital in Bombay (Lyon)	20·56
Ooreed (Lyon)	18·29

Nitrogen per ounce.

Moog (Lyon)	15·70
Mussoor „	16·28
Muthi „	19·73
Muth „	20·43
Gram „	14·00
Mean of all	17·86

Carbon—of Cereals and Pulses.

Grains per ounce.

Rice (Parkes)	176
„ (Lyon), from a hospital in Bombay	179·10
„ „ mean of 4 samples	171·09
Barley, calculated from Fehling and Faisst (cellulose 10—11 per cent.)	160·5
„ calculated from Church	164·6
Jawári, mean of 3 (Lyon)	161·3
Millet, free from bran (Parkes	183·16
„ "free from husk" (Church)	172·58
Maize (Parkes)	176
Oatmeal „	172
Wheat-flour „	169
„ (Lyon) from a hospital in Bombay	177·4
Dhall (Toor) „ „	187·3
Muth „	168·87
Gram „	169·89
Moog „	158·68

Nitrogen and Carbon of Succulent Vegetables.

Grains per ounce.

Nitrogen, potatoes (Parkes)	·1
„ carrots „	·4
Mean nitrogen	·7
Carbon, potatoes (Parkes)	49
„ carrots „	18
Mean carbon	33·5

No. 256.

No. 249.

No. 423, dated Simla, 8th May 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras.

On the large employment of Public Works agency in Madras.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council having had under his consideration the subject of the larger employment of Public Works agency in the Madras Presidency, I am directed to communicate the following observations.

2. Sir Richard Temple has made to the Government of Madras, on the dates specified in the margin, various representations on this important subject. While admitting that in many of the Madras districts relief has been economically managed from the first, he points out that in others the numbers in receipt of relief are apparently excessive compared with equally distressed localities elsewhere, that the number of relief labourers in the Madras Presidency under Public Works agency is only $11\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total number on the works, and that the utilisation of such agency in the Salem district has been attended with the most beneficial results. He also dwells on the advantage of the Civil officers being so relieved as to give more time to village inspection.

February 10th.
March 18th.
„ 29th.
April 10th.
„ 17th.
„ 20th.
„ 24th (two).

3. The Madras Government, in paragraph 8 of their Despatch to the Secretary of State, No. 25 of the 7th ultimo, while recognising the advantages of Public Works agency, apparently consider its employment to a greater extent than at present not practicable owing to the insufficiency of large works in the presidency generally, and the impossibility of devising them in certain districts.

4. There would appear, I am directed to observe, to be some misapprehension arising from different applications of the term "large works." In so far as it extends to undertakings of primary magnitude, such as the East Coast Canal and other irrigational projects, there may be, as indicated in Sir Richard Temple's own minute of February 10th, some difficulty in devising them in the Madras Presidency, or at any rate in doing so in time to be of use in the present juncture. But the term would appear to be used by Sir Richard Temple in his minutes above referred to in the more limited sense of works capable of employing about 1,200 to 1,500 labourers and upwards. This is the sense in which the term is used in the Bombay Presidency, and a reference to paragraph 9 of the Bombay Weekly Statement No. XXIV. ("Gazette of India," May 5th) will show that of the large works upon which the Public Works agency is found to be so advantageous 15 have less than 2,000 labourers, and only 16 more than 5,000, employed upon them. And of large works, using the term in the same sense. there would appear to be no lack in the Madras Presidency, for it appears from the proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,817 of the 20th ultimo, paragraph 9, that 66 per cent. of the total number of labourers are employed upon works having 1,500 and upwards, and that the average number per work is no less than 4,591.

5. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has observed with satisfaction that the Madras Government have, in their proceedings No. 1,331 (Revenue Department), dated the 4th ultimo, invited the opinions of the Collectors and the Public Works Department upon the question of further utilisation of the latter, but trusts that in view of the explanations above given and the success of the system in Bombay after ample trial, his Grace the Governor in Council will be able at an early date to authorise its introduction, especially in Bellary and Kurnool, where the numbers on relief works are apparently the most excessive.

No. 250. No. 256.

No. 1,384 R., dated 9th May 1877.

From the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 915 and 929, dated the 17th and 19th April 1877 respectively, the former forwarding a comparative statement of the goods lying at stations on the East Indian Railway, and the latter a statement showing the accumulations of grain at stations on the Jubbulpore line on the 1st and 28th March, and the quantities despatched between these dates. Railway grain traffic.

2. From the latter statement it is observed that between the 1st and 28th March 136,528 maunds, about 5,000 tons, were removed, 500 waggons in 28 days, or say 18 waggons daily, and the accumulations were reduced from 49,485 to 39,700 maunds, *i.e.*, by 10,000 maunds=360 tons, but the figures given in the first-named statement show that the accumulation increased during the month of March by 900 tons. I am to invite your attention to this apparent discrepancy.

3. On the whole the Government of India accepts the work done, and considers the clearances on the main line satisfactory,

4. I am to take this opportunity to forward, for the purpose of being placed before the Agent, East Indian Railway, for any observations he may desire to make, extracts from a communication from the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, written after perusal of Lieutenant Scott's note dated 13th February 1877, on the accumulation of grain at stations on the East Indian Railway.

5. I am to add that the Government of India is of opinion that on the whole more good may probably be done by the managements of the two Companies looking the difficulty fairly in the face and endeavouring to meet it by mutual concessions and friendly co-operation than by indulging in charges and counter-charges. The traffic, it cannot be denied, on these two principal railways, notably on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, is more than can be dealt with by existing means and appliances, but the agreement for through traffic which, as it stands, and during the present pressure, is inconvenient for the East Indian Railway Company, cannot be ignored.

No. 251.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

Revenue, No. 43.

India Office, London, 10th May 1877.

Para. 1. I have to inform your Excellency in Council that, on the 3rd of May, the following message was addressed by me to your Lordship:—

"*Secretary of State to Viceroy.*

On the sufficiency of the reduced scale of wages.

"Accounts reach me from many quarters expressing serious fear that insufficiency of relief food on famine works, especially in Madras, is producing diseases of exhaustion, and will end in great mortality. Matter requires extreme vigilance, and if there is any real cause for apprehension, it will be better not to place too much restriction on Local Government. Our medical authorities are alarmed by accounts, official and other."

2. To this telegram I have received your reply, dated 6th May, and returned by telegraph the following message on the 8th:—

"I think, if it has not already been done, that my telegram of the 3rd, and yours in reply, should be communicated to the Government of Madras."

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 252.

No. 340 E.—1098, dated 11th May 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

No. 248.

I am directed by his Excellency the Governor in Council to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a memorandum, prepared by Surgeon-Major Lyon, chemical analyser to Government, and to observe that this able and interesting paper appears to throw light on the question recently raised, and still under discussion, as to the sufficiency of a ration based on 1 lb. of grain a day for a relief labourer.

2. The calculations by Dr. Lyon, which are deduced from actual experience, and are not purely theoretical, seem to show that a ration based on 1 lb. of grain is sufficient for the sustenance of persons not performing severe labour.

No. 256.

No. 253.

Telegram dated 12th May 1877.

From REVENUE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, Simla, to SECRETARY OF STATE, London.

The deputation of Dr. Townsend.

Paragraphs 7 and 9 of Madras Government's Despatches to your Lordship, dated 7th and 14th ultimo. We have explained to that Government that Dr. Townsend, our

Sanitary Commissioner, was not sent on an independent mission, but merely placed under Temple at his request to aid him in conducting certain inquiries which he desired to institute in Madras and Bombay Presidencies, and that for this reason we did not deem it necessary to make any communication to either Government on the subject. We have since received a letter from Temple drawing attention to passage of Madras Despatch above referred to, and explaining that Townsend's early departure from Madras Presidency was imperative, owing to ill-health.

No. 254. No. 256.

No. 441, dated Simla, 12th May 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, Revenue Department.

His Excellency the Governor General in Council has had under his consideration Sir Richard Temple's Minute of the 22nd ultimo, in which, after recognising the humane care and the skill with which the large relief camps are conducted, he remarks as follows :— No. 229.

"But still the fact remains that the death-rate among the inmates of camps is terribly high; that such diseases as are engendered among gatherings of poor people appear and re-appear, and that the air and surroundings of these camps are very depressing. For the little children especially the life must be very depressing indeed. Some of these troubles will, I fear, be aggravated when rain and cold come on, and make relief camp life even less endurable than it now is." On the removal of the very helpless from relief camps to their own homes.

The remedy which Sir Richard Temple suggests is the gradual drafting off of the inmates of these camps to their own homes, to be there cared for under the system of house-to-house visitation and village relief.

2. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers Sir Richard Temple's suggestion to be deserving of consideration, especially in view of the approach of the rainy season, and would be glad to be informed of the views of his Grace the Governor in Council on the subject. It is obvious that, in order that the measure proposed may be safely carried out, considerable efficiency in the system of village relief is indispensable. The system has now, it is believed, been organised in most of the distressed districts, but his Excellency the Governor-General would wish that no pains or expense should be spared to render it thoroughly efficient, while confining, of course, its action to those only who are not able-bodied and capable of being drafted on to the works. There seems every reason to hope that this end would be materially furthered if the civil officers were enabled by the larger employment of Public Works agency, as suggested in my letter No. 423 of the 8th instant, to give more of their time and attention to the subject.

No. 255. No. 262.

MEMORANDUM by Dr. J. B. LYON, Chemical Analyser to Government, as to the Dynamic Value of the task exacted from Labourers on Relief Works.

Bombay, May 12, 1877.

Parkes' (Manual of Hygiene, page 389) states :—"It would, therefore seem certain "that an amount of work equal to 500 tons lifted one foot is an extremely hard day's "work, which, perhaps, few men could continue to do. 400 tons lifted a foot is a hard "day's work, and 300 tons lifted a foot is an average day's work, for a healthy strong "adult." The Dynamic value of the task demanded from relief labourers.

"The Reverend Professor Haughton, M.D., has shown that walking on a level surface is equivalent to raising $\frac{1}{10}$ part of the weight of the body through the distance walked. * * * The formula is $\frac{(W+W')\times D}{20\times 2240}$., where W is the weight of the person, W' the weight carried, D the distance walked in feet, 20 the coefficient of traction, and 2,240 the number of pounds in a ton, the result is the number of tons raised one foot" (Parkes *loc cit*).

The Dynamic value of the task demanded from relief labourers.

Taking 105 lbs. as the weight of a native labourer, and reducing Parkes' estimate of an average day's work in proportion to this weight as compared with 150 lbs. (the weight of an average male European adult), we have as 150 : 105 : : 300 : 210. 210 tons lifted a foot is, therefore, Parkes' estimate of an average day's work, reduced proportionally to weight.

Using Haughton's formula, we find that a man weighing 105 lbs. and carrying 10 lbs., walking on a level, does work equal to lifting 13·51 tons one foot for each mile walked; for $(105+10)\times 5280\div 20 = 30{,}260$ foot pounds $\div 2{,}240 = 13{\cdot}509$ foot-tons.

Also $210 \div 13{\cdot}51 = 15{\cdot}55$. Hence, a man weighing 105 lbs. and carrying 10 lbs. in walking on a level 15·55 miles, does work equal to raising 210 tons one foot, *i.e.*, an average day's work of 300 foot-tons reduced proportionally to his weight.

"The basis of the task system upon irrigation works is that in ordinary times, when the lift does not exceed 4 feet, and the lead does not exceed 50 feet, 100 cubic feet of black or red soil can be excavated and disposed of by one man, one woman, and one child, and therefore at the present time 75 cubic feet only is to be exacted * * * I am therefore of opinion that under the existing orders of Government the present task set by Colonel Finch is too high, and should be reduced to 75 cubic feet for Public Works Department, and to 50 cubic feet for Civil Agency Works."—(Colonel Merriman, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Bombay. No. 1,516, dated 5th March 1877, para. 3.)

Estimation of the Dynamic Value of a task of excavating and disposing of 75 cubic feet of black or red soil with a 4 foot lift and 50 feet lead, the task demanded on relief works under Public Works superintendence from a man, woman, and child.

For the purpose of calculation, the above task may be stated something in the following way :—

1. Excavation and filling baskets, say 3 baskets to a cubic foot.

2. Lifting the baskets on to the heads of the carriers, say 5 feet 6 inches; say 80 lbs. to the cubic foot; allow 2 lbs. for weight of basket.

3. Carrying away the earth and returning with the empty baskets.

1. *Excavating and filling baskets.*—A rather low estimate of a day's work for an English labourer employed in excavating earth and filling wheelbarrows is 270 cubic feet. Taking the dynamic value of this to be 350 foot-tons, 75 cubic feet = 97·2 foot-tons.

2. *Lifting the baskets on to the heads of the carriers.*—$86 \times 75 \times \frac{1}{2} = 35{,}745$ foot-lbs. $\div 2{,}240 = 15{\cdot}84$ foot-tons.

3. *Carrying.*—Take for this $75\times 3=225$ trips. The work of each trip consists of *a'*. 105 lbs. (weight of body) + 5 lbs. (for clothes and baskets) + 26·66 lbs. (=80÷3 or weight of earth) lifted 4 feet + 50 ÷ 20 (for lead) = total lift $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet = 136·66 lbs. × 6·5 feet = 888·3 foot lbs.; *b'*. Return with empty basket $110 \times 2{\cdot}5 = 275$ foot-lbs. —Hence $888{\cdot}3 + 275 \times 225 \div 2{,}240 = 116{\cdot}85$ foot-tons.

Hence, supposing the whole task to be done by a man weighing 105 lbs., its dynamic value is 97·2 + 15·84 + 116·85 = say 230 foot-tons. This, however, is the whole task demanded from a man, woman, and child. Taking the man's work at half of this, we have 115 foot-tons as the dynamic value of the day's work of a man weighing 105 lbs. employed on relief works under Public Works superintendence.

Again; on relief works under Civil Agency two thirds only of the above task is required = $153\frac{1}{3}$ foot-tons for the whole task of a man, woman, and child; and taking, as before, half of this to be the proportion done by the man, we have $76\frac{2}{3}$ foot-tons as the dynamic value of the task demanded from men weighing 105 lbs. employed on relief works under Civil Agency.

Hence, taking 210 foot-tons as an average day's work for a man weighing 105 lbs. (see *ante*) the task of 115 foot-tons demanded from a man (weight assumed as 105 lbs.) on relief works under Public Works superintendence amounts only to 54·75 per cent. of an average day's work. Similarly, $76\frac{2}{3}$ foot-tons, the task demanded on relief-works under Civil Agency from a man (assumed weight 105 lbs.) amounts only to 36·6 per cent. of 210 foot-tons, *i.e.*, 36·6 per cent. of an average day's work.

Stated in another way :—it has already been shown that a man weighing 105 lbs. and carrying 10 lbs. walking on level ground does work = 13·51 foot-tons for every mile

walked. Hence, as $115 \div 13{\cdot}51 = 8{\cdot}52$, and as $76\frac{2}{3} \div 13{\cdot}51 = 5{\cdot}68$, the task demanded from a man weighing 105 lbs. on relief works under Public Works superintendence is just equal to the work which he would do in walking 8·52 miles on level ground carrying 10 lbs. Similarly, the work demanded from a man weighing 105 lbs. on relief works under Civil agency is just equivalent to the work which the same man would do in walking 5·68 miles on level ground, carrying 10 lbs. The Dynamic value of the task demanded from relief labourers.

To show now that Natives of India are capable of doing work in proportion to their weight, reckoning 300 foot-tons as an average day's work for a man weighing 150 lbs., I cite the two following instances :—

1. An ordinary day's work for 12 palkee bearers is to carry a palkee down from Matheran to Narel and bring it back from Narel to Matheran with a person inside. The distance from Narel to Matheran is 7 miles; the height of Matheran above Narel is 2,377 feet. One of the palkees was found to weigh 195 lbs., and the average weight of the bearers was found to be 117 lbs. as they stood, say, 115 lbs.+2 lbs. for clothes. Taking the up-journey only, and supposing the individual inside the palkee to weigh 125 lbs., the load of each bearer $= 195 + 125 \div 12 = 26{\cdot}66$ lbs; and $26{\cdot}66 + 117 = 143{\cdot}66$ lbs. lift 2,377 feet; +for the seven miles carried $5{,}280 \times 7 \div 20 = 1{,}848$ feet; $143{\cdot}66 \times (2{,}377 + 1{,}848) \div 2{,}240 = 270{\cdot}96$ foot-tons. The work, therefore, of the up-journey only $= 270{\cdot}96$ foot-tons, considerably above 230 foot-tons, *i.e.*, 300 foot-tons reduced in the proportion 150 to 115.

2. The recognised load for a Narel coolie is 40 lbs. This, although brought up to the same height, is carried generally a part of the way by short cuts, reducing the distance walked to about 5 miles. Hence, $117 + 40 = 157$ lbs. lifted 2,377 feet+for the five miles $5{,}280 \times 5 \div 20 = 1{,}320$ feet, and $157 \times (2{,}377 + 1320) \div 2{,}240 = 259$ foot-tons. Taking no account of the walk back unloaded, this is also considerably above 230 foot-tons, *i.e.* 300 foot-tons, reduced in the proportion 150 to 115.

No. 256.

No. 24 of 1877.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 17th May 1877.

By the last mail your Lordship will have received, in an extra supplement of the "Gazette of India," our proceedings of the 5th instant,* reviewing the returns received from the Government of Madras in reply to our calls of the 25th October and 2nd December last. Review of Madras returns.

*No. 246.

2. We have felt it our duty not to pass by without comment the great delay in submission, and the inaccuracy and incompleteness, which are, with some exceptions, characteristic of the reports of the local officers, because we feel assured that a careful and temperate inquiry into the real facts of the case at a very early stage is essential to the successful combating of famine, and that had any such inquiry taken place in the instance of the Presidency of Madras, the general policy of the Government would probably have been different in some important respects from what it actually has been. The inaccuracy and incompleteness of the reports had, indeed, been already noticed by the Madras Board of Revenue, who have recorded in various instances, with reference to particular items, that they have "not been estimated on any uniform principle," "are based on no careful calculation," "are decidedly wrong," and have more than once pointed out that errors arose from the omission of some important and obvious element in the calculations or the returns. While noticing these defects, which have impaired the value of a public record, and prevented its use at the time and in the manner which we had contemplated, we have had great pleasure in bearing testimony to the individual zeal, humanity, and loyalty, which have been exhibited by the local officers of the Madras Presidency under the very difficult and exceptional circumstances by which they were surrounded.

3. The returns embrace particulars of 121 taluks or subdivisions of districts, with an area of 81,852 square miles, and a population of 18,592,534 souls. Considering as affected by famine all taluks in which the crop saved has reached but has not exceeded one-half, a proportion which we think the most appropriate because the returns tend from various causes to make matters seem better than they are, the actually affected area is 71,849 square miles, and the affected population 15,432,393. The affected area and population thus exceed considerably the similar figures for Bombay and Mysore

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combined, and the proportion affected to the total similarly preponderates. The statistics of rainfall give results only slightly more unfavourable than those of the Bombay Presidency, but the peculiarity that Madras depends, in varying proportions, upon two monsoons instead of one, renders any totals of little value for comparison, since failure at one particular period may suffice to produce severe distress. The local officers estimate the probable remissions at Rs. 1,24,33,758, but the Board of Revenue reduce this amount to about a crore of rupees, and express their belief that even less than this may eventually be remitted. Among the cattle and agricultural stock, the mortality has already been very heavy, especially in Nellore, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, but such relief as was attainable by digging and improving wells has been freely resorted to, and it is believed that recent showers have in many places freshened the pastures and checked the further severe loss which was apprehended. The water supply has not, on the whole, proved so deficient as was anticipated.

4. The extent of local stocks must always be greatly a matter of conjecture, but it seems probable that in all districts which had already suffered from preceding bad seasons it was not considerable, and that in others it was reduced at an early stage by the temptation of higher prices elsewhere. Ample evidence is, however, afforded by the reports to show that the advantages possessed by the Madras Presidency in railway and road communications, and in an active and intelligent body of merchants, rendered superfluous and prejudicial all attempts on the part of Government at interference with the grain trade. In connexion with this subject we would invite attention to a minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated the 28th ultimo, and its accompanying memoranda and notes by Captain Bisset, which we forward herewith. These papers show that importation by sea of food grains in response to the demand occasioned by impending famine were considerable as early as August, September, and October, during which months they reached 44,000 tons. The imports subsequently rose largely, and culminated in January, since which date they have been gradually declining. The total imported by all routes between the beginning of August and the end of March amounted to 535,000 tons. The decline in imports which has just been alluded to is probably attributable to several causes combined. The various railway companies appear to have made creditable exertions to grapple with the vast access of traffic thrown upon them, and Captain Bisset states in his memorandum of the 25th ultimo, that there is now train-room for more waggons from the north into the ceded districts. At the same time there appears to be little room for doubt that the traffic on our great railways is more than can be dealt with by existing means and appliances, and that there is no sufficient reserve of rolling-stock to meet any sudden or unusual increase. The difficulties which have occurred between the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways with reference to the accumulations of grain at various stations, are illustrated by a correspondence with the Government of India in the Public Works Department, of which copies† are enclosed.

† Nos. 194, 211, 250.

5. In continuation of our notice of the Madras returns, we may remark that owners of large zemindari estates are not a very numerous or influential class in that presidency, and that little assistance appears to have been obtainable from them. The emigration has on the whole been quite insignificant, and amounts to little more than a somewhat larger resort than usual to the ordinary labour outlets of Ceylon and the Nilgiri hills. Regarding the estimates of the local officers of the numbers who were likely to be on relief works and in receipt of charitable relief on the 1st of March, 1st of May, and 1st of July, little more need now be said than that at the close of the year, when 1,030,592 persons were employed, there appeared to be every prospect of their being verified, but that the introduction of a more stringent and discriminating system than then prevailed has led to a divergence between the estimates and the actuals even more remarkable than in the case of Bombay.

6. With reference to the differences of opinion which have arisen as to the sufficiency of a 1 lb. ration, we enclose an able and interesting paper by Dr. Lyon, the Chemical Analyser to the Government of Bombay, based upon actual experience in the jails of the presidency town. The Government of Bombay remark that "the calculations "by Dr. Lyon, which are deduced from actual experience, and are not purely theoretical, "seem to show that a ration based on 1 lb. of grain is sufficient for the sustenance of "persons not performing severe labour."

* Nos. 249, 254.

7. We enclose copies of letters * which we have addressed to the Madras Government, in accordance with the intention expressed in paragraph 3 of our Despatch of the 3rd instant, regarding the larger utilisation of the Public Works Department in superintending relief works, and the gradual abolition of the larger relief camps. On

the former subject we have pointed out that there is probably some misapprehension as to the meaning of the term "large works." The Madras Government appear to understand it only in the sense of undertakings of the first magnitude, such as the East Coast Canal, and in this sense there may be a difficulty, arising from paucity of such works, in extensively employing the Public Works Department. But Sir Richard Temple employs the term, as the Bombay Government do, to denote works on which from 1,200 to 1,500 labourers and upwards are engaged, and it is on such works that the supervision of the Public Works Department has in the Bombay Presidency been found so highly beneficial. The proceedings of the Madras Board of Revenue of the 20th ultimo show that 66 per cent. of the relief labourers in Madras are employed upon such works, and that the average per work is 4,591. We observe from the Despatch of the Madras Government to Your Lordship, No. 34 of the 5th instant, that they have recently stated in detail their reasons for not having yet adopted the course he advocates and for believing that course to be unadvisable, but as their proceedings on the subject have not yet reached us, we will, on the present occasion, only express our hope that the explanation which has been suggested, and the experience of the sister presidency, will lead them to an early change of policy in this respect. Upon Sir Richard Temple's suggestion for the gradual abolition of large relief camps we have invited the opinion of the Government of Madras, pointing out the connexion of the subject with the improvement of house-to-house visitation and the relief of civil officers by means of the Public Works Department. Review of Madras returns.

8. We have to mention with deep regret the deaths of Messrs. Cotton, Caldwell, and Waining of the Bengal Department of Public Works, in the energetic and efficient discharge of their duties in connexion with relief works in the Cuddapah and Salem districts, to which they had been deputed. Two of them have left widows and children, for whom passages to their respective homes have been provided by the Madras Government.

9. With reference to our telegram to Your Lordship of the 12th instant, and to paragraphs 7 and 9 of the Despatches of the Madras Government to Your Lordship of the 7th and 14th ultimo, regarding the deputation of Dr. Townsend, we enclose copies of a letter which we have received from the Secretary to Sir R. Temple, and of one which we have addressed to the Madras Government. As Dr. Townsend was not sent on an independent mission, but merely placed temporarily under the orders of Sir R. Temple to conduct certain inquiries in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, no intimation on the subject to either Government was considered necessary. Nos. 223, 227, 253.

10. We have lately received what are technically known as the "approximate actuals" of the accounts of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies. A comparison with the regular estimate gives the following results. In Madras the collections of land revenue and stamps are Rs. 20,76,000 worse, and those of excise Rs. 1,29,000 better, while famine-relief expenditure is Rs. 29,97,000 worse, thus giving a net loss compared with the regular estimate of Rs. 49,44,000. This result was unexpected, considering the great decrease in relief labourers which took place, and we have requested the Madras Government to afford a full explanation of the causes to which it is attributable. In Bombay, on the other hand, we are glad to be able to state that the revenue collections have been Rs. 9,53,000 more, and the famine relief expenditure Rs. 12,77,000 less than the "regular estimate," thus giving a total improvement of Rs. 22,30,000.

11. According to the latest returns which we have received, the numbers in receipt of relief were as follows:—

In Madras - - -	670,851	on relief works.
	328,732	charitably relieved.
In Bombay - - -	296,094	on relief works.
	92,153	charitably relieved.
In Mysore - - -	63,253	on relief works.
	87,693	charitably relieved.

There have thus been increases in Bombay and Mysore under both heads during the week, which amount to 13,037 and 10,217 respectively, while in Madras the reduction of 29,923 on relief works is only apparent, being due to incomplete returns, and there has been an increase of 43,749 in the numbers charitably relieved. We regret to observe the continued increase in the numbers receiving charitable relief in Mysore, which now considerably exceed those of relief labourers, and shall address the Chief Commissioner regarding the very severe distress which the fact betokens.

12. The prospects of the season in Madras appear so far to fulfil what might be deemed reasonable expectations, and the rainfall, though somewhat fitful, is on the whole

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up to the average. Regarding the condition of the Bombay Presidency, Sir Richard Temple telegraphed as follows on the 15th instant:—

"Good rain fallen Dharwar, Belgaum, Kaládgi; showers elsewhere. Onica growing crops sown considerable breadth Dharwar, Belgaum. People southern districts good spirits, situation central eastern districts more stringent increase this week. On works 33,000 caused by improved working village inspection, which sends people to work who would otherwise need charitable relief or suffer great distress at home. Increase of people, charitable relief 3,000, numbers on works will probably continue increasing till monsoon. Concentration on large works whereon five-sixths of total number are employed. Condition people continues good, except some cases of recent applicants for relief and their young children, which were bad. These cases specially treated. Condition cattle, central and eastern districts, still causing anxiety, but cannot be accurately ascertained till animals reassembled in villages; believed that enough will survive for agricultural purposes. Grain trade active, prices slightly rising, exportation Bombay to Western Coast ports trade endeavouring to throw in supplies before ports close. Position hopeful, but vigilant activity needed. Arrangements working well."

We have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
J. STRACHEY.

No. 257.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

Revenue, No. 44. India Office, London, 17th May 1877.

Para. 1. I have had under my consideration two Despatches from the Government of Madras, dated respectively the 7th and 14th of April, Nos. 25 and 28 of 1877, both of which contain remarks on the deputation of Dr. Townsend, your Sanitary Commissioner to the distressed districts in the Madras Presidency.

2. I do not propose to make any further remarks on the vexed question relative to the sufficiency of the scale of rations allowed to labourers on relief works, especially as Sir R. Temple has now returned to Bombay and assumed charge of the Government of that presidency.

I have the honour to be, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

Nos. 259, 262.

No. 258.

Telegram, dated 21st May 1877.

From GOVERNOR, Madras, to VICEROY, Simla.

Lowest scale of wages insufficient.

Yours of 12th* received. Lowest scale of wages to workers of one pound grain with half anna is insufficient. Much influenced by entire want of vegetables, and increased heat. Prices slowly rising, recent rain general over eastern plains, but heavy only near Madras. Damages immaterial. Water-supply good for some time. Some irrigation tanks fairly supplied. Cultivation being commenced; if this checks upward prices, matters will go well; if prices continue rising, distress and number must increase. Hope to visit southern districts next week.

* *Vide* Pros., May 1877, Nos. 49 to 59.

No. 259.

No. 262.

Telegram, dated 23rd May 1877.

From GOVERNOR, Madras, to VICEROY, Simla.

Lowest scale of wages insufficient.

Obliged to raise lowest scale to same as first, to one pound and one anna for adult men performing task equal not less than half ordinary task. Full particulars will be sent officially. Some officers of experience had found it necessary to raise without waiting sanction. Will write fully.

No. 260. No. 262.

Telegram, dated 27th May 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Simla.

Kurnool Collector telegraphs, message begins: Grand fresh in Toombudra, upwards of four feet of water passing down canal.

No. 261. No. 262.

No. 480.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department.

Simla, 28th May 1877.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters quoted in the margin, forwarding, as requested in paragraph 6 of my letter of November 30th, 1876, information regarding the condition of Native States comprised in the portion of the Bombay Presidency affected by famine.

No. 20E.—85 of January 17th.
No. 177E.—627 of March 20th

The Native States in Bombay Presidency affected by famine.

2. This information being in some cases imperfect as regards area, population, revenue, or proportion of kharif and rabi cultivation, it has not been found possible to compile it into a definite review such as that regarding the British districts which was issued in the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 212, dated February 21st. In view, however, of the difficulty which has no doubt been experienced in obtaining reliable statistics regarding Native States, and of the general view of their condition which has been afforded by the weekly statements, and by the correspondence which has passed in certain cases, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers it unnecessary to trouble the Government of Bombay with further calls upon the subject.

3. From the various sources of information which are available, it would appear that the States which have been affected by famine, or the condition of which, in view of their probably becoming so, has been the subject of careful inquiry, comprise, roughly speaking, an area of 9,708 square miles and a population of 2,073,066, and that the portion actually suffering from scarcity is at present estimated by the Bombay Government at 4,804, square miles, with a population of 847,848 persons. The following table shows some of the more prominent points regarding each State :—

Names of States.	Approximate Gross Revenue.	Area.		Population.		By Latest Accounts.		
		Total.	Affected.	Total.	Affected.	Numbers on Works.	Actual Expenditure.	Price of Staple Grain in Lbs. per Rupee.
	Rs.						Rs.	
Akalkote—under Sholapur.	2,28,500	498	373	78,222	58,000	3,130	41,389	$18\frac{3}{8}$
Jinjeera—under Colaba	3,20,000	324	—	72,000	—	—	—	—
Satara Jagirdars, viz.:—								
Jath - -	79,857	884	879	64,000	63,628	2,261	26,071	$14\frac{9}{10}$
Phaltan - -	1,20,175	397	397	59,124	59,124	657	8,440	?
Pant Pratinidhi -	1,24,163	213	138	68,335	44,594	727	9,061	15
Pant Sachiv - -	4,92,775	500	—	111,689	—	—	—	—
Kolhapur State and its feudatories, viz., Bawra, Inchalkaranji, Kagal, and Vishalgarh -	24,29,000	3,184	2,999	802,691	620,482	21,985	3,73,020	$15\frac{1}{11}$
Southern MahrattaStates, viz., Miraj (two), Sangli, Kurandwar (two), Jamkhandi, Mudhol, Ramdurg - -	14,90,000	2,734		610,434				
Savanur—under Dharwar.	8 1,671	70	18	15,757	2,020	324	1,514	$16\frac{1}{2}$
Sawant Wari - -	2,91,640	904	—	190,814	—	41	1,084	25
	56,57,781	9,708	4,804	2,073,066	847,848	—	—	—

The Native States in Bombay Presidency affected by famine.

4. As regards failure of crops the case of each State appears to be somewhat as follows:—

Akalkote.—The failure has been about five-sixths of an average crop, or nearly as bad as in the adjoining district of Sholapur.

Jinjeera.—Half the rice crop and three-fourths of the warkas crop have failed, and heavy remissions have been given, but the proximity to Bombay has prevented scarcity of grain.

Jath.—The failure has been almost complete, and the distress similar to that in the adjoining Sholapur and Kaladgi districts.

Phaltan.—Failure nearly the same as in Jath.

Pant Pratinidhi.—A portion of the State is alone much affected, but the failure there has exceeded half the crop.

Pant Sachiv.—This State, owing to its proximity to the Ghâts, has almost entirely escaped loss.

Kolhapur.—The eastern taluks have alone suffered, and that not very severely. The four feudatories likewise have done fairly. On the whole, it would seem that the average loss in affected parts does not exceed half the crop; about two-thirds of the land revenue will be recovered.

Sangli has lost nearly the whole of both *kharif* and *rabi* crops.

Miraj.—Both the senior and junior branches of this State have saved about one-fifth of their crop, on an average, but in some parts the failure has been complete.

Koorundwar.—The senior branch has got about a half crop, and the junior branch considerably more, so the distress is very slight.

Jamkhandi.—The failure may be said to be complete.

Mudhol.—About one-fifth of the crop has alone been saved.

Ramdurg.—Nearly the whole *kharif* crop has been lost, but the *rabi* has yielded about one-third of an average.

Savanur.—The failure has been slight, except in a few villages.

Sawant Wari.—The yield has been from one half to three-fourths throughout, so that the distress, if any, is very slight.

5. The circumstance that Akalkote, Jath, Kolhapur, with all its four feudatories, Miraj (senior), Sangli, Mudhol, and Sawant Wari, are all under British administration, in consequence of the minority of their Chiefs, has tended materially to strengthen the hands of the Government in extending to the suffering people of the territories under their political jurisdiction the measures of relief applied to British subjects. The same fact has tended to render available ample funds for the purpose, the accumulated revenues of Kolhapur and its feudatories, for instance, aggregating 27½ lakhs of rupees, and those of Miraj (senior) and Mudhol about 15 lakhs more.

6. The organisation of relief works has been found necessary in all the States excepting Jinjeera, though in some the works are only of a trifling nature. The necessity of every State providing for its own distressed population was brought prominently to the attention of the Bombay Government by the Government of India (No. 1T., dated December 20th, 1876), and the principle was approved of by the Secretary of State in his Despatch No. 21 of the 28th February last. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council fully concurs in the efforts in this direction which have been made by the Bombay Government in its orders quoted marginally, and has every confidence that at the present time, when the famine is pressing with daily increasing stringency, no means will be spared to ensure that the relief works in Native States, and the house-to-house visitation, shall be equal to the occasion.

No. 276E.—892 of 19th April.
No. 317E.—1,021 of 2nd May.

7. With reference to the important question of the freedom of the grain trade, his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has only to repeat the full concurrence, expressed in my letter No. 272 of March 7th, in the efforts of the Government of Bombay to suppress the tendency to interference which has been somewhat marked in certain cases, especially in the recent one of Sawant Wari.

8. In conclusion, I am desired to express the sympathy of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council with the political officers of Bombay in the arduous and delicate task which has fallen to them, and his appreciation of the measure of success which so far, under the guidance of the Local Government, appears to have attended their labours.

No. 262.

No. 25 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 4th June 1877.

We enclose a minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated April the 14th,* reporting generally on his late mission to the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. Regarding the operations of the mission in the presidency of Bombay, it has seemed to him unnecessary, under existing circumstances, to add anything to his minute of 24th March, which was submitted to your Lordship with our Despatch of the 12th April, No. 20.

*No. 214.

Review of Sir R. Temple's Report on his mission to Madras.

2. This interesting and important State paper is divided into the following parts:—

1st. The extent of the drought, the failure of the harvests, and the effect of these disasters upon the fortunes and the physical condition of the people.

2nd. The measures adopted by Government to help the people in meeting or bearing up against these misfortunes.

3rd. The several points towards which the proceedings of the mission have been principally directed.

4th. The state of affairs at the present time of writing.

5th. The lessons to be deduced from all the circumstances which have yet occurred in connexion with these affairs.

We propose to recapitulate some of the more leading points in each part.

1st part.

3. The drought of 1876, Sir Richard Temple points out, affected the whole of the Madras Presidency except the littoral tract south of Orissa and the deltas of the Godavery and the Kistna. The rainfall of the year ranged from three to twenty inches, and in large tracts from only to six to ten inches, whereas the ordinary average ranged from twenty to forty inches. The misfortune threatened first in July, and became more pronounced from month to month, till it culminated in November. Its severity was aggravated by the fact that the Deccan districts of Bombay, the greater part of Mysore, and a part of the Nizam's dominions were similarly affected. Ten Madras districts, with an area of 74,000 square miles, were thus more or less seriously injured, and of their population of sixteen millions, eleven were distressed in a greater and five in a lesser degree.

4. In the distressed tracts there are two harvests in the year, one depending on the summer rains and the other on the autumnal. Rice and various sorts of millet are the principal crops. The cultivation is to a small degree "wet," that is, dependent on tank irrigation, but principally "dry," or watered by rainfall, with some aid from wells. In the "wet" lands the failure was worst, the tanks being transformed into dusty hollows. The "dry" lands suffered to a somewhat less extent, and some of the more valuable crops were in part preserved, as the wells more or less held out, and the cultivators struggled bravely for water by digging pits in river beds, by deepening existing wells, and by sinking new ones. The failure varied in extent in different districts. Bellary and Kurnool saved only one-sixteenth of an average crop, Cuddapah and Chingleput three-sixteenths, Nellore, North Arcot, Coimbatore, and Madura one-quarter, Salem one-third, and Tinnevelly six-sixteenths. The difficulty of dealing with famine is aggravated if the population is dense, but in Madras the most distressed districts are fortunately the more thinly peopled. Some districts, moreover, were at the disadvantage that the previous year had been an unpropitious one, and Bellary had suffered from two previous bad seasons. On the other hand, spendid harvests had been reaped in Burma, Guzerat, the Central Provinces, Malwa, and Northern India, as also in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa.

5. As regards the effect of the drought upon the people, while there was ample ground for anxiety and for exertion, there were many circumstances justifying hopes of a not unsuccessful issue. Grain rose, indeed, to 12 and 14 lbs. per rupee, but the sea-board afforded easy communication on both east and west with grain-holding provinces, railways and excellent roads traversed in all directions the distressed tracts, and enterprising traders, European as well as Native, were at hand to push their opportunities. As to the people themselves, while there were low-caste and wandering classes, and humble artizans, whose condition inspired alarm, there was a mass of well-to-do peasant proprietors, strong to bear passing adversity and often neither unable nor unwilling to aid the farm labourers dependent on them, and, finally, there stood behind all the British Government, with a will to save, and all the strength which money, ability, and devotion could contribute to that end.

Review of Sir Rd. Temple's report on his mission to Madras.

6. The measures adopted by the Madras Government were at the outset confined to the opening of relief works on a small scale, but when the failure of the autumn rains was no longer doubtful, a great expansion took place. Some large works were proposed, and the East Coast Canal was sanctioned. But in the main the course of opening small works, within easy reach of all who might need relief, was adopted with the approval of the Government of India, which by the end of October was fully alive to the magnitude of the impending calamity, and seeking detailed information as a secure basis of action. These works were almost entirely under the guidance of the civil officers, the Public Works Department being mainly utilised in advising, designing, and measuring up, but not being in actual command of works or of the tasking of labour. The relief wages were at first fixed at $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas for a man, and in some places even 3 annas were paid, but soon after the end of the year the introduction of a 2-anna rate was enjoined, together with a fixed task. The latter, however, rarely became effectual, as no test of admission was prescribed, nor was any discretion to reject applicants vested in the local officers. It was assumed that none would come on the works who did not need relief, and it was, apparently, also considered to be the duty of Government to alleviate all suffering, not merely to prevent death from starvation. The local charities and the habits of the people having contributed to a vast influx of starving wanderers into the city of Madras, relief camps on a large scale were organised for them, and the system was ordered to be adopted near Arcot, Vellore, and elsewhere.

2nd part.

7. During the months of August, September, and October the importations of grain into the presidency by sea amounted to 43,637 tons, and 20,446 tons were carried by rail from Madras into the distressed tracts. The grain trade, though thus not inactive, was in some places sensitive and excitable, grain riots occurred, and the influx into Madras above referred to followed. These circumstances caused anxiety to the Madras Government, who purchased from without the presidency 30,000 tons of Government grain as a reserve, to be sent to any localities where a dangerous deficiency of grain arose. Payment of relief wages in grain being also contemplated, about 13,000 tons more were purchased for this purpose. With the view of distributing the grain reserve in a way to control the markets favourably, a transport agency was established, with head quarters at Bellary, and efficiently organised so as to be capable of expansion as might be required.

8. The relief provided by the measures above described was largely resorted to—

"The progress of the number of relief labourers, men, women, and children, up to the first week in January when the highest number was reached, may be thus seen:—

	Number of Persons.
1st November - - - - - -	160,000
1st December - - - - - -	310,000
15th ditto - - - - - -	656,000
31st ditto - - - - - -	982,000
7th January - - - - - -	1,066,000
14th ditto - - - - - -	1,055,000

and the last-named number was increased to 1,165,000 by the addition of 110,000 persons on gratuitous relief,"
which was dispensed from centres established throughout the districts, and largely supplemented by private charity. The expenditure up to the end of December 1876 was—

	£
"On relief - - - - - -	372,500
On purchase of grain - - - - -	302,400
Total -	674,900

"There were other items, such as transport agency and local purchases of grain, which brought up the total to nearly three-quarters of a million sterling.

"The members of the Revenue Board were deputed to visit the most distressed districts and to make reports to Government of all that they ascertained.

"In every part of the distressed districts the civil officers of all grades exerted themselves with the utmost zeal, devotion, and humanity, and in a manner entirely worthy of the urgency and magnitude of the occasion."

9. Such was, very briefly described, the position of affairs when Sir Richard Temple entered the Madras Presidency on January 14th. He thus summarises the instructions he had received verbally before starting, and which reached him formally on the 23rd of that month— Review of Sir Rd. Temple's report on his mission to Madras.

3rd part.

"Every effort is to be made for the prevention of deaths by famine.

"Severe economy in relief should be practised. Indiscriminate charity on the part of individuals is admitted to be bad, but on the part of a Government is worse. A Government has no better right in a time of scarcity than at other times to attempt the task of preventing all suffering, and of giving general relief to the poorer classes of the community.

"The numbers on relief works are so great that there is reason to fear that many persons must be employed who without such relief could sustain themselves for a time at least.

"The collection of such numbers should be restricted on works where labour is not exacted, where supervision is wanting, and where people can obtain, for the asking and in return for next to no work at all, wages in money or in grain.

"No time should be lost in giving to the people, to the greatest extent practicable, the means of employment on large public works, which need not always be in the distressed districts or near the homes of the people.

"The Government may be driven to set up petty relief works near the homes of the people, but not until distress becomes extreme, or a state of famine has been reached.

"There is great advantage in paying relief labour in money (not in grain) wherever and so long as this mode of payment is practicable. But if money payment is not practicable, there is no more objection to Government purchasing grain for payment than there is to its making purchases through the Commissariat for the troops.

"There is to be no interference of any kind on the part of Government with the object of reducing the price of food.

"Inquiry should be made as to how far private trade, if unfettered, can supply the wants of the country.

"In certain localities remote from railways and large markets which private trade is unable to reach, it may become necessary for Government to intervene.

"The transport of grain by the trade, by railways, by roads in the interior, and by the seaports, should be carefully observed.

"A question shortly arose as to what degree of distress was to be prevented by Government. I understood from the first that practically there would be two principal degrees of distress. Firstly, there might be distress which, however sore and lamentable, can yet be borne without physical health being impaired, or bodily power being disabled, or life being imperilled; and this the Government could not undertake to prevent or alleviate. Secondly, there might be distress which, increasing slowly perhaps but surely, must lead to extremity which would sooner or later end in death;—and this the Government would, to the utmost of its means and ability, prevent. It was necessary, by the best diagnosis which could be made, to discriminate between the one kind of distress and the other; and if there should be a doubt whether any person or persons come within the first or the second category, then to give the people the benefit of that doubt. These principles were fully borne in mind in the discussions and conferences of the third week of January in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah. Shortly afterwards similar principles were enunciated by the Government of India in reply to some references which had been made."

The application of these principles to the actual state of affairs was the practical question presented to the mission.

10. The first point was the dealings of the Government regarding grain. Finding the local markets everywhere well supplied, the railway carrying to the utmost of its power, the merchants confident in their own powers of importation and distribution, but apprehensive of Government interference, Sir Richard Temple represented this to the Madras Government. The purchase of grain and the payment of grain wages soon afterwards ceased, and the operations of the transport agency were confined within the narrowest practicable limits.

11. Another important question was that of the accumulations of grain existing at various stations along the railways. The deficiency of engine power was found to be the principal cause of the "blocks," and it was supplemented by engines obtained from other parts of India. The doubling of the line from near Madras to Arconum was recommended and put in hand, and facilities for importation for Mysore, viâ Negapatam

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were afforded by the Madras Government. By these measures, and the unremitting and praiseworthy exertions of the Traffic Departments of the several railways, aided by the suggestions of an Engineer officer specially deputed to watch over the matter, the pressure was greatly relieved.

12. The character of the relief afforded was also one of the earliest matters for the consideration of the mission. Of this, Sir Richard Temple observes—

"There could be no doubt that, on the whole, the grave consequences with which the people had been threatened by the drought were being successfully averted. In the interior of the presidency, and especially in the most distressed districts above the Ghât mountains, there was no information of any mortality or even of any deaths of individuals from starvation. There was indeed information to the effect that nothing of the kind had occurred or was likely to occur. There was no sign of distress. Whatever distress had been threatened was being thoroughly relieved. Irrespectively then of cost, present or prospective—irrespectively also of any possible demoralising influences on the people—there was no doubt that the famine was being completely subdued."

But the question remained whether the relief was not more than sufficient, and consequently unduly attractive to the people and unduly burdensome to the finances of the State. This question Sir Richard answered in the affirmative. It appeared that the proportions of the population on relief works and gratuitously relieved in the Bellary, Kurnool, and Kuddapah districts were 27, 35, and 16 per cent. respectively, while in the Bombay Presidency, in the Sholapur and Kaladgi districts, and part of Poona, which were similarly drought-stricken, the proportions were only 13, 3, and 11 per cent. In part this seemed attributable to the great size of the jurisdictions of the Collectors, and to the want of superior controlling authority on the spot. Sir Richard remarks as follows:—

"It has been already stated that on behalf of the Madras Government, one member of the Board of Revenue after another had visited temporarily the most distressed districts, had consulted with the local officers, and had made reports to the Government which had been very useful so far as they went. But these high officials did not always possess authority to give orders or instructions on the spot. Whatever authority they indirectly exercised was in its nature undefined, and was insufficient for conducting urgent and critical affairs. Each of them stayed but for a short time and then returned to Madras. There was no superior authority resident in the scene of trouble, vested with power, and imbued with that sense of personal responsibility which conduces to forceful and thoughtful administration. Consequently there was no policy laid down in adaptation to local circumstances. The District Collectors had not enough of guidance under circumstances transcending their ordinary experience. And junior Civil officers in out-stations and in remote subdivisions were sometimes obliged to confront extraordinary difficulties, to incur large expense, and to commit the Government to important decisions, without having received any definite instructions."

Besides this, other causes for the large numbers relieved in the ceded districts and Kurnool were found to be at work. They were—

"Offering of work close to the homes of the people.

"Rendering the work light and easy.

"Making the wages worth having irrespective of bare subsistence.

"Admitting all comers without any question as to whether they could sustain themselves for a time.

"Allowing all applications for employment without exception."

* * * * * *

"The wages were, at the outset, supposed to be low relatively to the dear prices of food. But they were not really low, when every member of the family was able to earn them close at home. The monthly earnings of a poor family, at this time on the relief works, was equal to the salary in ordinary times of the lowest paid classes who can read and write."

13. The enforcement of the orders already given to the Madras Government for the introduction of task-work, and the strengthening of the local establishments by officers, Civil and Military, from whatever locality obtainable, were among the earliest points urged upon the authorities. Sir Richard also on the 21st January laid before the Madras Government proposals for—

"Stopping all fresh admissions to relief works in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, save under an order from some responsible official.

"Examining every gang person by person with the view of discharging for the present every one not in absolute need of State relief.

"Reducing the relief wage for men from 2 annas to 1½ annas per diem, the wage for women and children to be adjusted accordingly.

"It was shown that at the price of common grain then prevailing and likely to prevail (namely, one rupee for eight seers or 16 lbs.) during the time of distress, the 1½ annas rate would enable a man to buy 1 lb. of grain per diem, and to have a margin for buying vegetables and condiments. Besides the financial saving, which would be considerable, the foregoing narrative will have shown the importance of lowering the relief wage to the standard of subsistence, of sustaining life in ordinary health, and nothing more."

These views were accepted by the Madras Government on the 31st January, but with some modification—

"Instead of the wage of 1½ annas per diem as proposed by me, the Madras Government ordered that the wage should be fixed for all relief labourers, not under professional supervision, at an amount representing the price of 1 lb. a day of grain plus ½ anna for vegetables and condiments. This rate was as economical as mine, but it had this disadvantage that doubts would arise in different districts as to what kind of grain was meant, that time would be lost in discussion, and that, in the midst of doubts, the reduction of wage would in some localities fail to take effect. All this actually happened. The reduction did not take effect till nearly the end of February, and in many places it settled itself into the 1½ annas rate,—the very rate first recommended.

"For those relief labourers who were employed by the Public Works Department under the departmental rules of work, or who, though supervised by other agency, might be working up to the departmental standard, a rate of 2 annas per diem was allowed."

14. Another important point was—

"To provide for the inspection of the poorer classes in the distressed districts from village to village, from house to house, in the highways and byeways, in every place where men either congregate or wander."

On this Sir Richard Temple reports as follows:—

"The orders of the Madras Government were that relief camps for the reception of destitute persons should be formed at all the principal places, and that the residuum of such persons should be relieved by the village headmen under the supervision of the district authorities. These orders were doubtless excellent so far as they went. But being general in their terms they needed to be followed up with more specific directions. On the 16th January I caused a detailed memorandum to be drawn up of the manner in which the Kurnool district might be divided into circles and sub-circles for the inspection of every house in every village for the purpose of searching out cases of destitution; which memorandum was immediately transmitted to the Madras Government. On the 19th January I drew attention to the importance of impressing upon the headmen of every village their responsibility for bringing before the nearest authority every case of dangerous distress. On the 8th February I formally represented to the Madras Government the general importance of the subject, observing that, however comprehensive the relief measures might be, still experience showed that individuals or families might be suffering in silence, and might compose themselves for death without complaining."

15. After submitting these various matters for the consideration of the Government, Sir Richard Temple made a series of visits to various parts. He observes:—

"My next care was to visit rapidly the distressed districts below the Ghât mountains. As already seen, some parts of those districts were much distressed. And if the ideas which had for a time prevailed in the districts above the Ghât mountains (Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah) should take possession of the people below them, the crowding of large numbers on relief works might become very embarrassing. I therefore passed through parts of Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Madura, and Tinnevelly. This visit was decidedly re-assuring. The failure of the autumn and winter harvests had been less; the promise of the spring harvest was better; the resources of the people were in several respects greater. Nothing like indiscriminate relief had prevailed; the local officers had been cautious and thrifty; the people had been taught the lesson of self-control under threatening circumstances. The recipients of relief were comparatively few, and their number did not seem likely to increase largely."

After the tour above noticed and a brief visit to Mysore, Sir Richard returned to Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah to watch the effect of the new orders, and spent nearly a month there. He describes in the following graphic terms the change he found going on—

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"The local officers, despite much difficulty, exerted themselves most loyally to restrict relief to those who absolutely needed it; to reject those who were making a convenience of the State bounty; while they extended discriminating charity to all cases of real misery. Many persons were discharged as being manifestly without claim to support from Government. This doubtless discouraged applicants who knew themselves unworthy. To such persons the reduction of the relief wage served as a further discouragement. This tended to keep the numbers down. As might be expected, the increased supervision brought to light the various sorts of frauds, malpractices, and false returns, which are sure to be found on these occasions everywhere. The returning of persons who never existed is expressively termed in these districts, the 'counting of crows in the air and entering them in a roll.' Sometimes outbreaks of small-pox or cholera or other sickness, sometimes also holidays and festivals, would cause gangs to break up, and not to re-assemble. Again, the relief works were systematically re-arranged in order to take the relief labourers to some reasonable distance from their homes, and to make the tasks in some degree irksome—so as to apply some test and trial of the reality of their need. The manner in which the gangs thinned their ranks—when required to move away, to perform a day's march, to render a fixed tale of work, to bivouac or encamp in the open fields—was quite remarkable. Then it was that tens of thousands proved by their own behaviour that they had been taking State wages for gain or convenience, and not for the support of life. More than this, many gangs, on receiving orders which would have been obeyed unhesitatingly by persons really in need, struck work, hoping to make terms with the authorities. Finding themselves unable to dictate their own terms, some would come back after remaining for a while on strike; but many stayed away altogether. Instance after instance occurred of gangs, some thousands strong, disappearing from muster on being told that the road running through the middle of their villages, to which they had sauntered leisurely day by day for weeks past, was now finished and that they would be assembled at another road one day or two days' march off. Other gangs equally large, on being set to do an augmented task, would cease working and run off shouting that this new burden was unjust, and that Government, having let them become accustomed to easy work, should allow them to continue in ease to the end. The effect of all this was to bring down the numbers week by week. In Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, the highest total in January of persons on relief works amounted to 950,000. It fell to 540,000 by the end of February, and to 490,000 by the middle of March. And the decrease is the more remarkable, inasmuch as the season was advancing during which the distress was expected."

Inquiries showed that in some cases the labourers were able to hoard a small portion of their wages, that in others only the women of a family were on the works, the men following other occupations of their own. The robberies and thefts which had been rife in November and December had for the most part ceased. Of village relief Sir Richard states—

"It was found that much was being done in this direction; that the village headmen had received strict injunctions to inspect, report, or relieve; that they had in many cases received small advances of funds, so that they would be without excuse for failing to afford relief in emergency; that circles had been formed, each containing a few villages only, there being a special relief centre in the midst of each circle; that there was a larger relief centre at the head-quarters of each subdivision comprising a cluster of circles. But still here and there among the villages, and sometimes among the gangs of sturdy and vigorous relief labourers, I found weakly or wretched individuals. And sometimes inquiry into these miserable cases showed that the poor people were sharing their wages with infirm people at home. Such infirm persons ought, of course, to have been sought out and brought forward for succour under the system of village inspection and relief. These and other circumstances induced me again to address the Madras Government, reiterating the recommendation made on the 8th of February, and suggesting the issue of more definite and detailed orders, compelling all village headmen to pay thorough attention to this part of their duties, and ensuring an effective watch over the headmen on the part of relief officers and officials of all grades."

In the course of the same period the necessity for a superior officer in the ceded districts, to direct and control all the relief operations, was formally represented. The commencement of the earth-work of the projected railways from Bellary towards Dharwar, and from Chingleput to Conjeveram, was also recommended and sanctioned by the Government of India. A visit to Nellore resulting in orders for the transfer of large bodies of labourers from the village works to the East Coast Canal completed the inspection of the distressed districts.

Review of Sir Rd. Temple's report on his mission to Madras.

16. The probable cost of the famine was naturally the subject of careful calculation. In December the Madras Board of Revenue had made a rough estimate showing an expenditure of nearly 3½ millions sterling, exclusive of losses of revenue. On the data furnished by the Collectors, which appeared high, but which were adopted in order that the Government of India might be prepared for all eventualities, a fresh estimate of 2,920,000*l.* was submitted on February 5th, being about half a million below that above referred to. On the 4th of March a third estimate was formed at the desire of the Government of India, which, owing to the extensive fall in the numbers relieved, amounted to only 2,176,000*l.* This, however, was expressly said to be contingent on the maintenance of all the existing economical checks, and on the propitiousness of the coming summer rains. The last estimate at the close of the mission was 2,050,000*l.*, exclusive, as before, of loss of revenue.

17. After a brief visit to Salem and Coimbatore, and an examination of relief camps near Madras, representations were made regarding the insufficient arrangements for separation of castes in relief camps, the provision of light relief work for weavers of fine fabrics, the failure of certain zemindars near Madras to perform their duty towards their tenantry and dependants, and the indiscriminate dispensation of private charity by benevolent Native gentlemen. All these subjects received in consequence suitable attention.

18. Early in March a controversy was commenced by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras regarding the sufficiency or otherwise of the reduced relief wage. Sir Richard observes :—

"The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras had raised objections to the reduced scale of wages for relief labour, based on theoretical and scientific grounds, and supported by his previous experience of the people in Southern India. It was thought by him and by some others that the wage ought to be raised to the rate at which it had stood in the beginning of January. I, however, represented to the Government of Madras that the reduced wage had not received any proper trial, and that it ought, in justice to the public interest, to be fully tried. This view was accepted. It was at the same time ordered that any person in the relief gangs who might be found in a condition below par should be specially treated, either by extra allowance or by diminution of task.

"It was arranged that, when relief labourers brought to the work children of tender age unfit for labour, such children should receive a special allowance. This concession, on which the Madras Government laid great stress, obviated a risk which might otherwise have been run, when the relief wage was reduced.

"Besides the advantage of economy, which is considerable, there are obvious reasons for keeping the wage down to the lowest rate compatible with the health of the relief labourers. The people are less tempted to resort to relief except under necessity, as they are known to be much influenced by the rise or fall of the relief wage. The margin for illicit practices on the part of ministerial officials is narrowed. If the wage is liberal, a part of it is sure to be absorbed by these officials; if it be just enough and no more, then the labourers cannot afford to give anything to the officials. The question whether the wage representing 1 lb. of grain a day, and half anna for extras, is sufficient, can be decided by experience. There is reason to infer from the rates of wages in ordinary times—not of trained labourers or of persons employed in central places or on special work—but of the labouring poor among the villages, and from the ordinary prices of food grains, that a man of this class can hardly get more than 1 lb. a day besides extras. If that be so, it becomes important to establish a relief wage on this basis. It may be that somewhat more liberal terms have been allowed on former occasions. But that is no reason why these more economical terms should not be now introduced if experience proves them to be feasible. And although some instances to the contrary were adduced, still, at that time, the middle of March, large gangs of labourers in Bellary and Kurnool were known to have been working for some little time on the reduced wage without physical detriment. Opinion at Madras was apparently affected by the wretched condition of the wanderers who strayed into the capital or its suburbs, in quest of food, and who doubtless may need generous sustenance for a time. But these were cases of special distress, and were quite apart from the mass of relief labourers in the interior of the country, who had been employed before they could lapse into wretchedness, and had since been maintained in good case."

Review of Sir Rd. Temple's report on his mission to Madras.

"On this occasion* I was accompanied by Dr. S. Townsend, the Sanitary Commissioner to the Government of India, whose assistance had been asked for to enable me to judge of the physical condition of the relief labourers, and to estimate under professional advice the objections raised by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras. After inspecting nearly 40,000 of these people in different parts of the country, Dr. Townsend stated his deliberate opinion that their physical condition was fairly good, and that there were no grounds perceptible for raising the wages. This opinion I duly reported to the Government of Madras.

*Referring to a visit to Bellary at the end of March.

"The Sanitary Commissioner of Madras has, however, admitted that with the special allowance given to the little children of relief labourers, perhaps also with the allowance of wages on Sundays, the reduced wage is about equal to that which he himself recommended.

"Still in some quarters it seems to be supposed that there is some connection between the mortality among the recipients of gratuitous relief and the reduced relief wages; if persons die at the gratuitous relief camps, or are picked up in a famishing state on the roads or elsewhere, that is imagined by some to be a proof that the relief wages must be too low. But evidently there is no connexion whatever between the two cases. Those who are found starving (with exceptions so rare as to prove the rule) are not, and have never been, relief labourers at all, and have not been earning any wages. Most of them are not accustomed or not able to work; and this is mainly the reason why they have been admitted to gratuitous relief. How, therefore, can the rate of relief wages possibly affect them? Any inference drawn from these conditions would be wholly irrelevant if applied to relief labourers. These poor people have sunk into danger, either because they themselves failed to apply for charitable aid, or because those who ought to have brought them forward for gratuitous relief failed to do so. But that is a matter quite separate from the question of relief wages, which refers to a totally different class of persons.

"Even though the reduced wage may, as now stated by the Sanitary Commissioner of Madras, be much the same as that which he recommends, and may so far have the support of his authority, still its effect ought to be carefully watched; and if any signs of real deterioration in the physique of the relief labourers should hereafter appear, there need not be any difficulty in raising it."

Before quitting this subject we may invite attention to two telegrams from the Madras Government which we enclose, from which it will be seen that on the 23rd instant the "reduced relief wage was" abolished. All labourers on civil works will consequently now receive the rates sanctioned on January 31st for those under Public Works supervision, but with an obligation to perform a task of only 50 per cent., instead of 75 per cent. of an ordinary task. The reasons which have induced the Madras Government to make this change are stated in their Despatch to your Lordship of the 26th ultimo, No. 38. We are not aware on what data it is calculated that the increased cost will be only one lakh and three-quarters per mensem, unless indeed the reduced wage was far less generally adopted than was supposed.

19. Another subject noticed by Sir Richard Temple is that of his recommendations for the suspension of land revenue demands, with a view to collection in future years, instead of absolute remission. He thus states the case:—

"In the Bengal Presidency the theory of the land revenue settlement is that the landholder bears any loss in bad years, for he enjoys all the profits of good harvests or high prices. In years of grievous failure of harvest it is customary to suspend collection of a part of the land revenue until the next good season comes. And in temporarily settled tracts some remission is often granted where all the crops have been lost. The theory of the Madras revenue system is somewhat different. In the districts under regular settlement the rule is, that if the water supply to any "wet" lands (that is, lands irrigated from tanks or rivers) wholly fails, then the land revenue on such lands is remitted in full, but not otherwise. For either it is a part of the implied understanding between Government and the ryot, or else it has been the practice, that water shall be provided to irrigate "wet" lands. On "dry" lands (that is, lands not irrigated at all, or irrigated only from wells) a reduction of 20 per cent. is made on the Government demand to meet vicissitudes of season; and on these lands no remission is granted save under very exceptional circumstances. In the districts not under regular settlement, remission of land revenue is granted on account of partial failure on "wet" lands, and it is also allowed more freely for loss of crop on "dry" lands.

"The present season of scarcity deepening into famine is indeed very exceptional; and the Madras revenue authorities considered that very large remissions of revenue

would be required; while they regarded it as inexpedient to hold in suspense over the ryots any part of the land revenue that could not with fairness be collected this year."

Review of Sir Rd. Temple's report on his mission to Madras.

* * * * * *

"The Madras land revenue has been moderately assessed, and falls comparatively light on 'dry' lands; and an ordinary ryot might well afford to pay the arrear land revenue of a bad year out of his profits, if the succeeding two years shall be good. The circumstance that lands irrigated from wells are taxed at 'dry' or unirrigated rates of land revenue, greatly strengthens the position of ryots on 'dry' lands; for crops irrigated by wells yield an outturn on which the assessment falls with very light incidence. On the other hand, a considerable portion of the whole land is held by very petty ryots, whose standard of living is low, and who might be unable to pay up the arrears of their land tax in full. I estimated, however, that perhaps two-thirds of the land revenue which could not fairly be collected this year, might be paid by the ryots during the two succeeding years, if the seasons should be propitious. And I recommended that the arrear land revenue of the present year should be kept in suspense, and that no remission should at present be promised on 'dry' lands, in order that the public treasury might have a chance of recovering part of the arrears, if the future seasons shall be favourable. If the people should be found hereafter unable to pay the revenue for this year, which by settlement or other arrangement they had engaged to pay, neither I nor anyone else would recommend their being unduly pressed."

* * * * * *

"The Government of Madras held that his view could not be accepted, and that the practice of Northern India is not applicable to the different circumstances of Madras. In Bombay, where, as in Madras, the land is held on ryotwari (petty proprietary) tenure the Government after consideration accepted this view, so far that the arrears of the present year in the famine tracts of Bombay are in part 'remitted,' and in part 'suspended' for collection in future years if seasons permit. The Government of India decided that the question of remitting or suspending the land revenue should be left to the discretion of the Local Governments. And the latest estimate of the Madras Board of Revenue is that 143 lakhs of rupees (1,430,000*l.*) of land revenue must be remitted on account of the recent failure of harvest. I see reason to hope that the total remissions, which will not be precisely known till August next, will fall below this estimate; for the Board has inculcated and enforced on Collectors carefulness and regard for the public treasury within the broad lines laid down for the settlement of the affair."

The decision of the Madras Government is taking effect. The question has, however, an important bearing on the finance of famines in general, and we have under consideration a separate paper by Sir Richard Temple on the subject, prepared after perusal of the detailed papers which were lately supplied to him by the Madras Government.

20. After a further visit to Salem, Arcot, Bellary, and Kurnool, Sir Richard Temple's mission to Madras terminated. He thus summarises his movements and proceedings:—

21. In summarising the state of affairs at the date of his minute (April 14th), Sir Richard Temple points out that the numbers relieved rose in the last week of March from 761,000 to 810,000, and expresses his expectation that they must rise further. Of persons on the works, he considers that the great majority do really need and deserve relief, but that there are many thousands not in absolute want who would still leave the works if task-work could be properly enforced. More he considers might have been, and might still be, done in this respect, especially by greater utilisation of the Public Works Department. At the same time he admits that the distressed districts are unfortunate in having comparatively few large and practicable projects suitable for relief labour. Of gratuitous relief he remarks:—

4th part.

"The total of those on gratuitous relief amounts now to 115,000 persons. It is in some degree swollen by little children whose parents are on the relief works. Excluding these children, I am sure that the total is not larger than it ought to be. Indeed, I fear that it is not large enough. Despite the persistent efforts which have been made, the system of village relief and house-to-house inspection is far from perfect. Disappointment may reasonably be felt at the shortcomings in this matter under a ryotwari system which offers such advantages in this behalf. Much was to be expected from the hereditary headmen and the hereditary accountants in the villages, who represent ancient institutions, which have been studiously fostered by the Madras Government for generations. These men may yet do well, and are doing better than they did, but at first they were backward in their duty."

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On the general condition of the people he makes the following remarks :—

"The physical condition of the people in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency is fairly good; better decidedly than it was expected to be. An impression (which I quite share) seems to be gaining acceptance that the agricultural classes have more self-sustaining power, more life-supporting resources than was originally anticipated. There is reason to think that the relief wages earned by so many thousands have not been entirely spent in buying food, but have in part been hoarded. This circumstance may be expected to facilitate the discharge of these people as soon as the season shall improve. There is still some lamentable mortality in or about Madras itself, and in some other central places below the Ghât mountains, which, though immediately caused by disease, is in part traceable to insufficient nourishment. The death-rate among the people received into the relief camps in and about the city of Madras continues extraordinarily high. These occurrences, happening at or near the capital, naturally make a painful impression on the public mind. Elsewhere the physical condition of the peasantry is in the main satisfactory, although to a broad and important statement of this kind there are, and must be, some exceptions. On the whole, the consequences of the drought are being well subdued."

With reference to their frame of mind, he considers that, while the relief operations must bind the people to the Government with ties of gratitude and respect, the constant recurrence of scarcity in one part or another of the Madras Presidency, and the quickening sense of responsibility for relief on the part of the Government may have tended, and tend, to foster a disposition to rely on the State and to lower among the labouring classes the sense of the duty of being independently industrious.

22. The activity of the grain trade, the early symptoms of which have already been referred to, has been unremitting, but was rather more conspicuous in January and February 1877 than subsequently.

"From the beginning of the present trouble down to the end of March 1877, the quantities of food grain brought into the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency amounted to about 535,000 tons. This great supply was drawn from several sources, thus :—

By sea into Madras, Tuticorin, and other east-coast ports from Bengal, Burma, Orissa, and Ganjam	356,000 tons.
By sea into Beypore and other west coast ports	118,000 ,,
By the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from Northern and central India into the Madras Presidency	61,000 ,,

"The pressure of the scarcity was felt in the interior of the country before imported grain began to arrive from distant provinces. And the earliest movement of the grain trade was the transport of grain by rail from old stocks on the coast into the interior. Considerable importations from without began in November, and the imports went on increasing till they culminated in January with a total of 101,000 tons. The imports slackened somewhat in February, when the total was 80,000 tons; and they were still less during the month of March.

"Only 30,000 tons of all this quantity were imported on Government account; the rest, 505,000 tons in all, were brought into the country by private trade. The imported grain was distributed by the Madras railways into the interior of the country, thus :—

Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool received	147,000 tons.
The Mysore province received	81,000 ,,
The districts of North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore received	73,000 ,,
The districts of Chingleput and Malabar received	10,000 ,,
	311,000

Of this total some was sent into the Nizam's territory, and the remainder has either been distributed by the South Indian Railway, by cart or by canal-boat, through the coast districts, or is still awaiting means of railway carriage into the interior. There were some considerable grain imports by cart from the southern parts of the Bombay Presidency, and much grain was carted from Raichore and other places in the Nizam's territory into Kurnool.

It is estimated that if imported grain did not come into consumption before November, the grain carried into the interior by rail up to the end of March was sufficient to feed $3\frac{3}{4}$ millions of people for six months, or to support 25 per cent. of the population of the more distressed parts of Madras and Mysore from 1st November to the end of April. The sufficiency of these importations is shown by the fact that the price of common

food-grain at the larger marts has since January 1st usually been cheaper than 16 lbs. per rupee, while at the lesser marts in the interior it has rarely been so dear as 14 lbs.

Review of Sir Rd. Temple's report on his mission to Madras.

23. With a view to the future and the frequent recurrence of famine in Southern India, Sir Richard Temple makes some interesting and valuable remarks on the destruction of forests and jungles owing to a variety of circumstances, which shall have our careful separate consideration.

24. The concluding part of the minute is devoted, in the first place, to a summary of the lessons to be deduced from all the circumstances which have yet occurred in connexion with these affairs, which is full of practical wisdom, and will not bear any further condensation. Much of what is here so ably stated commands our full concurrence, but as the famine is unfortunately not yet over, we shall defer detailed notice of the several points brough forward until we are in a position to review, as a whole, the operations of 1876–77 in Madras, Bombay, and Mysore.

5th part.

25. Sir Richard Temple records in the following terms his appreciation of the courtesy and consideration which he has experienced during his very delicate and responsible duties, and of the admirable tone and conduct of the Madras local officers engaged on relief works, with whom he has been brought so much in contact :—

"I must declare my cordial thanks to the Madras Government and its principal officers for all the kindness and consideration received from them during my mission. And though the Government is doubtless well aware of the merits and services of its officers throughout this trying time, yet I must state my sense of, and add my testimony to, the excellent conduct of the local officers, the Collectors, Sub-Collectors, Assistants, and other Civil and Military officers employed on relief. Having travelled, worked, and lived among them for three months of strenuous exertion, I have unsurpassed means of knowing how unremittingly they have toiled, how thoughtfully they have planned, and how anxiously they have striven, in the service of the Government and for the good of the people."

26. Regarding his personal staff Sir Richard Temple, who is always conspicuous for his readiness in acknowledging the assistance he receives from those who are employed under him, makes these remarks :—

"My thankful acknowledgments are due to the members of my staff, Mr. C. E. Buckland, C.S., Captain S. Rivett-Carnac, and Dr. R. Harvey, for their zealous and useful assistance in the work of the mission; also to Captain W. S. S. Bisset, R.E., for his vigilant attention to all affairs connected with the grain traffic on the railways.

"From my Secretary, Mr. C. E. Bernard, C.S.I., I have received valuable aid and counsel in every branch of the work, and I would represent his good service and his administrative ability for the favourable consideration of the Government of India."

We have great pleasure in bringing to your Lordship's notice the excellent service rendered by the gentlemen named. While doing so, however, we must not omit both to express our own acknowledgments for the very able and exhaustive minute which we have just passed under review, and to repeat our warm admiration of the inexhaustible energy, the untiring zeal, and the conspicuous ability which have enabled Sir Richard Temple himself to endure, without, we are glad to know, any personal detriment, the enormous physical labour and the exposure to climate which his mission has involved, and to accomplish, by his tact, firmness, and discrimination, the objects which that mission was designed to achieve.

27. We enclose a letter* which we have addressed to the Government of Bombay, briefly reviewing the condition of the Native States in that presidency affected by famine. These States are 18 in number, and the portions affected comprise an area of 9,708 square miles, and a population of 847,848. Some parts of these States have suffered severely, but on the whole we are glad to find that there has been in them no extreme distress, and that the Native Chiefs and the political officers have taken measures sufficient to meet the necessities of the case.

* No. 261.

28. With reference to the 2nd paragraph of your Lordship's Despatch of the 26th of April, we enclose copy† of the proceedings of the Madras Government regarding the Sangam, project, which would appear not to be yet ripe for execution. We also enclose a memorandum on the dynamic value of the task exacted from labourers on relief works, by Dr. Lyon, the Chemical Analyser at Bombay.

† No. 247.

29. We are glad to state that the prospects of the season are satisfactory, good rain having fallen in Bombay, Madras, and Mysore, and a fresh of upwards of four feet

having occurred in the Toombadra River. The numbers in receipt of relief were as follows according to the latest returns:—

In Madras	772,947	on relief works.
	412,461	charitably relieved.
In Bombay	376,920	on relief works.
	134,833	charitably relieved.
In Mysore	64,399	on relief works.
	108,482	charitably relieved.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.

No. 263.

To his Excellency the Right Honourable the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

Revenue No. 46. India Office, London, 7th June 1877.

No. 221. Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council dated 19th April, No. 21 of 1877, relative to the progress of the famine in the Madras Presidency, has been considered by me in Council.

2. The Despatch chiefly refers to the discussion on the question of the sufficiency of the scale of rations to labourers on relief works. On this point I have very recently been in telegraphic communication with your Excellency in Council, and you have stated that no restriction has been placed on the Government of Madras in relation to this matter, and that if that Government is satisfied that the present rate is unduly low, it would doubtless raise it. Under these circumstances, I have no further instructions to give on the subject.

3. The favourable opinion again recorded by Sir R. Temple on the progress of relief administration in Mysore is satisfactory; but some explanation seems necessary as to the remarkable disproportion of the gratuitously relieved to those who are employed on works in Mysore, as compared with both Madras and Bombay. This disproportion seems to be increasing every week, and I should be glad to be informed of the causes. With respect to the migration of inhabitants of Mysore to the adjoining districts in Madras, and the incidence of the charges incurred for their relief, the facts do not appear quite clear, but no orders are at present demanded on the subject.

4. I concur, in conclusion, with your Excellency's Government in regarding as satisfactory the prospect of the supply of grain to the ceded districts from the north, as detailed in Captain Bisset's memorandum of the 31st of March.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 264.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

Revenue, No. 48. India Office, London, 14th June 1877.

No. 213. Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 12th April, No. 20 of 1877, relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, has been considered by me in Council.

2. The intelligence contained in this Despatch has been in some degree anticipated by telegrams, and I have also, by the same mail, received another Despatch, of the 19th April, from your Lordship's Government, containing information of a later date. It will not, therefore, be necessary for me to notice at any length the topics to which allusion is made in the present communication.

3. I concur with your Excellency's Government in considering that the Government of Bombay is entitled to great credit for the firmness and care with which it has dealt generally with the famine, and especially with the organised combinations to oppose its orders as to the grant of relief.

4. The statement of Sir R. Temple, that in the Deccan districts of Bombay no abuse of State charity is allowed, no appreciable amount of Government money is wasted, and no demoralisation of the rural classes is going on, is very satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 265.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

Revenue, No. 49. India Office, London, June 14, 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 3rd May, No. 23 of 1877, on the subject of the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, has been considered by me in Council. No. 245.

2. On the question of more effectually utilising the Public Works Department in the superintendence of relief works in the Madras Presidency, I do not propose at present to offer any remark. This subject has been alluded to by the Madras Government in a Despatch just received, and I am promised a more detailed communication on the question involved by an early mail. It would, therefore, be premature for me to enter on the discussion at the present juncture, and my abstaining from any remark now will enable me to receive a copy of your proposed Despatch to the Government of Madras, and a further expression of the views of that Government, before recording any opinion on the issue which has been raised.

3. With respect to the discussion between the Sanitary Commissioner at Madras and Sir R. Temple as to the rate of wages, I have addressed your Excellency by telegraph.

4. I fully concur in the estimate formed by your Lordship in Council, to which you have given public expression in the notification dated 30th April, of the valuable service rendered by Sir Richard Temple in the execution of the arduous duty connected with his recent mission to the distressed districts in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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EAST INDIA (FAMINE CORRESPONDENCE).

PART IV.

COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

ON THE SUBJECT OF

THE FAMINE IN WESTERN AND SOUTHERN INDIA.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1878.

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252	Letter - -	25 Sept.	Government of India Revenue Additional Secretary, Umballa.	Madras Revenue Additional Secretary.	Specific objects in detail to which Committee propose to devote their funds still incompletely supplied; no absolute prohibition against Government officers taking part in disbursement of funds, but trusts Madras will regulate demands of Committee upon local officers.	211
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257	Notification -	2 Oct. -	Famine Commissioner, Mysore.	- - - -	Publishing Mysore Famine Code. 1877.	222
258	Letter - -	4 Oct. -	Secretary to Government, N. W. Provinces and Oudh.	Government of India Revenue Additional Secretary.	Further report on condition and prospects of N. W. Provinces and Oudh; distress increased so much since middle of Sept. that works must soon be opened in every division.	246
259	Telegram - -	5 Oct. -	Viceroy - - -	Secretary of State -	The situation throughout India Sept. 25–Oct. 3. 1,830,898 persons receiving relief.	249
260	Telegram - -	6 Oct. -	Governor, Bombay -	Viceroy, Simla - -	Bombay Chamber of Commerce. As to maintenance of preference to famine traffic.	250
261	Telegram - -	7 Oct. -	Governor, Bombay -	Secretary of State -	Rainfall throughout Presidency, except Khandesh and Sind. Prospect cheering.	250
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268	Telegram - -	10 Oct. -	Viceroy - - -	Governor, Bombay -	Replying to No. 260, Madras unwilling at present to reduce grain sent to Madras; Hyderabad agrees to reduction; Madras Government asked to watch prices, and reduce as soon as possible.	252
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271	Letter No. 38 (Revenue).	11 Oct. -	Government of India -	Secretary of State -	Reporting upon the condition of Western and Southern India and of the other provinces threatened with famine, from all of which danger has been averted by abundant rainfall throughout India in the first week of October.	253
272	Letter - -	11 Oct. -	N. W. Provinces and Oudh Secretary to Government.	Government of India Financial Secretary.	Low state of cash balance in N. W. Provinces owing to failure of kharif crops, and expenditure for relief of distress; impossible to press for immediate payment of revenue demand from village communities.	258
273	Telegram - -	13 Oct. -	Viceroy - - -	Secretary of State -	Season report, 4th to 11th Oct. General rainfall throughout India, and reduction in numbers receiving relief. At present, 2,658,886.	259
274	Madras Revenue Proceedings.	15 Oct. -	- - - -	- - - -	Calling upon collectors to facilitate the return of people to their homes and occupations.	259
275	Telegram - -	16 Oct. -	Viceroy - - -	Secretary of State -	Misapprehension in English newspapers about mortality in Madras.	260
276	Telegram - -	17 Oct. -	Governor, Bombay -	Secretary of State -	Rainfall sufficient; prospects good; trade still active.	261
277	Letter - -	17 Oct. -	Government of India Revenue Additional Secretary.	Madras, Bombay, and Mysore.	Census to be taken at end of the famine to ascertain mortality.	261
278	Letter - -	18 Oct. -	N. W. Provinces and Oudh Secretary to Government.	Government of India Revenue Additional Secretary.	Forwarding instructions as to suspension of revenue demand in consequence of failure of crops.	261
279	Letter - -	19 Oct. -	Bombay Government Chief Secretary.	Government of India Revenue Additional Secretary.	Land revenue in Bombay Presidency, excluding Sind. Out of Rs. 2,62,99,590 demand, Rs. 2,33,40,250 collected on 31st Aug. 1877 without undue pressure. Remissions granted, Rs. 2,15,110; residue recoverable.	262
280	Letter - -	19 Oct. -	Government of India Revenue Additional Secretary.	Chief Commissioner, Mysore.	Acknowledges receipt of Famine Code, and expressing satisfaction of Governor-General.	262
281	Telegram - -	20 Oct. -	Viceroy - - -	Secretary of State -	The situation throughout India still improving; 2,272,457 persons receiving relief. Reduction of 356,790 during week causes decrease of 11 lakhs in monthly expenditure.	263
282	Letter - -	22 Oct. -	Government of India Revenue Additional Secretary.	N. W. Provinces Secretary to Government.	Replying to No. 272, measures will be taken to meet the needs of the Government of the N. W. Provinces; experience of past famines in N. W. Provinces warrants belief that wholesale suspensions are not required; leaving the matter to the discretion of the Lieut.-Governor, Government of India trust the great bulk of the autumn instalment will be collected, and suspensions granted only where absolutely necessary.	264
283	Letter - -	24 Oct. -	Government of India Additional Secretary.	Madras Revenue Additional Secretary.	With every prospect of full winter and spring crops, Government of India trust the arrears of 1876–77 and the full demand of the current year may be collected without harshness.	266
284	Telegram - -	26 Oct. -	Bombay Chief Secretary -	Mr. Bernard, Simla -	Bombay land revenue collections	267
285	Telegram - -	26 Oct. -	Viceroy - - -	Secretary of State -	Situation throughout India 19th to 25th Oct. 1,943,725 persons receiving relief. Relief expenditure decreasing rapidly.	267
286	Letter - -	26 Oct. -	Government of India Revenue Additional Secretary.	Madras Revenue Additional Secretary.	Expressing satisfaction of Government of India at Madras Government orders to facilitate return of people to their homes, and reduce expenditure (No. 274).	267

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287	Letter - -	29 Oct. -	Government of India Revenue Additional Secretary.	Bombay Government Chief Secretary.	Congratulating Bombay Government upon result of land revenue collections.	268
288	Letter No. 39 (Revenue).	30 Oct. -	Government of India -	Secretary of State -	Forwarding correspondence and reporting upon the condition of the several provinces which have been affected or threatened by famine; large reduction in numbers receiving relief in Madras; mortality in and around Bangalore. The mortality in Madras.	268
289	Letter No. 40 (Revenue).	30 Oct. -	Government of India -	Secretary of State -	The differences of practice between the several provinces of India in regard to collection, suspension, and remission of land revenue during a year of drought, and the need for some general ruling on the subject. The loss of revenue in 1876–77 was in Madras 38 per cent., in Bombay 10 per cent., a difference due in great part to difference of practice.	273
290	Despatch No. 74 (Revenue).	31 Oct. -	Secretary of State -	Government of India -	Replying to No. 164 - -	275
291	Despatch No. 82 (Revenue).	8 Nov. -	Secretary of State -	Government of India -	Replying to No. 215. Expressing concurrence with views of Government of India with respect to private subscriptions in aid of relief funds.	275
292	Despatch No. 83 (Revenue).	8 Nov. -	Secretary of State -	Government of India -	Replying to No. 239. - -	277
293	Despatch No. 85 (Revenue).	22 Nov. -	Secretary of State -	Government of India -	Replying to No. 216. Arrangements concluded by the Viceroy for systematising the policy and strengthening the administration of State relief throughout the famine stricken districts of Madras appear to have been well calculated to secure the objects in view and meet with the appreciation of Her Majesty's Government.	278
294	Despatch No. 86 (Revenue).	22 Nov. -	Secretary of State -	Government of India -	Replying to No. 253 - -	279
295	Despatch No. 88 (Revenue).	29 Nov. -	Secretary of State -	Government of India -	Replying to No. 271 - -	279
296	Despatch No. 98 (Revenue).	27 Dec. -	Secretary of State -	Government of India -	Replying to No. 288 - -	280
297	Despatch No. 99 (Revenue).	27 Dec. -	Secretary of State -	Government of India -	Replying to No. 289 - -	281

NOTE.—*This Return is a continuation of Part III., and contains letters of the Government of India subsequent to No.* 25 *of the* 4*th of June* 1877, *with their enclosures, and the Despatches of the Secretary of State in reply.*

The arrangement is chronological. It will be seen that the earlier correspondence herein contained is of prior date to some already published; this is explained by the marginal references. The documents in question form enclosures to letters which were not received when Part III. was prepared.

CORRESPONDENCE.

No. 1.

Encl. in No. 79.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY in the Public Works Department (Local), No. 268 C. W.—1,038, dated 13th December 1876.

READ again—

Government Resolution No. 186 C. W.—827 of 15th November 1876, and Government Resolution No. 206 C. W.—869 of 21st November 1876.

RESOLUTION.—Looking to the large and increasing number of people who, at this early period, have sought, and are seeking, relief on works, it seems probable that these works are rendered too attractive, either by the rate of wages to be earned upon them, or because from want of efficient superintendence, or from other causes, a proper amount of labour is not exacted from the persons who resort to them.

2. It is not the desire or intention of Government to render these relief works attractive; they have been commenced on the scale on which they are in progress, not because the Government desire to carry them on to so large an extent, but in order that they may afford an opportunity of earning wages to persons who are without means, and cannot elsewhere (owing to the absence of agricultural employment) find the means of procuring money, to enable them to purchase sufficient food to preserve themselves from starvation.

3. Government are most desirous that these works should be carried on in such a manner that, without pressing too hardly upon the people, and without requiring from them an amount of work which would over-strain in any way their physical powers, there should still be required of the persons who come upon relief works, a fair return for the aid which Government is making great sacrifices to afford them.

4. Government, in short, do not propose to afford gratuitous relief to those who can work, but expect a fair return for the present drain upon the treasury, and are also most solicitous not to pauperise the people by supporting them in idleness, or comparative idleness.

5. First as regards the rate of wages—

In accordance with orders already issued, the rates have been fixed at 2 annas a man, $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas for a woman, and 1 anna for a boy or a girl old enough to be able to work, and a sliding scale has been authorsed, by which the rate of wages increases when the staple food-grain becomes dearer than 16 lbs. for a rupee.

6. Government have no desire to alter the principle of this arrangement, and, looking to the fact that in ordinary times a labourer can earn on works about 3 annas per diem, and to the prevailing price of food, the rates of wages fixed, though ample, are not excessive, and were intended to supply a reliable test of the need of the persons who accepted them. But Government consider that as the scale increases, as the price of grain rises above 16 lbs. for the rupee, so it should, to be consistent with the principle adopted, decrease when the price of grain falls much below that point.

7. In this view they are pleased to rule, that whenever the price of grain is not lower than 18 lbs. per rupee, the existing order shall remain in force; but in all cases when the price of grain is 18 lbs. or more for a rupee—

a man shall be paid at the rate of 1 anna + the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer of 80 tolas, or 1 lb. of grain;

a woman shall be paid at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ an anna + the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer of 80 tolas, or 1 lb. of grain; and

a boy or girl employed on the works shall be paid at the rate of the value of $\frac{1}{2}$ a seer of 80 tolas of grain; or, at the option of the directing officer, at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ an anna + the value of $\frac{1}{4}$ seer of 80 tolas, or $\frac{1}{2}$ a lb. of grain.

8. As regards superintendence—

Government fear that, in consequence of the sudden and great pressure that has come upon the District Officers, Civil and Public Works, they have not been able to arrange for efficient and trustworthy superintendence in sufficient quantity. The question is a most important one; unless there be a proper check and control, Government will not obtain the whole object they have in view; they may support the people who really require

assistance, and may also be led into providing for persons who do not need support. There will be no security that the State will receive a proper return for the large expenditure it is incurring, and the people will suffer in their morale.

9. Immediate reports, should be made by Civil and Public Works Department Officers on the superintendence available, and it should be shown how the existing establishments are composed, what further aid is actually needed, not only to meet present, but to satisfy probable prospective wants, and how much is required on each considerable work and in each district. Collectors should be reminded that, under existing orders, they are empowered to place the Mamlatdar of each affected taluka on special duty as a Relief Mamlatdar, and to appoint a temporary Mamlatdar in his place, also that a Relief District Deputy Collector has been allowed for each seriously affected district.

10. On receipt of the reports regarding establishment now called for, Government will endeavour to make the necessary arrangements; the kind of assistance that will, in all probability, be chiefly needed will be that of intelligent persons capable of making and recording simple measurements, and who are to be trusted to disburse payments to workpeople.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 2.

EXTRACTS from PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS. 9th February 1877.

No. 245.—Read the following telegram from the Government of India, Department of Commerce, dated Calcutta, 26th January 1877:—

> Sir Richard Temple represents importance of not promising to the people remissions of land revenue, but only suspending the demand. We commend question to your notice in consultation with him.

Resolved that the following reply be despatched as a telegram:—

> No. 246.—" Yours 26th, about remissions of land revenue. Principle of assessment is a share of crop. Wet land, when crop is lost for want of water, receives remission by prescriptive custom. Dry land when crop is lost receives remission under special order of Board Revenue. To introduce now suspension where remission customary, would tend to check attempts at cultivation, which it is desirable to stimulate. Letter follows."

No. 247.—MINUTE by the Honourable SIR W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I.

In dealing with this telegram we ought, I think, distinctly to state the broad principle of our land revenue demand under ryotwari settlement, viz., a right to a share of the crop of each field for the year in which it is grown, commuted into a money payment. No margin is allowed for extraordinary vicissitudes of season, and the demand is so heavy and searching that little room is left for the accumulation of agricultural capital to meet contingencies such as have overtaken the population. The proposal is, therefore, inconsistent with the principle of our settlement, and alike impolitic and impracticable in a season like this, when the crop has utterly failed, the cattle are perishing, and nothing remains to exact from the bulk of our poorer ryots in whose interest remission is being made.

The acreable demand on wet land is high throughout the presidency, averaging upwards of 5 rupees per acre. On dry land the demand is less, but averages upwards of 1 rupee per acre. The total is heavy, and in this presidency 30 millions pay about $4\frac{3}{4}$ millions sterling of land revenue; while 60 millions in Bengal pay, I understand, considerably less.

Under the principle of our settlement when the crop, whether wet or dry, is lost, there is nothing to share. The ryot has lost his labour, seed, and profits; the Government necessarily forego their demand against his unaided toil; thus remission, not postponement, is the unwritten and prescriptive law of the land when failure is so serious as to require abandonment of the State demand.

In the case of wet land, for which water—which Government is bound to supply—has failed, remission is absolute and of right. There is no crop to share, and the rent-charge is high, and water supply has not been maintained.

As regards dry land, the claim to remission is probably no less of right, but it is less completely conceded by Government, because the demand is, on the whole, lighter, and there is no guarantee in respect to needful water. Only when serious loss occurs in very bad years therefore, and under special orders, is remission for failure of dry crop

conceded—such a season as the one we are passing through now—and circumstances render remission unavoidable on dry land where crop has wholly failed.

On these grounds I entirely dissent from Sir Richard Temple's proposals, as contrary to the principle of a ryotwari settlement and customary immemorial law of the country, and as being specially unjust under the circumstances of the season and of agricultural population at this time.

A season like the present one must, irrespective of the loss of seed, labour, and profits necessarily incurred, and of debt already contracted, plunge the whole population in pecuniary difficulty of no ordinary magnitude for the maintenance of life; and still further pecuniary demand is before the agriculturists to enable them to resume their agricultural operations, and obtain seed and cattle. To keep a debt of a million sterling and more hanging over their heads in the shape of suspended taxations will prove most disastrous to the well-being of the country, and must postpone its future restoration. I do not believe that in the long run it would be found possible to recover the suspended demand, and plenary remission must prove the final necessity. Why, in the meantime, hold so injurious a demand *in terrorem* over the country? The policy now pressed upon us by Sir Richard Temple is the objectionable practice of native zamindars, which so burdens the serfs they make of their cultivators—a policy which we take every opportunity of deprecating and, as opportunity (Court of Wards) occurs, of abrogating. Nothing has been more strongly deprecated and discouraged by our administration than the accumulation of arrears and State debts against our ryots, and this is specially a time for adhering to this policy.

It may not be out of place here to call attention to the enormous drain on the means of our people for mere subsistence which is going on at this moment, and promises before the end of our distress to assume gigantic proportions. The imports of food-grain in the single port of Madras amounted, during the six months between July and December 1876, to Rs. 1,45,00,000, against an average for the same six months of the previous three years of about Rs. 9,50,000. The exports of agricultural produce have, of course, fallen off very greatly, in respect to some articles ceased, and this import of food is being met from the small savings of the people. They will have spent millions on foreign food ere the country recovers; and I ask from whence is this suspended demand to be met?

31st January 1877. (Signed) W. ROBINSON.

ORDER thereon by the GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, dated 9th February 1877, No. 575.

No. 248.—Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Government of India:—

No. 576, dated Fort St. George, the 9th February 1877.

From the Secretary to the Government of Madras, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

Referring to the telegrams marginally noted, arising out of a representation to the Government of India by Sir Richard Temple on the subject of remissions of land revenue which are being made in respect of the present famine, I am directed by his Grace the Governor in Council to submit the following additional observations.

From Government of India, dated 26th January 1877.
To Government of India, dated 2nd February 1877.

2. During the existence of the heavy assessments which prevailed in this presidency down to the time of Lord Harris's Government, and before the introduction of the revenue settlement now in progress, and which has already taken effect in five districts, and in considerable portions of four others—remissions were large and numerous, administered under a complicated system, and forming part of the annual and ordinary jamábandi. Under the revised assessment, it was anticipated that the necessity for making them would cease, except under rare and special circumstances. A district once settled—the following are the sole rules on the subject, viz.:—

(1.) *Wet land.*—Full remission when the land is left waste, or the crop totally lost owing either to deficiency or excess of water.

(2.) *Dry land.*—None; except in very exceptional circumstances of distress, and under the express sanction of the Board of Revenue in each case.

In regard to unsettled districts, the second rule applies to them also; but to wet lands in unsettled districts partial loss of crops entitles the occupant to partial remissions; the additional concession in favour of unsettled districts in this respect being based on

t that the rates there are often high and unequal; and no allowance was made, g them, for vicissitudes of season.

... Taking the accounts of the fasli year ending 30th June 1875, it appears that the remissions under the first head came to Rs. 2,70,000 only, and were caused principally by disastrous floods in Nellore; and that those under the second head amounted to 1 lakh. Sundry small remissions of a miscellaneous character brought up the total to $4\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs, being about $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on the total assessment of ryotwari holding of Rs. 3,88,46,315. Such were the results of the system in an ordinary year.

4. With regard to the proposal to saddle the ryot with the sum that would now, under customary law, be remitted—the assessment on a crop which was never grown—as a debt to be paid by him in the following year—the Governor in Council is entirely opposed to the suggestion.

In the first place, as respects wet land, it is obvious that the Government is under an implied covenant to supply the necessary irrigation. In making the settlement, which proceeds in all cases on the basis of sharing the crop between the Government and the ryot, a certain allowance is made to the ryot for ordinary vicissitudes of season; and this being so, the full assessment is exacted even in bad years where the loss of crop is partial only; but where the water to be supplied fails altogether, the attempt at such exaction would be universally resisted as at variance with the bargain and a grave injustice.

2ndly. As regards dry lands, although, from the nature of the case, there is no similar implied covenant here, the objections to the policy of exacting the full assessment in a season like the present are manifold—

(*a.*) The Madras ryot is very heavily taxed; 5 rupees per acre for wet (single crop) and 1 rupee per acre for dry being his average assessment. Moreover, under other terminable settlements, the whole of the waste land is given up by Government for the term of thirty years—and under the zemindari settlement it is given up in perpetuity, in addition to the per-centage for the zemindar's commission. But in Madras, not only is every acre of waste liable to its full quota of tax, as soon as brought under cultivation, but there is no allowance whatever for fallow, or for land in a ryot's occupation which is *bonâ fide* set apart by him for the pasturage of his cattle. For instance, during the fasli year last reported on, as much as 2,134,110 acres with an average assessment of 15 annas, left waste by the ryots of this presidency out of their holdings chiefly for the purpose last mentioned, was fully charged against them, and fully collected.

(*b.*) Let the extent and nature of their holdings be considered. The number of leases is 2,392,064; of these 38,825 only are above 100 rupees, while upwards of one million and a quarter are below 10 rupees. The average extent of a holding is·8 acres, and the average assessment payable is 15 rupees, or thirty shillings sterling. How are two million peasant proprietors of this kind to pay sixty shillings apiece next year—after a season of unprecedented calamity, which, in addition to other sufferings and losses, has brought about already the destruction of a great portion of their cattle—and will cause the loss of many more? So far from supposing it possible to collect the assessment from the great body of impoverished ryots, the Government anticipate having to make considerable advances for the assistance of cultivators in the purchase of agricultural stock and seed grain.

(*c.*) It is, at all events, impossible to inaugurate any new system *per saltum* or without full and sufficient notice; and where such notice is given the ryot has at hand a procedure by which he can readily protect himself. By immemorial custom the Madras ryot is at liberty to readjust the extent of his holding within a certain day of each year, which day is selected with special reference to the monsoon on which his district principally depends for its rains. In Bellary, for instance, the south-west monsoon is looked for in the first week of June; and the ryot is allowed till the 15th of July to contract his holding. There can be no doubt that, if Bellary cultivators had foreseen that however bad the coming season, they would, sooner or later, be called upon to pay the full assessment on their holdings, those holdings would, in the vast majority of cases, have been contracted, and very many altogether relinquished. Nobody has anything to fear from competition, for his neighbours are as straitened as himself; and in this way the Government would be a far greater loser in direct collection of revenue than it is at present; would have many hundreds of thousands more on relief works; and would lose for the common good the produce of the cultivation which is still carried on. Many a reputable ryot, who is now digging a well and toiling on as best he may with the help of the village money-lender, would immediately fall into the utter destitution which characterises the great majority of his fellows; he will not try to help himself, if his possible failure is to be followed by the swift and inexorable demands of the State

for the full assessment of his land; nor would any sane money-lender advance him a loan in such circumstances.

5. His Grace in Council trusts that in the foregoing remarks he has demonstrated the utter impossibility in part, and the inexpediency in all, of attempting to vary the usual undertaking and custom by substituting, suddenly and without notice, suspension for remission of revenue in a specially disastrous season. He would, however, point in conclusion to the large figures yielded by the land revenue of Madras—the highest in any part of India—and to its annually steady increase. He believes that its management is thoroughly well in hand by those to whom the system pursued has long been familiar; and that the wholesale innovation proposed had nothing to recommend it, except that it would retain apparently to the credit of Government a claim which would never be realised. It is as incompatible, in his opinion, with justice to the ryot as with the prosperity of the general revenues of the presidency; not only the land revenue but that under every other head—Salt, Stamps, Abkari—rises or falls with the condition of the ryot, and of the vast agricultural and mercantile populations linked with his interests.

6. The people, it has been shown, can protect themselves by relinquishing their lands in bad years, and would certainly in self defence do so, if the unusual course proposed by Sir Richard Temple were adopted. Such action on the part of the ryots would be alike injurious to themselves and to the State; and his Grace the Governor in Council trusts that valid reasons have been advanced for making no change in the ordinary practice, which has always been observed in this presidency, of granting remission of the Government revenue on the occurrence of disastrous seasons.

7. A copy of this correspondence will be furnished for the information of the Secretary of State.

No. 3.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 1, dated Fort St. George, 10th February 1877.

From the Government of Madras to Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

We have the honour to submit for your Lordship's information copies of a recent correspondence* with the Government of India, arising out of a suggestion made by Sir Richard Temple on the subject of remissions of land revenue which are being made in respect of the present famine.

* Proceedings of Government, 9th February 1877, Nos. 245 to 249.

No. 4.

Encl. in No. 51.

Revenue Department.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 1st March 1877.

In separate proceedings the Board have passed orders on the recommendations of the several Collectors as to the remissions to be granted in the present season; but the amount of revenue at stake being, in the unfortunate circumstances of the present season, enormous, they deem it necessary to issue the following general instructions for the guidance of settling officers at the approaching Jamábandi.

2. The demands for remission in the current year will be so great that the Board fear that sufficient scrutiny of them will be very difficult. Great care will have to be exercised in checking the disposition of tahsildars and subordinate revenue officers to recommend wholesale remissions. Nunjah remissions should be dealt with strictly according to the remission rules. As to punjah remissions, none should be granted where one crop of any kind has been obtained, even though it be not the principal crop of the year. In the southern districts, especially, a large extent of land has yielded a crop, though possibly one below the average, under the early rains, and the prices commanded by agricultural produce are now so great that a single crop of the kind will enable the ryots to pay the assessment on their lands as easily as in ordinary years. Per-centage remissions for partial failure of crop have been sanctioned on the Collector's recommendations in some districts; but it is the Board's desire that the rates named should always be considered as maxima and not to be granted as a matter of course. The rates must be adjusted by the settling officers to the condition of the country and the circumstances necessitating indulgence to the people; and it must be remembered

that in settled districts a large reduction is already made to allow for vicissitudes of season. No remission should be granted when the crops have yielded 6 annas or upwards, *i.e.*, half or more than half of an average crop. The principle of dealing with claims with reference to whole villages, groups of villages, or tracts, must be carefully carried out. As regards *punjah waste*, care must be taken to exclude from remission lands usually left waste for pasture and other purposes which are known in some districts as mamool waste.

3. Collectors are requested to furnish to the Board, as soon as possible after the Jamábandi of each taluk is finished and in advance of the settlement report, a brief report showing the amount of remission for waste, shavi, and partial loss in dry and wet lands respectively in the taluk, with any remarks which the Collectors or settling officers may see fit to record; and to note in the reports, for comparison, the average remission granted in the three previous faslis. In these reports occasional remissions only should be given.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 5.

Telegram dated 18th March 1877.

From Sir R. Temple, Sholapore, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta.

The Madras Government were asked to decide question of remission of revenue after consulting with me. I have never been able to submit a proper opinion without seeing the papers. I should be obliged if the Madras Government were instructed to let me see the papers necessary for understanding the case. It is quite understood that the local Government is to decide question of remission or suspension at its discretion. Papers which I desire to see are Revenue Board orders on each district regarding remissions.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 6.

Telegram dated 21st March 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras.

Sir Richard Temple telegraphs as follows :—

"The Madras Government were asked to decide question of remission of revenue after consulting with me. I have never been able to submit a proper opinion without seeing the papers. I should be obliged if the Madras Government were instructed to let me see the papers necessary for understanding the case. It is quite understood that the local Government is to decide question of remission at its discretion. Papers which I desire to see are Revenue Board orders on each district regarding remissions."

Message ends.

The Government of India will be obliged by his being supplied with desired information.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 7.

Telegram dated 23rd March 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Calcutta, to Sir R. Temple, Sholapur.

Your telegrams of 18th to me and 21st to Strachey. The former was repeated on 21st to Madras with request to supply desired information.

Encl. in No. 60.

No. 8.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, Financial Department, No. 1,826, dated 28th March 1877.

Read—

A letter from the Government of Madras, No. 213, dated the 22nd January 1877, requesting that a special assignment of funds may be made to Provincial Services

for gaols to meet the extraordinary expenditure anticipated in 1877–78 owing to the high prices and distress prevailing in the Madras Presidency, and the consequent increase of crime.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor-General in Council observes that, as the provincial allotments are consolidated, no addition thereto can be made on the ground of the alleged insufficiency of any particular item used in the calculation upon which they were based.

2. When the Bengal famine occurred, the local Government was required to exhaust its entire resources, provincial and local, in contending against the calamity, and the same course should now be followed in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies.

3. To save the Government of Bengal from actual insolvency, such a contribution was eventually made from Imperial Revenues as left it after the famine with a net balance of five lakhs of rupees at credit of its Provincial Funds and the Local Funds at its disposal for provincial purposes together. His Excellency in Council will be prepared to treat the Governments of Madras and Bombay hereafter in the same way.

ORDERED,—that this Resolution be communicated to the Revenue Department, the Governments of Madras and Bombay, to the Accountants-General in those presidencies, and to the Comptroller-General, for information and guidance.

No. 351, dated Simla, 11th April 1877.

Endorsed by the DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Copy forwarded to the Home Department for information.

No. 352.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to Sir R. Temple for his Honour's information.

No. 9.

Encl. in No. 51.

Telegram dated 8th April 1877.

From SIR RICHARD TEMPLE to VICEROY.

Mr. Hope's message of 23rd March told me Madras Government was instructed to furnish me copies of Revenue Board's orders regarding land revenue remissions; thereupon I asked repeatedly for those papers without obtaining either answer or papers; to-day I learn that Madras Government object to furnish papers, and are submitting letter to Government of India on subject; my object in asking for these papers is to master present state of question. I fully understand decision that local Government is to settle remission question, but I might press locally for economy within lines laid down by Madras Government, and I should be able to submit general question in shape for enunciation of rule for guidance in future famines. My time is drawing very short, I solicit that decision may be communicated by telegraph. If Government of India decides I shall have papers, a message might go to Madras accordingly. Unless telegraphic orders issue, I shall not have time to do anything. In either case I would solicit to be informed. The papers could be kept quite confidential for the present.

No. 10.

Encl. in No. 51.

Telegram dated 9th April 1877.

From VICEROY to GOVERNOR, Madras.

The Government of India learn from Temple that Madras Government object to furnish him with the papers referred to in our telegram of 21st March. The Government of India think it very desirable that Temple should be furnished with these papers in order that he may be enabled to state his views fully. There is no intention of interfering with the discretion of local Government regarding remissions on present occasion, but a full discussion of the subject may be useful for future famines. The discussion can be treated as confidential for the present if the Madras Government desire. It seems due to Temple that his request should be complied with, and we trust that your Grace's Government will waive this objection.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 11.

No. 1,382, dated Fort St. George, 10th April 1877.

From the Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

I am directed to reply to your telegram dated 21st ultimo. It communicates copy of a telegram received by you from Sir R. Temple, in which he states that this Government were asked to decide the question of remissions after consulting him; that in view to his understanding the question it is necessary for him to see all the orders that have been issued by the Madras Board of Revenue on each famine district; and he accordingly suggests that this Government may be instructed to supply him with such papers. The Government of India, you state, will be obliged by a compliance with Sir R. Temple's wishes.

2. Although Sir R. Temple does not mention it, it should be stated that when addressing you he had already received a communication from this Government declining to afford him the papers required, on the ground that the case was fully concluded by the terms of the Government of India Despatch to the Secretary of State, published at page 199 of the supplement to the "Gazette of India" of the current year; and to this opinion his Grace the Governor in Council continues to adhere.

3. It is desirable to trace the course which the correspondence on this question has taken.

It will be admitted that it was no part of Sir R. Temple's original commission, the objects of which are laid down in the Despatch marginally noted. It appears, however, that shortly after entering upon his duties in this presidency Sir R. Temple represented to the Government of India the importance of not promising to the people remissions of land revenue but only suspending the demand, and in their telegram to this Government, dated 26th January, the Government of India remark—"We commend question to your notice in consultation with Sir R. Temple." In reply the Government of Madras strongly deprecated the proposed reversal of policy, both by telegram* and by letter†. To the telegram the Government of India replied by a telegram dated 7th idem, viz. —"Your telegram of 2nd. The Government of India merely commend Sir. R. Temple's "suggestion to your consideration"—no longer it is observed in consultation with him—"but will not interfere with the discretion of the local Government in a question of "this kind;" and to the latter they replied by referring his Grace in Council to the answer conveyed in the telegram. When it is added that these communications were immediately followed up by the Despatch to the Secretary of State, already referred to as having been published in the "Gazette of India," in which, besides repeating their decision that the matter must be left to the discretion of this Government, the Government of India go much further and say—"We have now only to observe that the Madras Government have "shown good reasons for the opinions which they so strongly hold"—it is impossible to conceive a case in which further discussion is more inadmissible than the present one.

From Government of India to Secretary of State, No. 2, dated 12th January 1877.

* Dated 2nd February.
† Dated 9th February.

From Government of India, dated 17th February 1877, No. 201.

4. If after a decision deliberately passed in communication with the Government of Madras the Governor-General in Council thinks proper to reopen the question as regards future years, his Grace the Governor in Council will be prepared to discuss it again with the Government of India; but as regards the present year the case is absolutely concluded.

5. A copy of this letter will be submitted for the information of the Secretary of State.

No. 12.

Encl. in No. 51.

Telegram dated 17th April 1877.

From Sir R. Temple, Arcot, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Simla.

Having learnt from Viceroy that Madras Government were instructed to give me the land revenue remission papers, I asked for them. Madras has again declined to furnish them pending answer to their official reference. Unless they obey orders of Government of India to send papers now, there will be no time for me to make a report, but I can do so afterwards whenever papers received.

No. 13.

Encl. in No. 60.

No., 1914, dated Bombay Castle, the 17th April 1877.

From the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay to Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department.

I am directed by his Excellency the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 1,826, dated 28th ultimo, regarding the appropriation of the Provincial and Local Funds towards the expenses incurred in consequence of the famine.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council observes that the balance to the credit of the Provincial Funds at the close of 1876–77 amounts to Rs. 7,41,854, and if, out of that amount, the sum apparently contemplated by the Government of India, viz., Rs. 5,00,000, be reserved to meet Provincial and Local charges, the sum which will be hereafter available for the final settlement of famine advances will amount to Rs. 2,41,854.

3. It will at the same time be for consideration what proportion of the reserved balance of Rs. 5,00,000 must be assigned to those Local Committees whose funds will have been exhausted; but his Excellency in Council takes it for granted that no claim can be made on the Local Funds of districts in which no famine charges have been incurred, as he considers that such a proceeding will be altogether at variance with the spirit of the Local Funds Act.

4. His Excellency in Council feels it his duty to point out that by thus complying, when the time comes, with the present orders of the Government of India, the Provincial balance of the presidency will be reduced much below the amount which the Government of India have declared to be necessary, and that it has never been found practicable up to the present time to provide for the annual charges without drawing on the balance, although this Government have endeavoured to be as economical as possible. Provincial taxation appears therefore to be inevitable.

5. Looking, however, to the figures for 1877–78, I am to state that a large portion of the balance referred to in paragraph 2 has been appropriated towards the expenditure estimated for the current year, and the balance estimated to the credit of the Provincial Services at the end of the current year thus amounts to Rs. 5,62,555. His Excellency in Council does not think that any saving is possible, as this Government are not commencing a single new public work beyond the petty ones included in the Minor Works grant. Reserving, therefore, Rs. 5,00,000 out of this balance, the amount available towards the famine charges will amount to about Rs. 62,000.

No. 14.

Encl. in No. 51.

Telegram dated 20th April 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Simla, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras.

Your letter of 10th instant, number 1,382, has been received and considered. The Governor-General in Council decides that Sir Richard Temple ought to see the papers.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 15.

Telegram dated 25th April 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Simla.

According to desire of the Governor-General in Council, expressed in your cypher message dated 20th (in) reply to my letter of the 20th instant, copy (of) papers required will be sent for Sir Richard Temple's information.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 16.

No. 1,556, dated Fort St. George, 25th April 1877.

From the Officiating Chief Secretary to Government of Fort St. George, Revenue Department, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

Referring to my cypher telegram of this date I have the honour to confirm the same in writing, viz., that, agreeably to the instructions of the Government of India on my letter of 10th April instant, No. 1,382, the several orders marginally noted have been furnished for Sir Richard Temple's information direct to save the delay in transmitting them, in the more regular way, to the Government of India.

The correspondence will be reported to the Secretary of State.

G. O.,	16th Nov. 1876,	No.	1695.
„	27th „ „	„	1810.
„	17th Jan. 1877,	„	188.
„	23rd „ „	„	313.
„	10th Feb. „	„	607.
„	13th „ „	„	653.
„	13th „ „	„	654.
„	13th „ „	„	655.
„	13th „ „	„	657.
„	13th „ „	„	665.
„	13th „ „	„	666.
„	15th „ „	„	693.
„	19th „ „	„	743.
„	19th „ „	„	748.
G. O.,	23rd Feb. 1877,	No.	798.
„	9th Mar. „	„	995.
„	10th „ „	„	1016.
„	12th „ „	„	1035.
„	19th „ „	„	1137.
„	19th „ „	„	1138.
„	20th „ „	„	1157.
„	22nd „ „	„	1189.
„	28th „ „	„	1255.
„	3rd April „	„	1295.
„	3rd „ „	„	1296.
„	4th „ „	„	1323.
„	19th „ „	„	1481.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 17.

No. CXVII.—Memorandum by Mr. C. E. Bernard, Secretary to Sir Richard Temple, regarding the Remissions of Land Revenue in consequence of the failure of Harvests in 1876, Nagpur, April 28, 1877.

One of the very first points which attracted the attention of Sir Richard Temple on his mission to the famine districts in January last, was the apparent disposition of revenue officers in Madras and Bombay to remit so much of the land revenue as could not fairly be collected this season from the ryots, who had lost their crops in consequence of the drought. It was understood that the higher revenue authorities of Madras and Bombay were opposed to the system of suspending (that is, postponing to future good years the collection of) any of the land revenue that the ryots could not be fairly called upon to pay this year.

2. In permanently settled Bengal it had been the almost unvarying rule not to remit or suspend any land revenue in consequence of vicissitudes of season. In provinces of the Bengal Presidency, where the land revenue was settled for a term of years only, such as Orissa, the North-West Provinces, and the Punjab, it had been usual to grant certain suspensions (postponements of the collection) of land revenue in the most affected tract. In subsequent years the greater part of the suspended demand was collected; but some small* part was remitted in extreme cases.

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* It may be well to adduce figures in support of the statement that in other parts of India it is customary to grant remission of land revenue very sparingly even in cases of very great failure of the crops. For the earlier famines, the records are not very clear, but so far as I can ascertain the subjoined figures are correct:—

	Total land revenue remitted.	Total land revenue demand of the afflicted area.
North-West Provinces famine of 1803 -	30 lakhs (approximate)	156 lakhs.
North-West Provinces famine of 1837–38 -	90 lakhs	350 „
North-West Provinces and Punjab famine of 1860.	10 „	420 „
Bengal and Behar famine of 1866 - - (The figures for Orissa are not now accessible to me.)	0 „	240 „
North-West Provinces famine of 1869 -	2¼ lakhs	128 „
Central Provinces famine of 1869 - -	—	30 „
Behar and Bengal famine of 1874 - -	—	300 „

3. Sir Richard Temple drew the attention of the Government of India to this matter, and recommended that no remissions of land revenue should, for the present, be made or promised; but that the land revenue demand shonld be suspended whenever necessary; it being left for future decision how much of the suspended demand ought to be finally remitted, and how much might be properly collected from the ryots. The Government of India, after consulting the Governments of Madras and Bombay, decided that the matter should be left to the discretion of the local Governments.

4. In the exercise of this discretion the Bombay Government has arranged that its Collectors should distribute the land revenue arrears of the present year under the two heads of "to be remitted" and "to be suspended," hoping that, if the next two seasons are favourable, a part, at least, of the "suspended" revenue may be collected. It will probably turn out that less than 30 lakhs will be remitted out of a total land revenue demand of 115 lakhs in the distressed districts of Bombay.

5. The Madras Government, on the other hand, held that it was inexpedient to vary the usual custom, and to substitute suspension for remission of revenue in a disastrous season like that which has just passed. The Board of Revenue estimated that the remissions of land revenue, to be made on account of the recent failure of crops, would reach 143 lakhs of rupees (1,430,000*l.*). The total (ryotwari) land revenue of the twelve districts affected by the drought is 192 lakhs. No remissions are proposed for permanently settled (zemindari) estates, the land revenue on which is distinct from the ryotwari land revenue. But the Board, in reviewing the remission proposals submitted from each district, and in their circular order of the 1st March, have inculcated great care in granting remission. In some districts the Collectors have postponed the jamábandi (that is, the verification of holdings and apportionment of remissions) in case the May showers might restore hope and credit to the ryots; and perhaps the actual remissions finally made may fall short of the Board's estimate. Possibly the discussion which has taken place may help revenue authorities to be firm in realising as much of the Government dues as can fairly be collected.

6. But the question has an important bearing on the finance of future famines, and it would be well that it should be considered how far the practice of the Madras Government, in regard to remissions of revenue, should be held as a precedent for the guidance of revenue authorities in future famines.

7. Before considering the reasons for or against the decision taken by the Madras Government in the present case, it may be well to review very briefly some of the statistics of and the system of the Madras revenue administration.

8. The land revenue of Madras is derived from three distinct sources, namely:—

		Rs.
Permanently settled quit rent and zemindari estates paying about		69,00,000
Irrigated lands paying land revenue at "wet" rates, about -		1,70,00,000
Lands which are unirrigated, or are irrigated only from wells, paying at "dry" rates about - - - - -		1,69,00,000
Total - -		4,08,00,000
Add for the two unmeasured West Coast districts -	30,70,000	
Ditto miscellaneous land revenue items -	26,50,000	
		57,20,000
Grand Total - -		4,65,20,000
Deduct averarge remissions granted in ordinary years - -		12,00,000
Average land revenue of a good year for the Madras Presidency, or say 4½ millions sterling.		4,52,20,000

I do not lay much stress on the precedent set by permanently settled Bengal, where the land revenue bears a comparatively small proportion to the rental or the produce of the land. But the example of the North-West Provinces and the Punjab is surely to the purpose; for the land revenue there presses at least as hardly on the land as it does under present arrangements in Madras, and further, the profits of the land have in some cases to be divided among two or more sets of rightholders, instead of going straight into the pockets of the ryot (peasant proprietor) as they do in Madras.

It is noteworthy that, though in 1837–38 considerable remissions had to be given, yet the great improvement in the condition of the landed classes during the last 40 years has enabled them to make good from the surplus of favourable seasons the arrears of land revenue due on account of occasional years of drought and failure of harvest.

The figures in this note are taken from Geddes' "Famine Experiences" and from Girdlestone's "Past Famines of the N. W. P."

9. Over a part of the Madras Presidency (about nine districts out of the 21 which compose the presidency) the land revenue has been settled for 30 years. Under this settlement the land has been surveyed; holdings have been demarcated and mapped; the incidence of the land revenue has been made much more equable; the Government has engaged not to demand land revenue at the settlement rates only for 30 years. But the ryot (or peasant proprietor) has not bound himself to pay the revenue for 30 years; he can, even in the settled districts, throw up his land when he likes. In the districts to which the 30 years' settlement of the land revenue has not been extended, the ryots theoretically are liable to have their land revenue altered from year to year. But practically, they are just as secure as their brethren in the settled districts. They can and do sell or mortgage their holdings; and their title as peasant proprietor is almost as good as a ryot's title in the settled districts. The land revenue in parts of these districts used formerly to press unequally, and in some cases it was heavy and the people were poor. But during the last 15 years the position of the Madras ryot, even in the districts which are not settled for 30 years, has very greatly improved; the revenue rates are fair and equable; the high rates of Rs. 27 or Rs. 30 per acre have disappeared, and generally speaking the land revenue demand presses nearly as equally in the unsettled as in the settled districts.

10. In both the settled and the unsettled districts the land revenue on ryotwari lands is separated into—

(*a.*) The demand from "dry" or unirrigated lands;

(*b.*) The demand from "wet" or irrigated lands.

The demand on "wet" lands includes the revenue from the land, and also the rent for the water which Government supplies for irrigating the land. In two districts the land revenue is kept apart and distinct from the water-rent, but over the rest of the presidency the land revenue and water-rent are assessed together, and the one is not kept distinct from the other. Land which is fertilised by rain water only, or which is irrigated from wells, pays land revenue at "dry" rates. The concession whereby land irrigated from wells is assessed to land revenue at "dry" rates was granted about 15 years ago. Since then the number of irrigation wells has greatly increased; and in this respect the petty proprietors of Madras have a great advantage over their fellow subjects in most other parts of India, where land watered from wells is reckoned, and is assessed to land revenue, as "irrigated" land.

11. It was mentioned in paragraph 8 (above) that a certain proportion of the land revenue (averaging in good years about 12 lakhs of rupees per annum) is remitted on account of failure of harvest. There is some slight difference in the rules under which remissions of land revenue on "wet" lands are granted in the settled districts, as compared with the rules for districts where a 30 years' settlement of the land revenue rates has not been made. In districts of both classes the full land revenue is remitted on "wet" lands whereon the crop may have been totally lost owing to deficiency or excess of water. But in the settled districts no remission is granted for the partial loss of "wet" crops, whereas in districts where a long term settlement of the land revenue rates has not been made, partial remission is granted for partial failure of "wet" crops. The Madras revenue rules provide that on "dry" lands no remission of assessment shall be granted save "in very exceptional years and under very exceptional circumstances."

12. The manner in which remission of land revenue, when sanctioned, reaches the landholders of Madras differs from the practice of other parts of India. A certain percentage of remission (say 25 or 50 per cent. on the demand) is sanctioned for either the "dry" or the "wet" lands of a whole tract, and thereupon all the lands ("dry" or "wet" as the case may be) of that tract enjoy the sanctioned remission in full, quite irrespective of the excellent yield the ryots of that tract may have had in a year of high prices on their other lands, or by means of irrigation from wells. Obviously a ryot*

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* It has been occasionally said that a Madras ryot does not ordinarily hold "wet" and "dry" land together, and that while one ryot's holding is all "wet," another's is all "dry." This may be the case in Bellary, where the "wet" lands are so very small, barely 6 per cent. of the cultivated area. But in other districts outside the river deltas it is, I am told, common for a ryot to hold some "wet" and some "dry" land, or to have a part of his "dry" land irrigated from wells. At any rate, I see that Mr. Dalyell, at paragraph 71 of his Famine Memoir of 1866, takes a representative Madras ryot as holding 6 acres of "dry" land and 2 acres of "wet" land, or 8 acres in all.

† It ought, perhaps, to be explained that "jamábandi" is the name given to certain operations conducted by a Madras Collector and his establishment every year. When the sowings are done, the village officers compile returns showing all the lands cultivated by each ryot. When the crops are reaped, additional entries are made to these returns, showing what crops may have failed, and why. The taluk revenue officials then test these papers, and report how much land ("wet" or "dry") each ryot has cultivated, and what land revenue he has paid and still has to pay. These returns are then tested on the spot by the Collector or his Assistants in the

with 2 acres of "wet" land and 4 acres of "dry" land may often have a bumper crop on his "dry" lands, while his "wet" crop is lost by reason of flood or from the bursting of the neighbouring tank. On the other hand his "wet" land may have yielded a capital crop, while his "dry" crop has failed by reason of the shortness of the early rain (south-west monsoon).

13. It is not necessary to explain here the reasons which have guided the Madras authorities in adopting this rule of practice. The existence of the rules is mentioned because it operates to make remissions, when granted, wider and more sweeping in Madras than in other parts of India.

14. As it has never been the practice in Madras to grant suspensions of the land revenue, so it follows that all the land revenue which is not remitted at the jamábandi† (attestations of holdings) of each year, is leviable and practically is collected immediately. Processes for the collection of the unremitted arrears issue at once, and, theoretically, the ryot has no opportunity to make the land revenue arrears of a bad year from the surplus profits of a good year. In other parts of India it is held to be fairer to the public treasury, and to be in some respects better for the landed classes, to suspend the greater part of the land revenue in a year for extreme drought, and to let the landholders make good the arrears from the surplus profits of future years.

NOTE.—*See* Mr. Muir's proposed sliding scale for suspensions, according to the severity of the drought, at pages 103, 104 of Girdlestone's "Past Famines."

15. The grounds on which it was held inexpedient to suspend instead of remitting such portion of the Madras land revenue as could not be fairly collected during the present famine year, were set forth in the Honourable Sir William Robinson's Minute of the 31st January, and in Mr. Secretary Carmichael's letter No. 576, dated the 9th February 1877. It does not appear that the Revenue Board have recorded an opinion on the matter. These reasons are, in brief,—

(1.) The Government is under an implied obligation to supply water for irrigating "wet" lands; and if Government fails so to supply the necessary water, it cannot demand, either now or in future years, any land revenue in respect of lands which by reason of failure of irrigation have yielded no crop.

(2.) The theory of the land revenue in Madras is that the State share the produce of the land with the ryot, though the State share has been commuted for a cash payment; and, if there be no produce on the land, then there is nothing for the State to share, and it must forego its land revenue.

(3.) The Madras ryot is heavily taxed, and he has ordinarily no accumulations or surplus wherefrom to make good the land revenue due for a year of extreme drought.

(4.) Most of the Madras ryots have very small holdings, and so they could not pay the arrears of one year out of the surplus of the next. Moreover, they could, and probably would, throw up their holdings if they were called upon to pay the arrears due on account of a year of drought.

16. In regard to the first point, namely, the implied contract in respect of "wet" lands, it seems fair that, if no water is supplied for irrigation, the share of the land revenue which is reckoned as water-rent should be remitted. But it does not necessarily follow that the share of the land revenue debitable to the land should also be remitted. In other parts of India the canal revenue is remitted on lands which the canal water may have failed to reach; but the land revenue on such lands is usually collected as a matter of course. For instance, the land revenue of the North-Western Provinces falls on the average at about $1\frac{3}{4}$ rupees per acre; while the canal revenue falls at an average of $3\frac{1}{8}$ rupees per acre. If the canal water fails, the canal rent is remitted; but the land revenue is payable and is generally paid all the same.

17. But it was in regard to the remission of land revenue due in respect of "dry" lands that Sir Richard Temple specially made representation. The remissions on the "wet" assessment will hardly reach 50 lakhs out of the total of 143 lakhs to be remitted

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presence of the villagers interested. At the time of this attestation the Collector or his Assistants decides finally what remissions of revenue are to be given under the rules or under any special orders for the year; he hears all protests against the entries made in the papers, and decides such questions as may arise thereon. The questions so arising generally refer to ryots having cultivated lands to which they were not entitled; to ryots having encroached on their neighbours; to ryots having failed formally to surrender their lands; to the extent of loss suffered by failure of water in tanks or rivers. All this business has to be done in the fullest detail every year in every district, whether it has come under regular settlement or not.

under the Board's estimate. Happily the irrigation of the delta country in the Tanjore, Tinnevelly, South Arcot, Godavery, Kistna, and Nellore districts was little affected by the drought of the past year.

18. The second argument is, that the land revenue is merely the State share of the produce, and that when there is no produce, there can be no State share therein, and consequently no land revenue. Doubtless, the principle that the State is entitled to a share of the produce of the land, underlies the land revenue system of India as of other countries. But in Madras, as in other parts of India, affairs have passed beyond the primitive stage when Government officials stepped in after each harvest and carried off an appointed share of the produce of each field. The theory of the Madras settlement and the rules of the Madras Revenue Board do not altogether proceed upon the principle which has just been recited. The settlement officers deduct 20 per cent. from the estimated value of the average produce before they assess the money value of the State share in the produce; and the settlement rules set forth that this deduction is made to meet losses caused by vicissitudes of season. The Board's rules provide also that no remissions shall be granted on "wet" lands on account of partial failure of crops in settled districts; and that no remission at all shall be granted on account of failure of "dry" crops, save under very exceptional circumstances.

It appears then, that in Madras, as in other parts of India, the principle which underlies the land revenue system, is not ordinarily pushed to its logical conclusion; and, indeed, it would seem to be in practice but little observed. It appears questionable, therefore, whether this principle need in a famine year be held to bind the Government to remit all, or nearly all, its revenue on drought-stricken lands.

19. The next argument is, that the Madras ryot is heavily taxed, and that the heavy land revenue he has to pay leaves him in good years little margin wherewith to pay the arrears due for a year of failure. The severity or the lightness of any taxation is after all comparative; and all we can do is to compare the incidence of the land-tax in Madras with its incidence in other parts of India, and with the productive power of the land in Madras. The amalgamation of the water-rent with the land revenue into a single "wet" assessment rate, makes it somewhat difficult to compare the incidence of the Madras land revenue with other parts of India. Moreover, detailed statistics of Madras districts exist only for the ryotwari tracts; so that it is not possible to ascertain the incidence of the land revenue per acre for the whole presidency. The pressure of the land tax on a country or population must be gauged, not only by the rate per acre, but also by the rate per head of the population. For the margin of profit per acre to the farmer may be larger on the rich irrigated lands of Tinnevelly and Cuddapah paying Rs. 9 and Rs. 7 an acre, than on the light "dry" lands of Bellary, paying an average of 10 annas per acre. Similarly, the Gujarat ryot, who pays an average of Rs. $2\frac{1}{4}$ an acre land revenue, is a richer man than the Sholápur ryot, who pays on the average only 10 annas per acre. Matters in this respect are often nearly equalised by the much larger size of holdings in poor soils; for instance, an average ryot's holding is 24 acres in the Nágpur country, while it is 4 or 5 acres in the rich delta lands of Lower Bengal.

20. Figures for instituting a comparison between the incidence of the land-tax are available from published reports. According to these figures* the incidence of the land-tax in six temporarily settled provinces in the Empire may be compared thus:—

	Incidence of Land Revenue per acre of cultivated land.		Incidence of Land Tax per head of the Total Population.
	Rs.		Rs.
Madras, including water-rent	1·75	on Ryotwari lands only.	1·4
„ excluding water-rent	1·1		1·03
North-West Provinces, including water-rent	1·88		1·44
„ „ excluding water-rent	1·72		1·32
Oudh	1·8		1·3
Bombay (including Sind)	1·17		1·72
British Burmah	3·0		2·55
Punjab	1·38		1·14

* *See* appended note, which gives in detail the authorities for the figures offered in this paragraph. If the results here offered cause surprise, it is solicited that the authorities cited may be consulted before the deductions made in this paragraph are rejected.

21. It will be seen that even though the State has provided artificial irrigation for 4,000,000 of acres in Madras, as against 1,100,000 acres in the North-West Provinces, yet the incidence of the combined land-tax and water-rent in Madras is lighter than in the North-West Provinces. It is also lighter than the incidence of the land revenue proper in Oudh and Burmah, where the State has provided no irrigation whatever. If the water rent in Madras be taken at Rs. 3 per acre (somewhat less than the average charge* for canal water actually paid in the North-Western Provinces) then the land revenue of Madras would stand thus :—

	Rs.
Land revenue and water-rent - - - -	4,50,00,000
Deduct water-rent - - - - -	1,20,00,000
Balance, or land revenue proper - - -	3,30,00,000

And the incidence of the land-tax (proper) in Madras would be Rs. 1·03 per head of the population, that is to say, the land-tax would fall more lightly on the land and on the population of Madras, than it does on the land and population of the North-West Provinces, or of Oudh, or of Bombay, or of the Punjab, or of Burmah. The land-tax in Madras is heavier on the land and on the people than the land-tax of permanently settled Bengal on its land and people. But in this respect Bengal taxation must always compare unfavourably with that of the rest of India.

22. Then, as to the Madras ryot being poor and unable to pay the arrear land revenue of a bad year from the surplus profits of a good year. It certainly seems that the Madras ryot was poor, and the land-tax often pressed heavily and unequally upon him in the first half of the century. But some of the older Madras revenue officers who have been consulted say that the position of the Madras ryot has improved very greatly since those days. The revenue rates have been revised and equalised, and the crushing revenue rates of Rs. 27 and Rs. 33 an acre, which used to be demanded are now unknown. A ryot has now to pay at "dry" revenue rates for the land he irrigates from his wells. And there has during the last 20 years been an enormous rise in the prices of all agricultural produce, without any commensurate rise (indeed, without any considerable rise at all) in the land revenue rates. The total land revenue of Madras has, indeed, risen, but this is due to the spread† of cultivation and to the great extension of irrigation facilities, rather than to any enhancement of the land revenue rates.

23. The facts and arguments regarding the great improvement which has taken place in the condition of the Madras ryot are well put by Mr. Dalyell in his Famine Memoir of 1866. He shows that the money value of a ryot's crop was in 1866 nearly double what it was in 1856. And he states that, as one consequence of the great rise in agricultural profits, the area of ryotwari cultivation rose from 10 millions of acres in 1856 to 16 millions of acres in 1866. The best opinion seems to be that, compared with what he was 25 years ago, the Madras ryot is now a well-to-do, substantial, peasant proprietor.

24. Sir Richard Temple's tour in the Madras districts was short; but there were ample opportunities of inquiring from the revenue officers. The Collectors of Kurnool and Chingleput, alone of the Collectors, described their ryots as poor. It seemed to be the general opinion, that in other districts the ryots were in ordinary years well of, and enjoyed (for an Indian rural population) a high "standard of comfort." Nowhere in Madras were heard accounts of any general indebtedness and ruin of the ryots, such as are told, orally and in the reports, regarding the ryots of Sholapur, Poona, and part of Khandesh. Regarding the ordinary condition of the ryots of "dry" lands in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah, no estimate could be formed during a short tour in a time of famine. But no one who has seen the splendid cultivation of the delta country in Tinnevelly, South Arcot, Trichinopoly, and Tanjore, can regard the peasant proprietors of those tracts as heavily taxed, when they pay a combined land and water-rent of 5 to 8 rupees an acre for fields which yield two and three crops a year. Nowhere in India, save in the best parts of the delta districts of Eastern Bengal, can such rich cultivation as that which covers the irrigated lands in the delta districts of the Madras Presidency be seen.

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* *See* paragraph V. of the note appended to his memorandum.

† NOTE.—*See* the facts as to increase of cultivation quoted from Mr. Dalyell's Memoir in the next paragraph.

25. Statistics regarding the selling price of land in Madras districts are not at present available; but it is understood that 400 rupees and 500 rupees an acre is no uncommon price for irrigated lands in the delta districts. The Madras Administration Report does not contain tables of the ordinary wages of labour. But, so far as could be ascertained, the daily wages of an adult unskilled labourer in Madras ranges from 3 annas to 4 annas; that is to say, 50 to 80 per cent. higher than in the North-West Provinces, the Punjab, or Behar. And it is reasonable to suppose that, where the wages of unskilled labour are high, the earnings of the classes above the common labourer must be fairly good.

26. There remains the argument as to the extreme smallness of so many ryotwari holdings in Madras. It may be taken that, under ordinary circumstance, a Madras ryot can maintain himself and his family on a holding of nine acres of "dry land," or on a holding of 4 acres of "wet" land. He would till his fields himself, and would spend very little on wages. His surplus profits per acre would be greater than in the case of a large holding of 25 to 30 acres, whereon hired labour was employed. And the proprietor of the small holding would be able to make good the small arrears on a bad year as easily as the proprietor of a large holding could pay the larger arrears due from him. In Madras there are a great number of petty ryots whose holdings range from 1 to 3 acres; and in ordinary cases such holdings do not suffice to support the ryot and his family, who probably work for hire during a part of the year. The liability to make good the arrears of a single bad year (3 or 4 rupees in all) would not press very hardly on such a ryot in a country where the wages of labour are high.

27. There remains the alleged risk that the ryots, if called on to pay the arrears of a former year, would throw up their holdings. In Northern India the land revenue settlement binds not only the Government but also the landholder for the term of its duration. But the Madras settlement, while it binds the Government not to demand more than the fixed revenue rate, permits the ryot to surrender his holding any year he chooses. But the land in Madras districts is, for the most part, a valuable possession; the land revenue is moderate; the soil is good; markets are near; means of communication are remarkably good. And it may very well be doubted whether any considerable number of ryots would throw up their lands because they were called upon to make good the arrears of a bad year from the surplus profits of two or three bumper crops. Wholesale surrender of lands does not occur in a Madras district when the full land revenue is collected, without any suspensions or postponements, in years of partial failure of crop.

28. The only occasion that can be recalled on which similar apprehensions were expressed was in 1866–67. In that year the Commissioner of Assam, acting under the orders of the Government of Bengal, raised the (previously very light) land revenue 70 per cent. all round. The Assam ryots held their lands direct from Government on yearly leases. It was predicted by some of the revenue officers that the sudden enhancement of the land revenue would cause the ryots to surrender their holdings. But the Commissioner of Assam knew that the lands of Assam were fertile, and could well bear an increased revenue; so he persevered. Many thousands of ryots thereupon resigned their holdings, but after they had filed their resignations in the Collectors' offices, they one and all returned home and tilled their lands just as before. So the enhanced revenue was paid, and the area of actual cultivation hardly decreased at all.

This Assam case is adduced to show that Indian ryots are not so short-sighted as to throw up good properties because the fiscal arrangements of Government impose on those holdings, temporarily or permanently, a moderate burden.

29. It is submitted that there is really nothing so special in the condition of the Madras ryot and his tenure as to make it expedient for the State to grant him remissions of land revenue under circumstances which entitle landholders in other parts of India to suspensions of land revenue instead of remissions. It was shown (para. 2 above) that the Government grants remissions of land revenue very sparingly indeed to landholders of Northern India, even in famine years. If the Madras ryot, however, gets his land revenue remitted in a famine year, and if the Imperial Government accepts the practice as correct, then it will be very difficult to refuse similar concessions to landholders and ryots of other provinces which may hereafter be afflicted by famine.

30. If all the costs of a famine, including losses of land revenue, are hereafter to be borne by the province concerned, then other provinces of the empire have less interest in the amount of land revenue remissions which may be granted in the famine-stricken districts of Madras. But if the loss caused by such remissions has to be made good from the general taxation of the empire, then the taxpayers and administrators of other

provinces have some claim to ask, either that the practice of Madras in this respect be re-considered, or else that similar concessions be made to them when they are afflicted by famine.

31. If it be said that the practice of postponing arrears of land revenue from one year to another is new to the Madras Presidency, then it might be replied that the practice of spending millions of public money on saving famine-striken populations, though its humanity and expedience are widely admitted, is to some extent new also. This advance of policy—an advance which no English or native administrator will regret—involves a vast expenditure of public money. And, therefore, in the interests of the public treasury, the Madras Presidency may reasonably assimilate its practice, in respect of remissions of land revenue, more nearly to the practice of other parts of India, and thereby secure the State against very large, but avoidable, loss of revenue in years of famine.

No. 18.

Encl. in No. 51.

NOTE by MR. BERNARD to PARAGRAPH 20 of his MEMORANDUM regarding Land Revenue Remissions consequent on the Failure of Harvests in 1876.

It may be well to cite the authorities for the figures used in obtaining the results summarised at the end of paragraph 19 of the foregoing memorandum.

MADRAS.

2. The incidence of land revenue per acre is taken from the tables at pages 99, 101, 102 of the Administration Report for 1874–75. The total assessed area is given (pp. 101, 102) at 19,380,000 acres. The land revenue (inclusive of the water-rent) on these lands is put down at 329 lakhs. If to this be added the water-rent on ryotwari lands of the Krishna and Godavari, about 15 lakhs, we get a total land and water revenue of 344 lakhs on the ryotwari lands of the presidency. And this gives an average incidence of Rs. 1·75 per acre.

3. The total land revenue of the Madras Presidency is taken at 450 lakhs. In the Administration Report for 1874–75 the total land revenue is variably stated at 463* lakhs, 455 lakhs, and 442 lakhs. A land revenue of 450 lakhs on a total population of 32 millions gives an incidence of Rs. 1·4 per head.

4. It is not quite clear how much land is irrigated, or what is the total of the combined land and water-rent for the "wet" lands. The revenue chapter of the report (page 102) gives the "wet" lands at 3,500,000 acres, yielding a total revenue of 162 lakhs. The irrigation chapter (page 301) gives the irrigated area at 4,500,000 acres, yielding a total revenue of 192 lakhs. The irrigated zemindari lands paying 8½ lakhs (page 99) water-rent account for only a small part of the discrepancy. I have split the difference, and taken the irrigated area at 4,000,000 acres, on which the water-rent, at Rs. 3 per acre, would be 120 lakhs. The balance, 320 lakhs, being land revenue proper, falls on the total population at the rate of Rs. 1·03 per head. And the land revenue† proper, exclusive of the water-rent, falls on the ryotwari lands at the rate of Rs. 1·1 per acre.

† 167 lakhs on "dry" land, page 101.
57 lakhs, being 162 lakhs (page 102) less by Rs. 3 an acre for water-rent on 3,500,000 acres.
224 lakhs,—total land revenue proper on the area given.

NORTH-WEST PROVINCES.

5. The land revenue is taken (page 269 of the Administration Report for 1875–76) at 419 lakhs. But out of this total, 9 lakhs are (page 139) indirectly due to irrigation; so that the land revenue proper is only 410 lakhs. The water-rent, direct and indirect, is (page 139) 37½ lakhs. The area irrigated is (page 141) 1,188,000 acres; so that the water-rent falls at about Rs. 3⅛ per acre. The total cultivated revenue-paying area is (General Statement III. of the Census‡) 23,750,000 acres; and on this area the combined land and revenue rent (447½ lakhs) falls at the rate of Rs. 1·88 per acre, while the land revenue proper (410 lakhs) falls at the rate of Rs. 1·72. On a population of 31 millions the land and water-rent fall at the rate of Rs. 1·44, and the land revenue proper at the rate of Rs. 1·32 per head.

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* These totals seem to include about 10 or 12 lakhs collected on behalf of village officers or others entitled to allowances. I have, however, made no deduction on this account.

‡ I have no access to more recent returns of cultivated areas.

Oudh.

6. The table of page xxxi of the Oudh Administration Report for 1875–76 gives the total land revenue at 148 lakhs; and the rate per acre of cultivated land under assessment, Rs. 1-12-11 (or Rs. 1·8). The population of Oudh is (page xxvi) 11,180,000. And on the population the land revenue (without any water-rent) falls at the rate of Rs. 1·3 per head.

Bombay.

7. If Sindh be included, then, according to the last Census Report, the area of cultivated land assessed to land revenue is 23,900,000 acres. The total land revenue in the Administration Report of 1875–76 is stated (page 202) at 369 lakhs, and also (page 226) at 339 lakhs. In the Census Report the land revenue is taken at 260 lakhs. The explanation of this discrepancy, perhaps, is that the Census Report gives the net land revenue, after deducting from the gross assessment "the allowances and assignments" made out of the gross land reveuue. These allowances are in most other parts of India paid direct by the villagers to the recipients, and do not pass through the public treasury. The total of "assignments, &c." is (page 203) 75½ lakhs, out of which about 63 lakhs are deductions from the land revenue. For the purposes of the present calculation the Bombay land revenue has been taken at 280 lakhs. This gives an incidence of Rs. 1·17 to the acre, and of Rs. 1·72 on the population of 16¼ millions.

British Burmah.

8. The Administration Report for 1873–74 gives (paragraph 334) the total territorial revenue,—that is to say, the land tax and the capitation tax—at 72 lakhs. The cultivated area is given in the same report at 2,400,000 acres; and the population by the last census 2,818,000. These figures give an incidence of Rs. 3 per acre and Rs. 2·55 per head of population.

Punjab.

9. The last census gave a population of 17,600,000. The Administration Report of 1875–76 gives the land revenue at 202 lakhs, of which 2 lakhs were tribute; so that the land revenue proper was 200 lakhs. The area of cultivated land under assessment is put at 14,400,000 acres. These figures give an incidence of Rs. 1·38 per acre and Rs. 1·14 per head of the population.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 19.

Memorandum by the Honourable E. W. Ravenscroft, C.S.I., Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

The subject of remissions of the land revenue in the Bombay Presidency was in an unsettled state until the 7th February 1877. On that day the Government of India telegraphed as follows:—

"Government of India do not desire to limit the discretion of local Government in matter of this kind, and will be satisfied if Collectors are again warned against too free remissions, and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appears likely that the ryot will, without undue pressure, be able to pay up next season."

On the 13th February the Bombay Government, having fully considered the whole question, issued the following Resolution:—

"Copy of the Government of India telegram to be sent to the three Revenue Commissioners for information and guidance.

"2. In individual cases of remissions, Collectors will use the discretion which is entrusted to them by Government to dispose of such cases.

"3. Where general and large remissions are to be given, they will report the matter to Government through the respective Commissioners for final disposal."

Again, on the 21st February 1877, the following letter was written to the Revenue Commissioners :—

"I am desired by his Excellency the Governor in Council to draw your particular attention to the concluding portion of the telegram from the Government of India on the subject of remissions —

"'The Government of India will be satisfied if Collectors are again warned against too free remissions, and authorised to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appears likely that the ryot will, without undue pressure, be able to pay up next season.'"

These orders show the exact conditions on which remissions and suspensions of land revenue are granted by the Bombay Government. The method of carrying out these orders is as follows :—The Assistant Collector in charge of each taluka makes a careful investigation of the state of the crops of his taluka. The charge of each officer not being very large, he is able to do this in an efficient and thorough manner. Having satisfied himself, by personal examination, as far as is possible, and where he cannot personally examine, on the reports of the native officials, he submits his proposals, both as regards remissions, and suspensions to the Collector of his district. The Collector of the district satisfies himself as to the propriety of the proposals ; and when satisfied, forwards them to the Revenue Commissioner of the division. This latter officer then submits the proposals as regards each taluka separately to Government; and final orders, after full investigation of all the papers, are passed by Government. By this means it appears that the orders of the Government of India are carried out according to their letter and spirit. Up to the present time the revenue settlements of many talukas have not been made. It is not therefore possible to say yet what proportion the remissions will bear to last year's collections, or to suspensions held over for collection till next year. To give however some idea on the subject, some of the talukas of the Collectorate of Ahmednagar may be quoted. In the taluka of Nagar the trifling sum of 3 annas has been remitted, whilst the sum of Rs. 36,102–5–2 has been held over for future collection. In the taluka of Jamkhed Rs. 28,532–8–1 have been remitted, and Rs. 7,137–2–3 held over for future collection. In Kopargaon Rs. 26,009 have been remitted, and Rs. 54,062 held over for future collection. These figures are all much lower than the original estimates; and I have no doubt that the remissions of land revenue will be considerably less than was at one time probable. I think 25 or 30 lakhs will cover all the remissions. After the fullest inquiry I feel convinced that the revenue officers, though most heavily worked with famine matters, are paying the closest attention to the very important subject of collecting the land revenue. They are loyally carrying out the wishes of Government, which, briefly, are to see that the State does not lose more than is actually necessary, but at the same time to see that the ryot is not unduly pressed. I believe also that the ryot fully recognises the liberality and equity of Government. He knows perfectly well that Government must collect that portion of its land revenue which the ryots *can* pay ; and he knows also now by experience that Government are willing to draw distinctions between different grades of want, and that in some cases it would be foolish to forego altogether what may be collected with care at a future time. If a hard and fast line had been drawn that *no* revenue was to be remitted, but that every farthing was to be collected in some future year, the ryot in many cases would have become utterly despondent or reckless. He now feels that his case is judged on its merits. If his misfortune has been so great, and his condition is so critical, that to compel him to pay this year's rent either now, or in the future, would ruin him, he knows he will be let off altogether. If without undue pressure, he can pay at some future time, he feels that he is not being called on to do anything that is unfair, and he willingly accepts the alternative.

The subject of collecting in future years the outstandings of this year will require much consideration; but this can be settled when all the Jamabundies are completed, and the full amount of remissions and suspensions is known. Statements are being daily corrected in the Secretariat, showing the exact amount of remissions and suspensions up to date; and these will enable Government, as soon as the famine is over, to learn exactly, without loss of time and in detail, how the very important subject of remitting or suspending the land revenue has been treated in the different collectorates of this presidency affected by famine.

Encl. in No. 37.

No. 20.

No. 1669B., dated Fort St. George, 8th May 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras to Mr. C. E. Buckland, Private Secretary to his Excellency Sir Richard Temple.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Bernard's letters, Nos. 197, 199, 202, 204, 206, and the Minutes by Sir Richard Temple to which they gave cover, and to state, with reference to Sir Richard Temple's suggestions regarding South Arcot, that while the Government are prepared to meet the question of the concentration of all able-bodied labour in the district on public works under the Public Works Department and of the relaxation of certain departmental orders, it is not possible to lay down any rule until the probable area over which distress is likely to extend is more accurately indicated, which cannot be the case until it is known whether rain has fallen in any of the taluks of the district.

2. With regard to Sir Richard Temple's suggestions relative to the conduct of public works in the North Arcot district, I am to state that his Grace in Council does not consider it is expedient to issue a general order that all able-bodied persons in need of relief should be drafted to the irrigation works, as much will depend on the locality or nature of the works in question and on the seat of distress from time to time.

3. In reply to the suggestions relative to the removal of paupers from relief camps, I am to state that the removal of small parties has already been carried out in various cases, but has not been very successful, the paupers having in some cases returned on foot long distances in order to gather round the visionary plenty of the presidency town, a proceeding which there was no legal means of preventing.

4. The suggestion contained in Mr. Bernard's letter, No. 204, must of necessity be adopted as the consequence of giving effect to the order of this Government quoted.

5. Sir Richard Temple's other suggestions will receive careful consideration.

Encl. in No. 79.

No. 21.

No. 431, dated 8th May 1877.

From Surgeon-Major W. R. Cornish, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of G.O. No. 1,630, of 3rd instant, and, with reference to the question therein raised, to submit the following remarks.

2. In my report dated 29th April, I mentioned that the Honourable Sir Richard Temple had, at Goondacul, on the 24th of April, picked out 41 men from a gang of 180, who from weakness and emaciation were obviously unfit for work, and whom he considered should be fed at a relief-house without work. Of these persons, so far as could be ascertained, only 12 had recently come on the works, the remainder having been present for two or more months. In addition to these 41, I noted 18 others who, in my opinion, were in very feeble condition. As, at a previous inspection on 23rd February 1877, Dr. Harvey, Sir Richard Temple's medical attendant, specially comments on the fine physique of the Goondacul gangs, the only inference I can draw from the fact is that, to quote Sir Richard Temple's own words, the men had been getting "thinner and thinner" and "weaker and weaker, till at last they have had to be drafted off to "gratuitous relief-camps as unfit to work."

3. I have, in former reports, commented on the great fluctuations which occur in the units of gangs on relief works. From a variety of causes the people met with at one inspection are not to be found at a subsequent inspection. For instance, Dr. van Someren, about two months ago, weighed 25 men, 25 women, 25 boys, and 25 girls (total 100) of the relief labourers at Palaveram, and at an inspection made conjointly with myself on Thursday, the 3rd instant, there were present of the 100 persons—

Men	12
Women	3
Boys	5
Girls	4
Total	24

that is, more than three-fourths of the individuals whose heights, ages, and weights were specially registered were not at the works two months subsequently.

4. Now the experience of the Palaveram works is the experience more or less of every relief work in the country. Of the people who come to work, some few remain permanently, but the great majority are constantly shifting from week to week and month to month. The weakly ones I imagine, from Mr. Howe's experience in the Bellary district, are turned out of the gangs by the maistries, or else give up in despair and wait quietly at home to die.

5. I am quite aware of the fact that in the several labour gangs are to be met many persons who have not been perceptibly reduced in flesh or strength, and their presence amongst the labourers, no doubt, tends to the support of the view that relief wage is, in itself, sufficient to keep a man in health and strength. According to my experience, these well-to-do looking people are mainly composed of two classes :—

(1.) Of small landholders and servants of ryots who have obviously other means of livelihood besides what they get from the Government relief.

(2.) Of the flesh-eating castes to whom the famine has brought an enormous supply of cheap and nourishing food, and who have been exceptionally well off during the period when cattle were dying, or being sold for a mere trifle to the lower castes who used animal food.

6. A very close and minute inspection of relief labourers in various parts of the country has satisfied me that it is chiefly the above classes who are in good physical condition; and I think it has been the presence of so many of the flesh-eating classes amongst the gangs that has tended to give wrong impressions regarding the actual condition of the people as a whole.

7. From the constant changes going on in the individuals of the several gangs on relief labour, it is clear that there is the greatest difficulty in tracing out the effects of wages on their health and strength; but the impressions of famine officers like Messrs. Price, Gribble, Oldham, Murray, Ferricks, and others, who have had daily opportunities of observations, cannot be lightly set aside, and I think there can be no reasonable doubt that of the vast number who go for a short time on relief works and then leave them, many do so from a conviction that the wage is insufficient for the maintenance of their health and strength, and that many of these gradually drift into a low condition and die in their homes, or ultimately come in great numbers on our gratuitous feeding camps.

In my report on Bellary I alluded to the case of a man who had been on relief works, but whose wife died of starvation, and afterwards two children died in the same way, the third child being in an hopeless state when I saw it, and the father himself so stricken that I doubt if he can survive.

8. Government are well aware of the rapid and enormous increase of gratuitous relief,—not for young children or old people only, but to those in the prime of life,—in all the distressed districts. This is a sure indication of increasing weakness and diminishing vitality amongst the labouring classes.

9. The death registration in the famine districts, as compared with that in districts which have not hitherto required special means of relief, tells the same tale. In the returns before me for the month of February 1877, the registered deaths in the eight famine districts as per margin were in the annual ratio of 81·3 per thousand of the population, while in the remaining districts of the presidency (with the exception of Tinnevelly and South Canara, the figures of which have not come to hand), the registered mortality was only 23·2 per thousand. The people, in fact, of the famine districts in the month of February were dying nearly four times as fast as in other parts of the presidency. Cholera and small-pox have been general throughout the presidency, but it is only in the famine tracts that this excessive mortality has been going on (the figures for the months of December and January are given in my letter and memorandum, No. 243, of the 6th April).

Madras.	Cuddapah.
Chingleput.	Bellary.
Nellore.	Kurnool.
North Arcot.	Salem.

10. It would seem, therefore, to be idle to dispute or question the fact of the connexion between the famine and mortality of the population. The connexion between the experimental famine wage and the mortality of the labourers is not so easy to trace, for the reason that the labour gangs fluctuate so violently as regards their *personnel* that we cannot trace out the history of the individual workers with the precision that is so desirable in an experiment like that of Sir Richard Temple's; and secondly, the destruction of life by chronic insufficiency of food is a very slow, though very certain process. It is easy enough to make assertions on either view of the case when proof is impracticable. The difficulty lies in following out the history of a sufficient number of

NOTE.—Bullocks, carrying from 70 to 100 lbs. of flesh, have been sold for 8 annas each during the famine

individuals. As regards those weakened by insufficient food, it seems quite obvious that the tendency would be to their elimination from the working gangs and to their joining the ranks of the sick and the diseased, which swells so largely the mortality bills of the famine districts.

11. But however this may be, I must again take my stand on the insufficiency of the famine wage to supply the food necessary for the physiological requirements of the body. The practical results show that the wages have been inadequate to keep the people steadily at work, and the increasing numbers of persons unfitted for work show that the famine relief has not met fully the necessities of the people in the way of keeping up their health and strength. That there are many able-bodied persons still remaining on relief works I very gladly admit; but I do not think that they have had to thank the famine wage for their present condition, while I am quite certain that in the case of those who have had no other means of support, or in those unable or unwilling to use the abnormal supply of cheap animal food, the effects have been and will be disastrous.

12. I infer from the present Minute by Sir Richard Temple, as well as from some of his earlier reports, that he supposes the rescue of persons who have fallen into a weak and emaciated state from prolonged ill-feeding to be a very simple matter, necessitating only care and the judicious use of nourishing food. But my own warnings to the Government have all along been distinct on this point, that chronic starvation is a disease practically beyond remedy, and that more good will result from keeping the population from falling into a low state than from any subsequent efforts to save life in the case of those whose vitality has been imperilled by insufficient food for a long period of time. If the famine has taught us anything at all, it has certainly shown us what a very dangerous condition chronic ill-feeding will bring the people to, and the extreme difficulty of remedying this condition by the most careful and humane system of treatment.

13. The great facts to be borne in mind in connexion with the system of relief works is the constant shifting of the units of the gangs, the general preponderance of women in the gangs, thereby showing that some of the able-bodied male population have other sources of employment and most probably of income also. The next two months will prove a very critical time for those who have still strength to work, and it seems to me that on grounds of public policy, it is highly important that work should be everywhere found for those who really need it for their maintenance, and that it would be safer to err on the side of liberality in this respect up to the time when the normal agricultural employments of the people are resumed.

14. I suppose no one has yet been able to frame anything like an estimate of the effects of the famine on the population, but, making due allowances for defective registration of mortality and for the inevitable mortality that must outlast the dearth of food, I have grounds for supposing that the population of the affected districts will be reduced in eighteen months' time by one-fifth or one-sixth of the number living before the scarcity commenced. This of course is an estimate only based on the current birth and death-rates, and the present generally enfeebled condition of the working classes in the affected districts.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 22.

No. CXVI.—Minute by Sir Richard Temple, dated Bombay, May 9th, 1877.

In the remarks made towards the end of Part III. of my general report on the famine in the Madras Presidency, regarding the collection of the land revenue, it was stated that I might have to offer some further remarks on that subject, which is very important, involving, as it does, a proposed remission of land revenue to an amount of nearly one and a half million sterling (143 lakhs of rupees). Any such remission, if it is really conceded, must necessarily be a circumstance of much gravity. I accordingly submit a momorandum drawn up, at my request, by my Secretary, Mr. Bernard, of the principal arguments which, to my mind, affect this important question; also a memorandum by Mr. Ravenscroft, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, of the orders given in the Bombay Presidency on the subject. If a reference be made to the Minute by Sir W. Robinson and the letter by Mr. Carmichael and the Board's circular of the 1st March, it will be seen that there is a considerable difference between the practice which is being pursued in Madras and in Bombay, and that the practice in Bombay will probably lead to a greater proportion of the land revenue being collected in that presidency than in Madras. There is in the Bombay Presidency, as I am informed, a much closer scrutiny than in the Madras Presidency into the circumstances of every ryot or payer of land-tax, on whose behalf remission of land revenue is claimed: the question

being in Bombay, not whether a man has lost so much of his crop or whether he would be entitled to remission according to an assumed rule of per-centage; but whether his circumstances admit of his paying the revenue which he had by settlement engaged to pay. My impression is, that in Madras many ryots are likely to obtain remissions, because a part of their crops failed, notwithstanding that the other part, which was saved, yielded them a good money return quite enabling them to pay their revenue. If this be so, it ought not, I submit, to happen. It certainly would not happen in the Bombay Presidency. The main point, however, is this, that in Bombay no land revenue is now remitted so long as there is any chance of its being collected. It is, indeed, suspended for the moment, if its immediate collection seems calculated to bear hard upon the ryot. Time is readily allowed to the man within which to pay. If the seasons become propitious, he will have the means of paying; if they continue unpropitious, the amount at first suspended may have in the end to be remitted. In Madras, on the other hand, there seemed to be at the outset a disposition to remit much of the land revenue as soon as the failure of crop had declared itself.

The orders by the Madras Revenue Board will lead to more, or to less, of remission, according as they are carried out with a disposition to make concessions or with strictness. If they be carried out with strictness,—that is, if the revenue officers be instructed to collect all that they fairly can within the lines laid down by the Board,—if, too, they be duly impressed with the serious consequences of an extensive remission of land revenue,—then I should hope that, if the coming season shall prove propitious, much revenue may yet be collected, and the amount actually remitted may ultimately prove much less than the first anticipation. There is time within which much may yet be done, as the remission inquiries are still going on, and as the matter will not be finally settled till July, or perhaps till August. If instructions in this sense were now to issue, much of the threatened loss of land revenue might yet be retrieved.

Orders in this sense have been previously given in the Bombay Presidency, and will be reiterated. The amount first estimated to be remitted was 78½ lakhs of rupees. The second estimate was 56 lakhs, but the best authorities now hope that the amount actually remitted will prove much less. The Government itself exercises supervision over this subject. The amount proposed to be remitted in every single village has to be reported to Government, and is not finally remitted till the orders of Government have been received. This practice does, doubtless, act as a check upon remission.

Whether the same practice prevails in Madras, I am not sure.

It must always be borne in mind that if the drought continues (and the latest accounts of the weather in Southern India are perhaps less favourable than the anticipation), then the remission in the Madras Presidency, as elsewhere, will become greater as the difficulty of collecting the land revenue increases.

Also, it is, perhaps, superfluous to repeat (what, indeed, has been stated in previous papers) that this question in the Madras Presidency refers only to the "dry" or unirrigated lands (including, however, lands irrigated from wells) and not to the "wet" lands irrigated from tanks or canals.

But my sojourn in the Madras Presidency impressed me with the view that greater pressure ought to be put upon the cultivators of the wet lands to cultivate these lands as "dry," or unirrigated lands, whenever the tank water or the canal water fails. It often happens in these lands that, although the water supply from the tank or the canal is withheld, and, consequently, the superior crops cannot be raised; still some crops, perhaps of an inferior sort, can be afterwards raised by digging temporary wells and other expedients. The existing revenue system seems to me to fail to apply an adequate stimulus to the cultivator in this respect.

If the tank water is withheld, full remission of land revenue follows as a matter of course; although for many years past, the cultivator has drawn a good profit from these fields. If, afterwards, a man chooses to grow "dry" or inferior crops on these lands, he will, indeed, be charged with land revenue. But if he neglects to do so, and lets his land be uncultivated, he is not charged at all; and thus he has not the stimulus which cultivators in other parts of India have, who know their liability to pay land-tax even if they neglect to cultivate. It might not be difficult to arrange the settlements so that the cultivators of wet lands should feel themselves obliged to do their utmost to raise "dry" crops on their lands in years when the tank water fails.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 23.

No. CXVIII.—Memorandum by Mr. C. Bernard, late Secretary to Sir Richard Temple.

Proceedings of the Madras and Bombay Revenue Authorities in regard to Remission of Land Revenue in 1876–77 up to the end of March 1877.

Nágpur, May 10, 1877.

In a memorandum dated the 28th April was offered some account of the general considerations affecting the question of remitting land revenue due from famine-stricken tracts. Copies of correspondence regarding revenue remissions in most of the affected districts of Madras have now been received.* The proceedings of the Bombay Government and its officers in respect of revenue remissions are also available, and Sir Richard Temple desires to submit this brief review of these papers, with his remarks, to the Government of India. This memorandum could not be prepared until after the close of Sir Richard Temple's mission to Madras, because the necessary papers were not received until the beginning of the month of May.

* Chief Secretary's letter dated 26th April 1877.

2. In case this review should be read without the previous memorandnm of the 28th April, it may be well to state very briefly some of the distinctive features of the Madras revenue system.

About one-fifth of the cultivated land of Madras is held by large proprietors (zemindars) on quit-rents, settled in perpetuity many years ago. The remaining four-fifths are held by petty proprietors (ryots), at land revenue rates liable to periodical revision. The land revenue of Madras is derived from three distinct sources, namely:—

		Rs.
Permanently settled, quit-rent, and zemindari estates paying about		69,00,000
Irrigated ryotwari lands, paying land revenue at "wet" rates, about		1,70,00,000
Ryotwari lands which are unirrigated, or are irrigated only from wells, paying at "dry" rates, about		1,69,00,000
Add—for the two West Coast districts	Rs. 30,70,000	
for miscellaneous land revenue	„ 26,50,000	
		57,20,000
Total		4,65,20,000

Over a part of the Madras Presidency (about nine districts out of 21) the land revenue has been settled for 30 years. At the settlement a deduction is made to meet losses from vicissitudes of season before the Government revenue is assessed on the land. In the settled districts, and also in the districts not yet settled, the land revenue is separated into—

(*a.*) The demand from "dry" lands;

(*b.*) The demand from "wet" land to which the State supplies water for irrigation; this demand includes both the revenue from the land and the rent of the water.

3. Every season the revenue authorities verify the land actually held by each individual ryot, surcharge any ryots who have cultivated extra lands, and grant remission of land revenue to certain of the ryots whose crops may have failed. This annual operation, which extends over some months, is called the "jamabandi." The rules under which remission of land revenue is permissible are, briefly, as follows:—

(1.) The land revenue is remitted in full on all "wet" lands, whereon the crop may have totally failed by reason of lack or excess of water.

(2.) In districts not yet settled, partial remission of land revenue is granted for lands whereon the crop may have partially failed from like causes.

(3.) No remission of land revenue is permissible in respect of "dry" lands, save in "very exceptional" years and very exceptional "seasons."

When "dry" remissions are necessary, the Collector reports to the Board what percentage of the land revenue ought in his judgment to be remitted on the "dry" lands in any specified tract or tracts of his districts. The Board passes orders on such report. Remissions are granted at "jamabandi" according to the rate sanctioned by the Board on all the "dry" lands of the specified tract, irrespective of the means of individual ryots, and irrespective of any good crops which such ryots have had on their "wet" lands, or which they may have secured by special effort, or by some chance on their "dry" lands.

Until the "jamabandi" of a tract or district is done, the financial results of the remissions sanctioned thereon cannot be known. Collectors and Sub-Collectors have full discretions to award more or less remission to any tract, and to treat any village or tract specially, so long as the limit of remission sanctioned by the Board is in no case exceeded. Thus very much latitude is, in this matter, left to district officers who are the constituted guardians both of the people and of the public revenue.

4. The ordinary rules were held to suffice for the requirements of the present season. No special orders were issued regarding remissions when the famine declared itself in December last, or when Sir Richard Temple, during January 1877, recommended caution in remitting land revenue. But on the 1st March the Board issued a circular, which will have an effect in restricting remissions at the "jamabandi" now being effected all over the Madras Presidency. A copy of that circular is appended;* its results should be advantageous to the public treasury. Its purport was that the disposition of Tahsildars† and subordinate Revenue officers to recommend wholesale remissions, should be checked; that remissions should not be given for "dry" lands whereon one moderate crop had been secured, even though that crop were not the principal crop of the year; that the per-centage of remissions sanctioned by the Board was in each case a maximum, and remissions should be kept below the maximum wherever possible; that no remission should be allowed for partial failure on lands which had yielded half an ordinary crop, for the money value of such a yield was large owing to the high prices prevailing.

* NOTE.—*See* Appendix A. The meaning of parts of that circular will perhaps be veiled by the use of vernacular terms peculiar to Madras. It may be well, therefore, to explain that—
Punjah lands are those assessed to land revenue at "dry" rates;
Nunjah lands are those assessed at "wet" rates;
Shavi lands are those on which the crop may have withered, by reason of drought, before harvest.

† NOTE.—The correspondence summarised in the following paragraph shows that revenue officers above the grades here described occasionally recommened "wholesale remissions."

5. The correspondence now forwarded regarding remissions may be summarised for each district, as follows:—

BELLARY.

The Collector reported that "wet" remissions would be granted under the rules; he asked general sanction to the grant of requisite "dry" remissions by officers making the "jamabandi." The Board granted (31st October) the general sanction asked. Nothing further passed on the question. No subsequent report seems to have been received from the Collector. The latitude of discretion given him by the Board will have been limited somewhat by their circular of 1st March.

KURNOOL.

The Collector proposed "full remissions of 'dry' assessment, as there was no doubt "that such crops had utterly failed throughout the district" * * * * Remission to be granted in cases of proved failure. The Board sanctioned (3rd January) the Collector's proposals for "cases of proved failure." They observed that on much "dry" land a crop must have been secured by means of irrigation from the canal and from wells. The Board's orders appear to Sir Richard Temple to be correct so far as they went. But the terms of the late Collector's proposal seem to be quite unguarded, and might, if acted upon, lead to an almost total relinquishment of the land revenue of the district, excepting the canal tracts. Such proposals, doubtless made at a time of alarm, indicate the need of supervision. It would have been more satisfactory if a subsequent report had been called for from the present Collector.

CUDDAPAH.

The Collector proposed full remission on all* "dry" lands not cultivated, and a per-centage remission of from two-thirds to three-fourths of the whole assessment for "dry" lands in villages whereon there had been partial failure of crop. The Board sanctioned (10th February) the Collector's proposals, but pointed out that a very moderate crop would give the ryot a good money yield at present prices. Here, again, the proposals made by the late Collector seem to Sir Richard Temple to be excessive and to amount to this—that under a settlement the ryot is to have all the profit of the good years and the Government all the loss of the bad years. Here, also, it would be well to look for the report, which will doubtless be prepared by the present Collector.

* NOTE.—It is not clear if this includes assessed pasture lands; *see* reference to these lands by the Kistna District Collector below.

Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah.

For each of these districts the Board sanctioned the remission of all demands on petty quit-rent (inam) holdings whereon no crop had been produced; and also suspension (*i.e.*, postponement till a better season) of the Government revenue on larger holdings of this class. The Madras Government disallowed (13th February) remission on any quit-rent (inam) holdings, but approved suspensions of the Government demand thereon in cases of extreme failure of crop. The orders of the Government of Madras seem to Sir Richard Temple to have been very necessary in this case. These holdings have been enjoyed for many good years on nominal assessments, and in a bad year the holders object to pay even this much, little as it is.

North Arcot.

The Collector asked sanction to the grant of liberal remission at "jamabandi" in certain tracts where drought had been worst. The Board agreed (13th January) to "dry" remissions being made in the specified taluks "to such extent as might seem urgently needed." The Collector subsequently (15th February) reported that he had instructed his officers to be sparing with remissions. Sir Richard Temple believes that the Collector did try to prevent excessive remissions being allowed.

South Arcot.

The Collector proposed a remission of one-third the assessment on "dry" lands (exclusive of pasture land) not brought under cultivation; and a remission of from half to three quarters the assessment on certain food crops that had failed. The Board sanctioned (13th February) remissions of one-third the assessment on "dry" waste,—nothing else,—as even a very moderate crop at the present time gives a considerable money yield. Sir Richard Temple sees great force in this remark. It would be well if this view were borne in mind oftener than it apparently is. The Collector again wrote asking for remission in cases of partial failure. But the Board adhered (10th March) to their previous order. Sir Richard Temple believes that these orders of the Board were right so far as they went.

Salem.

The Collector proposed 60 per cent. remission on the "dry" lands of three-quarters, and 40 per cent. remission on the "dry" lands of one quarter of his district. The Board were disposed (20th December) to grant "entire" remission in "villages where "the crop had entirely failed, and per-centage remissions according to circumstances "elsewhere."

The Collector wrote again, proposing 75 per cent. remission, where one-quarter of an ordinary crop had been secured; and 30 per cent. remission where two-thirds had been saved. The Board declined (3rd February) to accept the principle that remission of land revenue should be granted in the full ratio that the crop had failed; and pointed out that in other respects also the Collector's proposals went beyond the requirements of the case. The Collector sent further details, and recommended the remission of from 15 to 60 per cent. on the land revenue of tracts where there had been partial failure of the crop. The Board sanctioned (12th March) these proposals, subject to compliance with orders contained in the circular of the 1st March. These proposals of the Collector seem to Sir Richard Temple to have been extreme and calculated to involve undue sacrifice of revenue. They were very rightly checked by the Board.

Godavery.

The Collector proposed 50 per cent. remission on "dry" lands in certain villages where there had been entire failure of crop. The Board asked (2nd January) for further information. The Collector subsequently furnished information, and recommended remission at from 10 to 20 per cent. on the assessment in certain villages. The Board sanctioned (17th and 20th February) the proposals, but observed that inquiry into individual cases of failure was wrong.

Kistna.

The Collector reported that the yield on "dry" lands in his district had been, on the average, half an ordinary crop. He recommended remission of one-half the assessment on lands which had yielded less than one-fourth an ordinary crop, and a remission of one-quarter the assessment on land which had yielded less than one-half an ordinary

crop. He also recommended remission of the assessment on pasture lands. The Board sanctioned (3rd March) the Collector's proposals, but the Madras Government called for further report on the reasons for granting remission in respect of pasture lands.

Chingleput.

The Collector proposed full remission on "dry" lands yielding no crop; and percentage remissions for short crop on "dry" lands. The Board sanctioned (19th February) these proposals. This sanction will have been much qualified by the Board's subsequent orders of 1st March. Here again, however, it seems to Sir Richard Temple that the Collector's proposals are extreme, and amounted to an almost total sacrifice of land revenue. It is to be remembered that, on the one hand, this district has great advantages from its proximity to the capital, and on the other hand, that it was then suffering from a long-continued drought extending over more than one year.

Coimbatore.

The Collector proposed three-fourths remission on all "dry" lands left uncultivated on account of drought, and partial remission up to a maximum of one-half the assessment for partial failure. Such partial remission was, the Collector said, to be granted to whole tracts, and not to individual villages or holdings. The Board approved (16th January) the Collector's proposals. These proposals of the Collector seem to Sir Richard Temple to have gone considerably beyond the necessity of the case. They will have doubtless been subsequently modified under the Board's subsequent orders of the 1st March.

Trichinopoly.

The Collector asked leave to remit up to 50 per cent. of the "dry" assessment on specially bad tracts; he said that the rates of assessment in his district are low. The Board agreed (13th February) to the Collector's proposals, but observed that no remission should be given for lands whereon one crop had been raised. They further directed (12th March) that not more than half remission should be given in any case, and not more than 25 per cent. where one quarter of an ordinary crop had been secured. Looking to the condition of this district when he last visited it (April), and to its past history, Sir Richard Temple thinks that the Collector's proposals would have involved undue fiscal sacrifice. They were very properly checked by the Board. But the fact of their having been made shows the need of strict supervision by superior authority.

Tanjore.

The Collector proposed remissions up to 25 per cent. of the assessment on certain rain-watered lands. The Board agreed (22nd March), noting that the total remission would be only Rs. 12,350.

Madura.

The report on proposed remissions for Madura is in greater detail than for any other district, and it shows cause for the recommendations respecting each tract. The Board sanctioned (9th March) remissions on "dry" lands at from 25 per cent. to 100 per cent. on the assessment in different tracts, but directed attention to the requirements of their circular of 1st March. Full remission was proposed for only 26 villages.

Tinnevelly.

The Collector proposed "either to remit or to postpone" land revenue on "dry" lands, estimated at $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs; he estimated the "wet" remissions at $5\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, and he recommended the suspension of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs out of the revenue due from the zemindaris. The Board sanctioned "dry" remissions up to 40 per cent. in the settled taluks, and up to 70 per cent. in the taluks not yet settled. They directed that no remission should be given for "wet" lands in settled tracts, whereon even a partial crop had been secured. In regard to the suggestion for postponing part of the demand from ryots, and the proposal to postpone part of the zemindari revenue, it was said that the Board did "not "approve of the principle of postponement and of keeping demands hanging over the "heads of the ryots, and they did not think that sufficient reason had been shown for "extending grace to holders of permanently settled estates." Considering that Tinnevelly is a rich district and ordinarily enjoys good seasons, Sir Richard Temple thinks that it might have been expected to pay most of its land revenue, despite one drought, accord-

ing to the practice in other parts of India; and that the Collector's proposals were over-liberal. They were properly checked by the Board. But Sir Richard Temple would not admit the Board's objection to suspending the instalments due.

No papers have been forwarded regarding remissions in Nellore, Malabar, Ganjam, or Vizagapatam. Remissions are probably being granted in the Nellore district.

6. The correspondence, of which the above is an abstract, gives no materials for framing an estimate of the probable total of the remissions. But it is clear that the more recent orders issued by the Board of Revenue tend to restrict the land revenue remissions within narrower limits than the local revenue officers had proposed. But Sir Richard Temple remarks that in some districts, however, such as Bellary, Chingleput, and Kurnool, the discretion left with the local officers in regard to granting remissions at "jamábandi" is practically unlimited. If Collector, Sub-Collectors, or Head Assistant Collectors could scrutinise the remissions, holding by holding, or even village by village, then the interests of the public treasury would in most cases be safe. But such scrutiny is forbidden by the Board's rules; remissions are granted according to the average circumstances of tracts or groups of villages; the subordinate revenue officers supply the data, and initiate proposals for per-centage remissions on tracts; and when once the per-centage remissions for a tract is decided, the rest follows by an almost purely arithmetical rule of thumb.

7. The "jamábandi" is going on everywhere, and it must have been finished by this time in many taluks. If it be not too late, Sir Richard Temple would represent that it might be well that a member of the Board should consider in personal conference with each Collector the division of the district into tracts for remission purposes, and the per-centage to be granted to each tract. In other parts of India, the Revenue Commissioner would in this way scrutinise the Collector's operations. A perusal of the correspondence leaves an impression that the attention given to this important matter has varied in the different districts. *A full report like that for Madura shows that detailed information has been sifted, that the subject has been thought out, and that general proposals for per-centage remissions (whether their principle be right or wrong) have been framed after consideration of particulars. But it seems to Sir Richard Temple that general proposals for remission in full, such as were made and sanctioned for Bellary and Chingleput, leave a very wide scope for needless sacrifice of public revenue if further supervision be not exercised.

8. The papers regarding land revenue remissions in the Bombay Presidency may be summarised thus :—

"The Bombay Government decided (9th November) to deal separately with land revenue remissions proposed for each district. The Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, proposed that the Collector and his revenue subordinates should at once settle for each drought-stricken village or group of villages the amount of remission to be given, and with the help of the village headmen should settle how much of each ryot's revenue should be collected, how much remitted, and how much postponed for collection during the next two years. The Government decided (15th and 29th November) that no remission whatever should be given in villages where half of an average crop had been secured. They reminded Collectors that assessments were fixed on an average of seasons; they said that remission should be given only to ryots of small means who could not pay without being ruined; and they directed that ryots, who might be able to realise good prices for their old stocks of grain and fodder, should get no remission, even though their crops had entirely failed."

The Government of India, in January, on Sir Richard Temple's recommendation, put the question which had been raised by the Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, whether some part of the revenue which could not be collected this year without undue pressure on the ryots, might not be postponed for collection in future years. The Bombay Government considered that such postponements of the Government demand were contrary to the Bombay revenue system, and expressed a fear that many of the ryots were too poor to be able to pay arrears of land revenue out of the surplus of future years. On the 27th February, Bombay Collectors were "authorised to hold balances in suspense in "cases in which it appears likely that the ryot will, without undue pressure, be able to pay "up next season."

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* NOTE.—The Board wrote (2nd April) that there was nothing to prevent Collectors adjusting the proportion of remission to a single village. But such detailed adjustment is contrary to the practice of Madras, and in the foregoing abstract it will be seen that the Godavery Collector was corrected by the Board for inquiring into individual cases (apparently individual villages); and the Coimbatore Collector's determination not to inquire into cases of individual villages was approved by the Board.

The settlement of the suspensions and remissions were not, when these papers were compiled, complete for any district. But the Commissioner of the Canarese districts reported (3rd February) that the land revenue was coming in; that even small ryots were paying out of the profits on the sale of their fodder or grain stocks; and he deprecated any stoppage of collections from those who were able to pay. Reports were received from the Násik and Ahmednagar districts, showing that in the—

Jamkhed taluka of Ahmednagar ... { Rs. 18,000 were remitted, Rs. 7,000 suspended, and Rs. 53,000 being collected.

Koparyaon taluk of Ahmednagar ... { Rs. 26,000 were remitted, Rs. 54,000 were suspended, and Rs. 1,06,000 being collected.

Karjat, "one of the most, if not the most, severely affected taluk in Ahmednagar," } Rs. 28,000 were remitted, Rs. 1,500 suspended, and Rs. 68,000 being collected.

In two different letters, forwarding statement of remissions for the Násik district, the Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, wrote that "he would have preferred a much larger sum postponed and less remitted." Mr. L. Ashburner, for many years Collector of a part of the district, regarding which he thus writes, is one of the most experienced revenue officers in the Bombay Presidency; and it will be seen that he expresses a decided opinion that it is fitter, both for the people and the treasury, to postpone more of the revenue and to remit less, in a season like the present. Mr. E. P. Robertson, the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, an able and experienced officer, is also of the same opinion.

9. The present papers do not furnish any data for estimating what the total amount of the Bombay land revenue remissions will probably be. From the data given by the local officers in January last, Sir Richard Temple estimated the total remissions at 50 lakhs. A subsequent return received from the Bombay Revenue Secretariat put the estimated total remissions at 54 lakhs. But the revenue officers seem to think that the land revenue is coming in more easily than had been anticipated. And if the coming season be good, the total land revenue remission for the Bombay Presidency will perhaps not exceed 20 lakhs.

10. The difference between the systems pursued in the Bombay and Madras Presidency seems to be—

(*a.*) In Bombay, remission is granted to each ryot according to his circumstances; if he has savings from past years, he has to pay what is due on his fields, even though he may have no crop this year. In Madras remission is granted according to the average circumstances of each kind of crop over large tracts, without reference to the circumstances of each village or each ryot. The Madras system used formerly in this respect to be the same as the Bombay system. It was altered some 18 or 20 years back, for reasons which were, in the then condition of the country and of the subordinate revenue officials, considered sufficient. The Bombay plan is in accordance with the practice of landlords or revenue receivers elsewhere; it is more elastic for the people, and it is more advantageous for the public treasury. But it involves more labour and requires more honesty, on the part of village officers and revenue subordinates, than the Madras system.

(*b.*) The Bombay Government, acting on the advice of Sir Richard Temple, and in accordance with the opinion of some of its most experienced revenue officers, authorised Collectors "to hold balances of land revenue in suspense in cases in which it appears "likely that the ryot will, without undue pressure, be able to pay up next season." The Madras Government declined to postpone any of its land revenue demand, save in the case of certain permanently settled zemindaris. The decision was based on grounds which need not be discussed here.

11. The tenure on which a Bombay ryot holds his land is the same as a Madras ryot's tenure. A ryot of the Bombay Deccan (*i.e.*, Poona, Sholápur, and part of Admednagar) is reputed to be much poorer than his confrére in the Kanarese districts of the Southern Mahratta country; and my impression is that the ryots of Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool are about as well off as the ryots of Dharwar and Kaládgi. In ordinary years there is much more irrigated land in the ceded districts than in any part of the Bombay Deccan. The Madras ryots of the delta and littoral districts are certainly better off than any Bombay ryots outside Gujarat.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 24.

No. 3,065, dated Bombay Castle, 12th May 1877.

From the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

I am desired by the Honourable Sir R. Temple to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Viceroy in Council, the accompanying Minute recorded by him and other papers connected with remissions of revenue in the distressed districts.

2. Two spare copies are also forwarded.

Encl. in No. 37.

No. 25.

Dated Calcutta, the 16th May 1877.

From Dr. T. R. Lewis, Special Assistant to the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, to the Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

I have the honour to report, for the information of the Government, that in accordance with instructions received, I visited Bombay and made careful inquiries regarding the nature of the fever which has for some time been prevalent in that city. In carrying out these inquiries I received every possible assistance from Dr. W. G. Hunter, Acting Surgeon-General, from Dr. Vandyke Carter, Acting Principal of the Grant Medical College, and First Physician to the Jamsetjee Jejeebboy Hospital, and from Dr. Joint, the physician in charge of the Goculdass Hospital.

2. Opinions have been expressed that the fever is of an infectious nature; that it was originally produced by want; and that the disease presents the characters ascribed to the relapsing or famine fever of systematic writers.

3. In arriving at these conclusions it is probable that the very interesting fact of the detection by Dr. Vandyke Carter of peculiar organisms in the blood of several fever patients exercised considerable influence. These organisms, described as *spirilla*, were discovered by Obermeier about nine years ago in the blood of persons suffering from relapsing fever, and their presence has been, pretty generally, considered as pathognomic of the malady.

4. I examined repeatedly the blood of about 25 fever patients during my stay in Bombay, and was able to detect these spirilla in the blood of five; but with regard to the character of the fever from which these five persons suffered I could see no well-marked feature which would be sufficient to distinguish it from the class of fevers usually referred to as "remittent" in this country. In none of these five cases could it be said that their temperature charts clearly presented the characters ordinarily given as typical of relapsing fever.

5. It will be more convenient to consider the question of the relation which the spirilla in the blood may bear to the fever under consideration when similar examinations of the blood of fever patients will have been made in Calcutta and elsewhere, and after comparison with the results of my colleague's (Dr. D. D. Cunningham) inquiries in Madras.

6. With regard to the supposed infectious character of the fever, as it at present exists in Bombay, I can only say that I failed to convince myself that anything like sufficiently satisfactory evidence existed for any such inference; nor could I satisfy myself, so far as the patients at present in hospital were concerned, that any direct causitive relation existed between the fever and the famine. The fever patients seen by me had, nearly all of them, been resident in Bombay for more than six months—certainly in not one of the five cases in which I observed the spirillum could the origin of the fever been directly attributed to want.

7. As I understand that Surgeon-General Hunter will shortly submit a full report regarding the clinical and other features of this fever, it is not deemed necessary that any attempt should be made here to give more than a general outline of the salient points in connexion with it.

8. On a future occasion Dr. Cunningham and myself hope to be in a position to submit a detailed account of the more technical features of the inquiry—more especially as regards the diagnostic value of the presence of spirilla in the blood.

No. 26.

Encl. in No. 37.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, No. 1,830, dated 28th May 1877.

His Grace in Council finds from the reports of various officers that a strong dislike prevails amongst the distressed poor in villages to removal to the relief camps provided for their use at convenient centres. The Governor in Council, moreover, fears that the system now in force tends to induce and foster those wandering and unhomely habits amongst the distressed, which render the distress more difficult to detect and more costly to relieve; habits which it is on every account most desirable to discourage and check.

2. His Grace in Council, therefore, authorises all Collectors to make arrangements to relieve, in their respective villages, any distressed persons who are fit objects for transmission to a relief camp, but are reluctant to leave their homes, and to issue to them, so long as they need it, a continuous daily money-dole through the village officers instead of removing them to central camps.

3. The head of the village will be directed to enter the names and circumstances of all such persons in a register, and to relieve them at the rates herein-after provided, until the arrival of the village inspector. Each case will then be carefully inquired into by that officer; and if worthy of continued relief a ticket will be issued to the distressed person authorising him to receive from the village head the sanctioned daily money-dole. The name of the recipient, his number on the register, the date of his admission to relief, and the name of his village should be entered on the ticket. The dole should be issued daily not later than 8 a.m. The village inspector will be instructed to inspect each recipient on his first and subsequent visits, and to report any change for the worse or other casualty; to satisfy himself, on the one hand, that the dole has been properly and regularly paid, and on the other that no undeserving cases have been added to or allowed to remain on the register.

4. The inspector will be required to sign the register and the recipients' tickets on each visit. The inspector will also satisfy himself as to the current price of food grains, and report to the Collector any material change which he may ascertain, adding any remarks regarding the conduct of the payment arrangements which he may consider necessary.

5. His Grace in Council further authorises Collectors and officers in charge of relief-camps to arrange for the transmission to their homes of such inmates as desire to return to them, with their families, if they are in a fit state of health to proceed beyond the reach of the medical aid and special relief provided at the relief centres. The same provision may be extended to distressed persons seeking admission to camps and relief houses without requiring residence.

6. It will probably suffice, as respects villages within the same district, for the officer in charge of the camp or relief house to grant certificates, accompanied by sufficient food or batta for the road, addressed to the heads of the villages from which the inmates come, authorising them to enter the distressed persons in their lists, and to issue to them the daily money-dole on arrival in their respective villages. Notice should at the same time be sent to the Tahsildars of the taluks in which the villages are situated for transmission to the village inspector of the circles, whose duty it should be to visit forthwith any village to which any considerable number of distressed persons are so relegated, and satisfy himself of the propriety of their claims. When the number is small this inspection will take place in the ordinary course of the inspector's tour.

7. When persons belonging to adjacent districts have collected in relief camps and centres, and are desirous to return to their own districts and villages, and there receive the village money-dole, arrangements will be made, through the officials of the district in which are situated the villages to which the inmates wish to return, for their safe transit to their respective villages, the necessary batta for the journey being supplied by the officer in charge of the camp or centre.

8. His Grace the Governor in Council resolves to authorise officers to issue the money doles at not less than:—

Anna 1–2 for each adult, male or female; and
„ 0–6 for each child below 12 years of age.

These rates may require to be raised in case of any material change in price of food grain.

9. District and divisional officers are specially directed to watch the effect of this concession, and to state the results in their fortnightly narratives.

Encl. in No. 51.

No. 27.

Dated Bombay, the 28th May 1877.

From Mr. C. E. Buckland, Private Secretary to his Excellency the Governor of Bombay, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

I am desired by his Excellency Sir R. Temple to forward the accompanying memorandum on the subject of remissions.

Encl. in No. 79.

No. 28.

Dated Madras, 30th May 1877.

From Surgeon-Major W. R. Cornish, F.R.C.S., Sanitary Commissioner for Madras, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department.

In the "Gazette of India" of the 19th instant, I observe a further communication from the Honourable Sir R. Temple, Bart., K.C.S.I., in regard to the sufficiency or otherwise of one pound of grain as the basis of wages for adults on famine relief works. The letter to which I refer (No. 340E. of the 10th May 1877) is accompanied by a "memorandum,"* drawn up by Surgeon-Major J. B. Lyon, F.C.S., Chemical Analyser to the Government of Bombay, and to which memorandum is appended numerous tables for the construction of dietaries for natives of India, according to the weights of individuals.

2. I would crave the permission of his Grace in Council briefly to state that, in my opinion, the data of Surgeon-Major Lyon's paper do not justify the conclusion which Sir Richard Temple has founded on it, viz., that "a ration based on a pound of grain is "sufficient for the sustenance of persons not performing severe labour." I cannot find any statement in Mr. Lyon's paper in which he expresses such an opinion in words, although a casual reader may perhaps draw some such conclusion from his figures.

3. In all the scales of diet drawn up by Surgeon-Major Lyon, he has proceeded on the assumption that "there is no theoretical objection to the proposition that the quantity "of food required by adults is proportionable to their weight, provided, of course always "that the quantity of work expected from them is likewise proportioned to their weight." This method of procedure is in my opinion extremely fallacious, and I shall briefly show why any scale of diet drawn up in furtherance of this view must be received with the greatest caution.

4. Surgeon-Major Lyon argues that a human being requires food in exact proportion to his weight, and he has furnished tables showing, according to this theory, the quantities of nitrogenous and carboniferous food necessary for the sustenance of persons weighing from 80 to 150 lbs., under the different conditions of hard labour, light labour, and complete rest.

5. If there was any relation between the weight of an individual and his capacity for assimilating food, and effecting work requiring expenditure of force, there might be some show of reason for laying down a principle that men require food in proportion to their weight. But we know, as a fact, that there is no such correspondence—that in a very considerable number of persons, the power to work diminishes as the body increases in weight, notably in those who, with increasing years, tend to develop fat instead of muscle.

6. The everyday experience of the most superficial observer must afford instances of persons of large appetite who never get fat, and of persons who are not large eaters who lay on an amount of flesh that becomes a serious burden and inconvenience to them, and with regard to these persons it is apparently seriously proposed by the chemical analyser to the Government of Bombay that they should be fed, the thin and the stout alike, in proportion to their weight. The mere statement of the proposition in this form is suffi-

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* See "East India Famine Correspondence, Part III. p. 471."

cient to show that, without being hedged in by important qualifications, the theory cannot be applied in practical dietetics.*

7. The theory that work can be performed in proportion to weight is still more wide of the field of practical observation. According to this theory "the Claimant," who weighed 22 stones on going to jail, was then more fit to endure hard labour than he was six months after when he had lost one fourth of his weight; and athletes instead of striving to keep their weight down ought, according to this theory, to take means to lay on extra flesh. There is, in fact, no relation between the ability and capacity for labour and mere weight of body, as Mr. Lyon would seem to suggest.

8. There are so many things more important than weight of body, bearing on the necessity for food, that it is surprising to find a chemist in these days laying so much stress on weight as the principal factor in determining the quantities of food necessary for health and strength. One might think that questions connected with the idiosyncrasies of the individual, his age, race, temperament, habit of body, slowness or rapidity of vital changes, were to be set aside as of no value in comparison with a theory that the body needs sustenance in proportion to its bulk. I suppose Mr. Lyon would admit that a very different amount of nutriment is needed for a spare man of large frame, and without fat, and another of equal weight, but whose size depended on an abnormal deposition of fat in his tissues, yet this weight theory makes no distinction between the requirements of the two.

9. Mr. Lyon has taken 150 lbs. as the average weight of male Europeans and 105 lbs. as the average weight of natives of India. According to Sir R. Christison's experiments in Perthshire the average weight of Scotchmen was 140 lbs., and from some experimental measurements and weighings made of various castes by Dr. John Shortt in Madras some years ago, he found that the average weight of male adults of the fishermen, Boyas, and other labouring castes, was about 120 lbs., and of certain other castes from 114 to 118 lbs. It would seem, therefore, that as regards the classes of persons suffering from famine in this part of India, there is not that great difference in weight and bulk, of the people as a whole, which would justify a very marked reduction of food in comparison with European diets.

10. The argument in regard to food, and average weight and bulk of the body must not be pushed too far. With certain limitations it must be admitted as useful in the construction of dietaries, but after all, the facts of most importance are, (1) the habits of the people themselves in the choice of food, its nature and amount; and (2) the daily waste which the body suffers from vital changes. Observations on the former head are sufficiently accurate, but in India we have never had any scientific determination of the daily waste of the body under strictly defined conditions of diet and labour. The subject is so important that I hope some of our scientific officers, who have leisure and means of observation, will take it up, and let us know if there be any truth in Sir Richard Temple's surmise, that natives of India excrete less nitrogen in proportion to weight, food, and exercise than the European races do.

11. There can be no question as to the capacity of the labouring classes of India for hard work, provided they get food in amount and quality to satisfy their necessities,

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* NOTE.—The physiological needs of men whose tendency it is to clothe themselves with flesh, and of those who remain thin and spare in spite of all the food they consume, are essentially different. The two types and their personal characteristics have been well defined by Shakespeare, who makes Julius Cæsar say to Mark Antony—

Cæs.—"Let me have men about me that are fat;
"Sleek headed men, and such as sleep o'nights.
"Yond Cassius has a lean and hungry look,
He thinks too much; such men are dangerous."
Ant.—Fear him not Cæsar, he's not dangerous!
* * * * *
Cæs.—"Would he were fatter! * *
I do not know the man I should avoid
So soon as that spare Cassius. He reads much;
He is a great observer, and he looks
Quite through the deeds of men: he loves no plays
As thou dost, Antony! he hears no music!
Seldom he smiles, and smiles in such a sort,
As if he mocked himself, and scorned his spirit
That could be moved to smile at any thing.
Such men as he be never at heart's ease,
Whiles they behold a greater than themselves,
And therefore are they very dangerous."

While our streets are lined with miserable scare-crows of humanity, who have scarcely vitality enough to drag themselves along, there may be seen on the Madras beach magnificent specimens of working men, whose strength and powers of endurance are not to be surpassed by the like qualities of any other class of people in the world.

12. A common task of four men is to take from the beach and load on a hand-cart 22 bags of rice, each bag weighing 164 lbs. This load they push or drag to the railway station distant more than two miles, unload, returning empty to the beach. Four or five trips of this kind go to an average day's work.

In carrying rice bags from the beach to merchants' warehouses, I find that an average cooly will take up a bag weighing 164 lbs., carry it from 60 to 100 yards over loose, heavy sand, and a further distance of 30 or 40 yards on good road, and up a flight of steps to a loft, and that he will manage 100 of these trips in a day.

13. Work of this nature, I need not observe, is not performed on famine wages even of the highest scale. A cooly engaged in carrying rice from the beach to warehouses, or from the beach to the railway station, can earn 1 rupee or even $1\frac{1}{4}$ rupee a day, and his diet includes a plentiful supply of meat or fish and ghee, in addition to his rice and curry. Those interested in the study of dynamics might work out the number of "foot tons" lifted or moved in the course of a day by the Madras beach coolies, and from this data estimate the amount of food necessary for the production of the requisite force, but practically we know that labour of this class can only be followed by those in full strength and health, and that it could not be accomplished without a liberal diet, such as men earning a rupee a day can well afford themselves.

14. I observe that Surgeon-Major Lyon bases his tables of diets on the experience of the Bombay house of correction, where it is stated that the prisoners on hard labour gained in weight on the average 1 lb. $10\frac{1}{4}$ ozs. each, while existing on the scale of food for labouring prisoners. I admit that the increase or decrease in weight of the people subjected to a dietary, with certain reservations and limitations, affords indications of value, regarding the sufficiency of the food, but the weight record alone is only a portion of the evidence necessary. Surgeon-Major Lyon says nothing about the sickness and mortality of the prisoners in the Bombay house of correction. It would be essential to know to what extent they suffered from bowel disorders, anœmia, scurvy, and other diseases of innutrition, as well as the general rate of mortality, before coming to the conclusion, that the hard-labour scale of diet was actually sufficient to keep the people in ordinary health. As regards the proposed diets for those on light labour and those doing nothing at all, there appears to be no practical evidence whatever to prove their sufficiency or insufficiency, and all that can be said of such scales is that they are based on a theory, which in some respects has been shown to be fallacious.

15. As a matter of fact and excluding all theory whatever, we have ascertained in certain Madras gaols, that where punishment by restrictions in food, so as to reduce the daily amount of nitrogen to much less than 200 grains, has been persevered in for any length of time, there has been loss of strength, loss of health, and sacrifice of life, and this knowledge would make me very sceptical as to the sufficiency of a "bare subsistence" diet, containing only 136·7 grains of nitrogen, such as Mr. Lyon now proposes. In his table of "Food Equivalents," published a few years ago, I observe that Mr. Lyon was more liberal in his views, for he there speaks of 200 grains of nitrogen, and 3,079 grains of carbon as "almost a starvation diet." Certainly, without the most cautious experimental tests, a dietary like the No. 3 scale of Mr. Lyon would never commend itself to those practically acquainted with the subject of the connection of food with vital force, and based as it is on mere theory, I think it is to be regretted that a subsistence ration, ranging in nitrogen from 104·2 to 195·3 grains according to the weight of the individual, was ever seriously put forward as a practical guide for those dealing with famine relief.

16. There is one other point requiring a cursory notice. Mr. Lyon proposes to eke out the deficient nitrogen of various cereal grains by the addition of pulse, so as to make the total nitrogen of the food equivalent to the needs of the body, as reckoned by the weight theory.

To take, for instance, the case of an obese native merchant accustomed to feed on rice, and sentenced to hard labour. His daily diet would be made up of 21 ounces of rice, and 9·55 ounces of gram or dhall. In all probability he would be unused to the latter food, and certainly, under no circumstances, could he digest and assimilate the nutriment contained in 9·55 ounces of that grain in the course of 24 hours. If he failed to digest the dhall the nitrogenous principles of it could in no way assist in the nutrition

of the body. In these proposed dietaries Mr. Lyon has, in fact, omitted the very necessary caution enjoined in his former paper on "Food Equivalents." "Regard should "always be paid to the relative proportions in which, by custom or habit, articles of "food are consumed by a population. This often indicates a limit of digestibility "which ought not to be greatly exceeded."

17. The present period of famine is presenting many opportunities for the study of those conditions of the body induced by privation of food. And the more this subject is considered, the more important does it become that we should follow only sound and true principles. in dealing with questions connected with the food of a community.

18. A careful study of the condition of the people who have been subjected to slow starvation, shows that there is a point in the downward progress of such cases from which there is no possible return to health and strength. Food of the most nutritious character, and in the greatest profusion, is then powerless to save life. Chemical theories as to the composition of food do not in the least help us to explain why people should die, with an abundance of nutritious food within reach, but if we carefully examine the bodies of those who have died of this form of starvation, we shall find that the delicate structures engaged in the assimilation of nutriment from food, have wasted (owing probably to insufficient use) and undergone degenerative changes, so as to unfit them for their peculiar office. It has been my painful duty to observe, not one or two, but many thousands of such cases, within the last few months, and I need not say that the contemplation of the causes leading to these slow, but almost certainly fatal, changes in the assimilative structures of the human body, lead me to look with very grave suspicion upon all proposals for "bare subsistence" dietaries; and especially when such proposals are known to be out of harmony with the natural habits and customs of the people to whom they are proposed to be applied.

19. This is not the time, nor the occasion, to review the practical effects of Sir Richard Temple's experiment in reducing the famine-wages of the people to the basis of 1 lb. of grain, but this much may be stated, that the recent experience of nearly every famine officer who has observed the practical effects of the reduced wages has led him to believe, and publicly record his opinion, that the subsistence scale of wages was perilously low. While as regards our destitute poor in relief camps we have had too abundant evidence of the fact, that a more liberal scale of food than that purchasable for a famine relief wage is inadequate to restore health, or to arrest decay.

No. 29.

Encl. in No. 79.

Dated Bombay, the 1st June 1877.

From Surgeon-Major W. Dymock to the Editor of the Bombay Gazette.

As there has been a good deal of discussion lately upon the amount of aliment required for a bare subsistence diet, perhaps some of your readers may be interested by a short account of the experiences of the French during the siege of Paris. The observations made at that time concerning the effect of a reduced dietary upon the Mobiles serving in the trenches are particularly valuable, as the men were all under complete control both as regards their official rations and the extras they were allowed to purchase. The following particulars are gathered from Armand Gautres's valuable work on chemistry as applied to physiology, pathology, and hygiene. After mentioning that for people leading a sedentary life 0·2 grammes of nitrogen and 4·202 of carbon per kilogram of body weight daily, have generally been accepted as a sufficient allowance for the maintenance of a perfect state of health, he says that the average weight of the Mobiles was 63 kilos (138 lbs. 12¾ oz.), and that these men being employed upon severe duties in the trenches during winter months, and receiving only 12·5 grammes of nitrogen and 263 of carbon per diem preserved generally a good state of health. Upon this he remarks, that the generally accepted bare subsistence ration would appear to be a little too liberal.

As the nature of the aliments used is a matter of importance, the diet table of the Mobiles is particularly valuable as a standard of a liberal bare subsistence ration in a temperate climate.

Diet Table.

They received daily.	Weight of food.	Dry protein matters.	Hydrates of carbon.	Fatty matters.
Fresh meat (if preserved, 100 grammes)	175	33·25	—	3·15
Rice or beans	80	5·14	62·04	0·34
Bread	250	18·75	132·70	0·75
Biscuits	250	22·49	159·20	2·09
Coffee ration	30	3·30	12·50	—
„ purchased	25			
Sugar ration	20	—	40·	—
„ purchased	20			
Wine	125	—	—	1·25
Brandy	75	—	—	0·30
Grammes	—	82·93	406·44	49·83

From this table we may draw the following conclusions :—

Proportion of nitrogenous substances to hydrates of carbon and fatty matters.

:: 1 : 4·9 : 0·6

Quantity of nitrogen supplied in 24 hours, 12·5 grammes.

Quantity of carbon { Protein matters 44 grammes; Hydrates of carbon 181 „; Fat 38 „ } Total 263 grammes.

In order to adapt this dietary to natives of India, we should omit all or part of the meat, insert dâl for rice or beans, increase the bread, omit coffee, wine, and brandy, and insert oil and condiments.

Encl. in No. 103.

No. 30.

IMPORTS OF GRAIN INTO THE PRESIDENCY OF MADRAS, AND ITS TRANSPORT BY THE MADRAS RAILWAY.

Proceedings of the Madras Board of Revenue, dated 1st June 1877.

The additions to the food-stocks of the presidency by importations by sea from places beyond the presidency between 1st May 1876 and 30th April 1877, were as shown below :—

Months.	Imports.	Exports.	Net additions to the food-stocks.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
May 1876	16,967	9,045	+ 7,922
June „	12,283	13,695	— 1,412
July „	3,908	11,134	— 7,226
August „	3,795	11,118	— 7,323
September „	6,109	7,920	— 1,811
October „	10,830	9,740	+ 1,090
November „	34,746	5,879	+ 28,867
December „	52,311	1,872	+ 50,439
January 1877	99,923	2,992	+ 96,931
February „	86,818	4,739	+ 82,079
March „	87,422	5,728	+ 81,694
April „	93,379	3,438	+ 89,941
Total	508,491	87,300	+ 421,191
1875–76	73,394	142,063	— 68,669

2. The imports are chiefly from Bengal and the exports to Ceylon. The following statement shows the places whence the imports were received :—

	Tons.
Bengal - - - - - -	354,823
Bombay - - - - - -	68,712
British Burmah - - - - -	63,170
Scinde - - - - - -	7,022
Foreign ports in other presidency - - -	6,363
Ditto beyond India - - -	8,401
	508,491

3. The information available in regard to the imports by land is not complete. There is no record of the cart traffic, and the records available do not show the imports by rail prior to August 1876. The grain-trade by land, however, from and to places beyond the presidency is, the Board believe, ordinarily so very small that the railway exports and imports from August, which are shown below, may be regarded as the trade for the entire period from April 1876 :—

Months.		Imports.		Exports to the Mysore Country.	Net additions.
		From G. I. P. Railway.	From the Mysore Country.		
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
August	1876 - - -	4,039	157	3,049	+ 1,147
September	„ - - -	5,163	79	6,173	— 931
October	„ - - -	4,921	101	14,485	— 9,463
November	„ - - -	7,951	282	10,194	— 1,961
December	„ - - -	12,281	248	11,515	+ 1,014
January	1877 - - -	7,872	79	12,072	— 4,121
February	„ - - -	10,665	118	9,220	+ 1,563
March	„ - - -	8,226	—	15,484	— 7,258
April	„ - - -	9,583	—	14,909	— 5,326
	Total - -	70,701	1,064	97,101	— 25,336

4. Thus the total *net* imports from places beyond this presidency from 1st May 1876 to 30th April 1877 is 395,855* tons.

*	Tons.
By sea -	+ 421,191
By land	— 25,336
Difference -	395,855

5. As regards the additions to the food stocks in the distressed districts, the only information available relates to the imports by sea and the traffic on the Madras Railway. The returns for the South Indian Railway are not complete, being for quarters and extending to December 1876 only; and even for the Madras Railway the Board have been able to obtain returns only from August 1876. The Consulting Engineer has been requested to furnish the necessary information for earlier months of 1876, and it will be submitted when received. Meanwhile, the Board think it will be useful to submit the information available, though it is incomplete.

6. The accompanying statements show (1) the imports and exports by sea into and from each district and for each month from 1st April 1876 to 30th April 1877, and the net result for each district. (2.) Ditto by the Madras rail from 1st August 1876 to 30th April 1877, and the net result for each district. The total of the figures now given to 31st March do not agree with Captain Bisset's statements, Nos. II. and III., partly, it is believed, because his statements do not include traffic from Malabar (except Beypore), Mysore, Cuddapah, Beliary, and Kurnool, which is of small amount; and partly because, either from misprints or arithmetical error, the cross and vertical totals in the statements do not agree. The Board have followed his No. I. statement for the March traffic. The Madras Railway returns are also imperfect; in that they do not show traffic from that line to the South Indian Railway. (3.) Ditto by the South Indian rail for the quarters ending June, September, and December 1876, and for April 1877 and the net result for each district.

7. From these statements it will be seen that the net additions to the food stocks in the distressed districts, by sea and by the Madras rail from 1st August 1876 to 30th April 1877, were in tons as shown below:—

Months.	Kistna.	Nellore.	Cuddapah.	Bellary and Kurnool.	Madras and Chingleput.	North Arcot.	South Arcot.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Salem.	Total.
1876.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
August - -	− 7,296	− 1,135	+ 703	+ 2,942	+ 11,307	− 1,008	− 793	− 116	+ 1,891	+ 1,561	+ 103	+ 8,159
September - -	− 5,112	− 235	+ 646	+ 4,267	+ 8,603	+ 696	− 846	− 46	+ 1,675	+ 1,109	+ 664	+ 6,421
October - -	− 2,595	- -	+ 1,763	+ 7,731	+ 7,975	− 552	− 892	+ 307	+ 1,593	− 1,021	− 108	+ 14,201
November - -	+ 154	- -	+ 4,210	+ 14,615	+ 26,844	− 501	- -	+ 333	+ 239	− 1,412	+ 232	+ 44,714
December - -	+ 542	+ 2,620	+ 9,702	+ 19,992	+ 25,497	+ 5,285	+ 1,858	+ 1,712	+ 1,360	+ 1,405	+ 3,810	+ 73,783
1877.												
January - -	+ 420	+ 5,899	+ 8,485	+ 16,802	+ 48,548	+ 4,462	+ 2,536	+ 1,366	+ 2,694	+ 2,237	± 3,986	+ 97,435
February - -	+ 205	+ 5,587	+ 9,200	+ 12,023	+ 48,895	+ 3,533	+ 2,613	+ 578	+ 3,065	+ 3,388	+ 3,460	+ 92,497
March - -	− 806	+ 3,531	+ 8,209	+ 14,208	+ 11,793	+ 4,789	+ 6,099	+ 2,459	+ 8,374	+ 3,221	+ 5,492	+ 67,369
April - - -	+ 617	+ 8,549	+ 5,078	+ 16,657	+ 7,687	+ 2,733	- -	+ 5,327	+ 9,678	+ 8,073	+ 5,238	+ 69,637
Total - -	− 13,871	+ 24,816	+ 47,996	+ 109,237	+ 192,149	+ 19,437	+ 10,575	+ 11,920	+ 30,569	+ 18,511	+ 22,877	+ 474,216
Particulars—												
By sea - -	− 13,871	+ 24,816	- -	- -	+ 368,508	- -	- -	+ 11,920	+ 30,569	- -	- -	+ 432,517
By the Madras rail -	- -	- -	+ 47,996	+ 109,237	− 176,359	+ 19,437	+ 10,575	- -	- -	+ 18,511	+ 22,877	+ 41,699
	− 13,871	+ 24,816	+ 47,996	+ 109,237	+ 192,149	+ 19,437	+ 10,575	+ 11,920	+ 30,569	+ 18,511	+ 22,877	+ 474,216

The traffic by the South Indian Railway up to December was not, in its net result, of very great importance, and the figures are entirely omitted above.

It will be noticed that the Kistna has been a supplying district, and the extent to which this has been the case is far greater than is represented by the figures above given, as very large quantities passed from the district by land into Nellore and Kurnool. In August and September Nellore was still exporting by sea, but this ceased, and after the two months of October and November, when native vessels could not ply, imports by sea set in. Large quantities have also been sent from Madras to Nellore by road and canal. The North and South Arcot, Madura, and Coimbatore districts were also in the earlier months exporting districts. The imports by rail into Cuddapah, Bellary, and Kurnool were highest in December. In the first-named district they have been falling since March, perhaps owing to harvesting of spring crops under wells; while in Bellary and Kurnool they fell in January and February, and have been since rising. The high prices in December may have, to some extent, brought out local stocks. It is probable that much of the South Arcot imports have passed on into Salem.

8. The food-stocks received in the distressed districts were supplied chiefly from Madras from the imports from Bengal and the northern parts of this presidency. The imports and exports into and from Madras in each of the months from August 1876 are detailed below:—

——	Imports.	Exports.	Difference or quantity retained for consumption.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
August 1876 - -	14,606	3,299	+ 11,307
September „ - -	10,315	6,712	+ 3,603
October „ - -	19,048	11,073	+ 7,975
November „ - -	40,052	13,208	+ 26,844
December „ - -	56,251	30,754	+ 25,497
January 1877 - -	76,168	27,620	+ 48,548
February „ - -	69,200	20,305	+ 48,895
March „ - -	48,469	36,676	+ 11,793
April „ - -	41,824	34,137	+ 7,687
TOTAL - -	375,933	183,784	+192,149
Particulars—			
By sea - - -	374,002	5,494	+368,508
By rail - - -	1,931	178,290	−176,359
	375,933	183,784	+192,149

This quantity, 192,149 tons, is retained for consumption in Madras and tracts easily accessible thence by cart, viz., Chingleput, Nellore, and part of North Arcot. Large quantity has been sent to Nellore.

9. The additions to the food-stocks distributed on the population of the districts concerned show the following results:—

Districts.	Net Imports.	Population.	Rate per 1,000 for 11 months.
	Tons.		Tons.
Kistna - - -	— 13,871	1,452,374	—
Nellore - - -	+ 24,816	1,376,811	2
Cuddapah - -	+ 47,996	1,351,194	3·9
Bellary - - -	+109,237	1,668,006	4·6
Kurnool - - -		959,640	

District.	Net Imports.	Population.	Rate per 1,000 for 11 months.
	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Madras and Chingleput - -	+192,149	1,254,879	17
North Arcot - - -	+19,437	2,015,278	1
South Arcot - - -	+10,575	1,755,817	·7
Madura - - -	+11,920	2,266,615	·6
Tinnevelley - - -	+33,569	1,693,959	2
Coimbatore - - -	+18,511	1,763,274	1·2
Salem - - - -	+22,877	1,966,995	1.2
Total - -	+474,543	19,524,842	2·7

These results are largely tainted with error, as the land traffic is not included, but are nevertheless, to some extent, instructive, especially those for Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah. At 1½ lbs. per head per diem, which taking rich and poor together, considering that some of the sea-imported grain is paddy, is a low estimate; 1,000 persons will eat 20·1 tons in a month of 30 days. For Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool, therefore, it may be stated that from one-fifth to one-fourth of the population are fed on imported grain. As a good deal of the rail-borne grain has gone from these districts into Mysore and Hyderabad, the lower proportion is perhaps more likely to be correct.

10. With reference to the remark in paragraph 2 of Sir Richard Temple's Minute, that the imports prior to November 1876 into the town of Madras were at first erroneously assumed by him to be inconsiderable on data published by the Madras Board of Revenue, the Board beg to observe that they are not aware of having published any returns showing the trade of the Madras port. Sir Richard Temple has probably taken his figures from the returns published by the Chamber of Commerce, which do not come under the review of the Board; but it is not apparent how the mistake was made, as the places whence the imports come are recorded in the statements, and ports within the presidency are not included.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

Movement of Food grains by South Indian Railway, forwarded from:—

——	Madras Railway.	Tanjore.	Trichinopoly.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Chingleput.	North Arcot.	Total.
1876.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
2nd quarter - -	1,804	5,648	969	1,670	327	112	- -	14	10,544
3rd „ - -	4,862	4,917	1,699	2,097	857	536	- -	3	14,971
4th „ - -	10,098	10,096	1,490	1,192	4,168	368	7	4	27,423
Total -	16,764	20,661	4,158	4,959	5,352	1,016	7	21	52,938
January to March 1877 -	- -	- -	- -	Statement not received.					
1st to 28th April 1877 -	2,122	11,065	- -	- -	4,340	-	Cuddalore 54	—	17,581

Movement of Food grains by South Indian Railway, net Imports.

——	Madras Railway.	Tanjore.	Trichinopoly.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Chingleput.	North Arcot.	Remarks.
1876.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
2nd quarter - -	− 1,804	+ 831	− 652	−1,345	+1,796	+ 923	+ 207	+44	* This quantity is distributed amongst South Indian Railway Districts.
3rd „ - -	− 4,862	+1,507	− 428	− 985	+2,101	+2,304	+ 354	+ 9	
4th „ - -	− 9,990	−1,930	+4,897	+5,085	−1,391	+2,554	+ 761	+14	
Total - -	−16,656*	+ 408	+3,817	+2,755	+2,506	+5,781	+1,322	+67	

Movement of Food grains by South Indian Railway, received at

——	Madras Railway.	Tanjore.	Trichinopoly.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Chingleput.	North Arcot.	Total.
1876.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
2nd quarter - -	- -	6,479	317	325	2,123	1,035	207	58	10,544
3rd „ - -	- -	6,424	1,271	1,112	2,958	2,840	354	12	14,971
4th „ - -	108	8,166	6,387	6,277	2,777	2,922	768	18	27,423
Total - -	108	21,069	7,975	7,714	7,858	6,797	1,329	88	52,938
January to March 1877 -	- -	- -	- -	Returns not received.					
1st to 28th April 1877 -	1,349	- -	- -	16,232	- -	- -	- -	- -	17,581

Madras, 1st June 1877.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

Net Imports by Sea.

Months.	Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavery.	Kistna.	Nellore.	South Arcot.	Tanjore.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	South Canara.	Malabar.	Madras.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
May 1876	− 3,439	+ 793	− 4,174	− 2,832	—	− 614	− 1,723	+ 2,063	+ 835	− 437	+ 11,895	+ 5,220	+ 7,587
June „	− 683	+ 745	− 5,096	− 8,144	− 2,050	−2,079	− 8,820	+ 1,396	+ 520	+ 1	+ 9,854	+ 7,868	− 6,488
July „	− 287	+ 71	− 5,972	− 7,565	− 2,300	−1,780	− 5,602	− 407	+ 1,140	—	+ 568	+ 15,704	− 6,430
August „	− 1,293	+ 818	− 8,744	− 7,296	− 1,135	− 793	− 7,128	− 116	+ 1,891	+ 16	+ 1,932	+ 13,976	− 7,872
September „	− 980	+1,155	− 5,842	− 5,112	− 235	− 846	− 3,804	− 46	+ 1,675	− 166	+ 4,756	+ 9,665	+ 220
October „	− 172	− 287	−13,861	− 2,595	—	− 892	− 5,888	+ 307	+ 1,593	− 586	+ 7,278	+ 18,699	+ 3,596
November „	− 902	− 907	−12,253	+ 154	—	—	− 5,162	+ 333	+ 239	− 3,973	+ 8,649	+ 39,684	+ 25,862
December „	− 6,512	−1,639	−17,112	+ 542	+ 2,620	+1,858	− 1,050	+ 1,712	+ 1,360	− 4,970	+ 12,438	+ 56,135	+ 45,382
January 1877	− 6,272	−1,340	−10,988	+ 420	+ 5,899	+2,536	− 766	+ 1,366	+ 2,694	− 1,793	+ 27,666	+ 75,532	+ 94,954
February „	−15,248	−1,835	− 4,570	+ 205	+ 5,587	+2,613	− 1,677	+ 578	+ 3,065	− 877	+ 21,625	+ 68,865	+ 78,331
March „	−11,903	−1,746	− 2,842	− 806	+ 3,531	+6,099	+ 352	+ 2,459	+ 8,374	− 824	+ 27,844	+ 46,464	+ 77,002
April „	− 4,328	− 544	− 1,192	+ 617	+ 8,549	—	+10,787	+ 5,327	+ 9,678	− 2,345	+ 34,327	+ 39,488	+100,364
Total	−52,019	−4,716	−92,646	−32,412	+20,466	+6,102	−30,481	+14,972	+33,064	−15,954	+168,832	+397,300	+412,508

Exports by Sea.

Months.	Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavery.	Kistna.	Nellore.	South Arcot.	Tanjore.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	South Canara.	Malabar.	Madras.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
May 1876	3,439	32	4,360	2,832	85	674	4,462	97	38	748	494	20	17,281
June „	690	12	5,096	8,353	2,054	2,129	9,839	452	27	—	93	72	28,817
July „	287	14	5,972	7,565	2,306	2,581	6,967	566	9	—	—	257	26,524
August „	1,293	61	8,744	7,296	1,196	1,383	7,547	211	10	16	70	201	28,028
September „	996	112	5,846	5,112	288	1,302	5,601	291	3	280	211	322	20,364
October „	172	497	13,861	2,642	—	1,513	6,818	134	24	798	1,572	115	28,146
November „	902	907	12,253	118	—	—	5,678	24	171	4,282	3,073	—	27,408
December „	6,512	1,643	17,112	174	3	—	1,660	191	1	5,691	4,447	9	37,443
January 1877	6,272	1,399	11,049	53	—	—	1,243	276	71	3,330	7,487	435	31,615
February „	15,248	1,837	4,609	230	—	74	3,713	56	28	1,591	5,009	192	32,587
March „	11,903	1,099	2,935	1,506	264	50	5,039	557	26	1,526	6,897	1,929	34,531
April „	4,328	857	1,673	69	179	—	2,455	1,032	16	2,787	6,385	2,291	22,072
Total	52,042	9,270	93,510	35,950	6,375	9,706	61,022	3,887	424	21,049	35,738	5,843	334,816

Madras, 1st June 1877.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES, Secretary.

Imports by Sea.

Months.	Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavery.	Kistna.	Nellore.	South Arcot.	Tanjore.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	South Canara.	Malabar.	Madras.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
May 1876 - - -	—	825	186	—	85	60	2,739	2,160	873	311	12,389	5,240	24,868
June „ - - -	7	757	—	209	4	50	1,019	1,848	547	1	9,947	7,940	22,329
July „ - - -	—	85	—	—	6	801	1,365	159	1,149	—	568	15,961	20,094
August „ - - -	—	879	—	—	61	590	419	95	1,901	32	2,002	14,177	20,156
September „ - - -	16	1,267	4	—	53	456	1,797,	245	1,678	114	4,967	9,987	20,584
October „ - - -	—	210	—	47	—	621	930	441	1,617	212	8,850	18,814	31,742
November „ - - -	—	—	—	272	—	—	516	357	410	309	11,722	39,684	53,270
December „ - - -	—	4	—	716	2,623	1,858	610	1,903	1,361	721	16,885	56,144	82,825
January 1877 - - -	—	59	61	473	5,899	2,536	477	1,642	2,765	1,537	35,153	75,967	126,569
February „ - - -	—	2	39	435	5,587	2,687	2,036	634	3,093	714	26,634	69,057	110,918
March „ - - -	—	153	93	700	3,795	6,149	5,391	3,016	8,400	702	34,741	48,393	111,533
April „ - - -	—	313	481	686	8,728	—	13,242	6,359	9,694	442	40,712	41,779	122,436
Total - -	23	4,554	864	3,538	26,841	15,808	30,541	18,859	33,488	5,095	204,570	403,143	747,324

Movements of Food-grains by the Madras Railway.

Months.	Net Imports.										Remarks.
	Madras or Chingleput District.	Great Indian Peninsula Railway, including Raichore.	South Indian Railway, including Conjeveram.	North Arcot District.	Salem District.	Coimbatore District.	Malabar District.	Mysore Territory.	Cuddapah District.	Bellary and Kurnool Districts.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
August 1876 - - -	— 2,669	— 4,039	— 1,573	— 1,008	+ 103	+ 1,561	+ 1,088	+ 2,892	+ 703	+ 2,942	* This quantity was received from the South Indian Railway for distribution by the Madras Railway, and is included in the quantities above shown as distributed amongst Madras Railway districts.
September „ - - -	— 6,062	— 5,163	— 2,030	+ 696	+ 664	+ 1,109	— 221	+ 6,094	+ 646	+ 4,267	
October „ - - -	— 10,724	— 4,921	— 5,124	— 552	— 108	— 1,021	— 1,428	+ 14,384	+ 1,763	+ 7,731	
November „ - - -	— 12,840	— 7,951	— 2,432	— 501	+ 232	— 1,412	— 3,833	+ 9,912	+ 4,210	+ 14,615	
December „ - - -	— 30,638	— 12,281	— 1,337	+ 5,285	+ 3,810	+ 1,405	— 7,205	+ 11,267	+ 9,702	+ 19,992	
January 1877 - - -	— 26,984	— 7,872	— 1,151	+ 4,462	+ 3,986	+ 2,237	— 11,958	+ 11,993	+ 8,485	+ 16,802	
February „ - - -	— 19,970	— 10,665	— 481	+ 3,533	+ 3,460	+ 3,338	— 9,540	+ 9,102	+ 9,200	+ 12,023	
March „ - - -	— 34,671	— 8,226	— 1,209	+ 4,789	+ 5,492	+ 3,221	— 7,297	+ 15,484	+ 8,209	+ 14,208	
April „ - - -	— 31,801	— 9,583	— 773	+ 2,733	+ 5,238	+ 8,073	— 10,531	+ 14,909	+ 5,078	+ 16,657	
Total - -	— 176,359	— 70,701	— 16,110*	+ 19,437	+ 22,877	+ 18,511	— 50,925	+ 96,037	+ 47,996	+ 109,237	

Madras, 1st June 1877.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES, Secretary.

Movements of Food-grains by the Madras Railway.

Months.	Received at										Remarks.
	Madras or Chingleput District.	North Arcot District.	Mysore Territory.	Salem District.	Coimbatore District.	Malabar District.	Cuddapah District.	Bellary and Kurnool Districts.	South Indian Railway.	Total.	
1876.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
August	429	653	3,049	642	1,667	2,169	782	3,359	—	12,750	The monthly abstracts furnished do not show quantities sent from the Madras to the South India Railway. The quantity entered for the month of April is got from the weekly statements published on the "Fort St. George Gazette." The quantity was considerable in the earlier months (*vide* South Indian Railway Abstracts).
September	328	1,949	6,173	1,264	1,238	615	762	5,040	—	17,369	
October	234	1,863	14,485	1,643	925	839	2,641	8,466	—	31,096	
November	368	1,879	10,194	2,183	1,962	1,324	4,760	15,189	—	37,859	
December	107	6,775	11,515	4,475	3,451	868	10,091	21,729	—	59,011	
1877.											
January	201	5,034	12,072	4,908	3,567	966	8,856	20,455	—	56,059	
February	143	4,165	9,220	4,037	3,826	525	9,389	13,614	—	44,919	
March	76	5,056	15,484	5,786	3,612	372	8,209	14,208	—	52,803	
April	45	2,818	14,909	5,382	8,479	447	5,078	16,657	201	54,016	
Total	1,931	30,192	97,101	30,320	28,727	8,125	50,568	118,717	201	365,882	

Movement of Food-grains by the Madras Railway.

Months.	Forwarded from										
	Madras or Chingleput District.	Great Indian Peninsula Railway, including Raichore.	South Indian Railway including Conjeveram.	Malabar District.	North Arcot District.	Salem District.	Coimbatore District.	Mysore Territory.	Cuddapah District.	Bellary and Kurnool.	Total.
1876.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
August	3,098	4,039	1,573	1,081	1,661	539	106	157	79	417	12,750
September	6,390	5,163	2,030	836	1,253	600	129	79	116	773	17,369
October	10,958	4,921	5,124	2,267	2,415	1,751	1,946	101	878	735	31,096
November	13,208	7,951	2,432	5,157	2,380	1,951	3,374	282	550	574	37,859
December	30,745	12,281	1,337	8,073	1,490	665	2,046	248	389	1,737	59,011
1877.											
January	27,185	7,872	1,151	12,924	572	922	1,330	79	371	3,653	56,059
February	20,113	10,665	481	10,065	632	577	488	118	189	1,591	44,919
March	34,747	8,226	1,209	7,669	267	294	391	—	—	—	52,803
April	31,846	9,583	974	10,978	85	144	406	—	—	—	54,016
Total	178,290	70,701	16,311	59,050	10,755	7,443	10,216	1,064	2,572	9,480	365,882

Madras, 1st June 1877.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES, Secretary.

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail.

	NET RESULTS FOR											
	Places within the Madras Presidency.											
	Districts where there is no distress.							Distressed districts.				
	Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavery.	Tanjore.	South Canara.	Malabar.	Total.	South Arcot.	Kistna.	Nellore.	Cuddapah.	Bellary and Kurnool.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1876.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
August - By rail - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	-	+1,088	+1,088	- -	- -	- -	+703	+2,942
„ sea - -	— 1,293	+818	—8,744	—7,128	+16	+1,932	—14,399	—793	—7,296	—1,135	—	—
Total -	— 1,293	+818	—8,744	—7,128	+16	+3,020	—13,311	—793	—7,296	—1,135	+703	+2,942
September - By rail - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	—221	—221	- -	- -	- -	+646	+4,267
„ sea - -	—980	+1,155	—5,842	—3,804	—166	+4,756	—4,881	—846	—5,112	—235	—	—
Total	—980	+1,155	—5,842	—3,804	—166	+4,535	—5,102	—846	—5,112	—235	+646	+4,267
October - By rail - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	—1,428	—1,428	- -	- -	- -	+1,763	+7,731
„ sea - -	—172	—287	—13,861	—5,888	—586	+7,278	—13,516	—892	—2,595	—	—	—
Total -	—172	—287	—13,861	—5,888	—586	+5,850	—14,944	—892	—2,595	- -	+1,763	+7,731
November - By rail - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	—3,833	—3,833	- -	- -	- -	+4,210	+14,615
„ sea - -	—902	—907	—12,253	—5,162	—3,973	+8,649	—14,548	- -	+154	—	—	—
Total -	—902	—907	—12,253	—5,162	—3,973	+4,816	—18,381	- -	+154	- -	+4,210	+14,615
December - By rail - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	—7,205	—7,205	- -	- -	- -	+9,702	+19,992
„ sea - -	—6,512	—1,639	—17,112	—1,050	—4,970	+12,438	—18,845	+1,858	+542	+2,620	—	—
Total -	—6,512	—1,639	—17,112	—1,050	—4,970	+5,233	—26,050	+1,858	+542	+2,620	+9,702	+19,992
1877.												
January - By rail - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	—11,958	—11,958	- -	- -	- -	+8,485	+16,802
„ sea - -	—6,272	—1,340	—10,988	—766	—1,793	+27,666	+6,507	+2,536	+420	+5,899	—	—
Total -	—6,272	—1,340	—10,988	- 766	—1,793	+15,708	—5,451	+2,536	+420	+5,899	+8,485	+16,802

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail—(*continued*).

	NET RESULTS FOR—(*continued*).											
	Places within the Madras Presidency—(*continued*).								Places beyond the Madras Presidency.			Grand Total.
	Distressed Districts—(*continued*).											
	Madras or Chingleput.	North Arcot.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Salem.	South Indian Railway.	Total.	Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	Mysore Territory.	Total.	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1876.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
August - By rail	−2,669	−1,008	- -	- -	+1,561	+103	−1,573	+59	−4,039	+2,892	−1,147	—
„ sea	+13,976	- -	−116	+1,891	- -	- -	- -	+6,527	- -	- -	- -	−7,872
Total	+11,307	−1,008	−116	+1,891	+1,561	+103	−1,573	+6,586	−4,039	+2,892	−1,147	−7,872
September - By rail	−6,062	+696	- -	- -	+1,109	+664	−2,030	−710	−5,163	+6,094	+931	—
„ sea	+9,665	- -	−46	+1,675	- -	- -	- -	+5,101	- -	- -	- -	+220
Total	+3,603	+696	−46	+1,675	+1,109	+664	−2,030	+4,391	−5,163	+6,094	+931	+220
October - By rail	−10,724	−552	- -	- -	−1,021	−108	−5,124	−8,035	−4,921	+14,384	+9,463	—
„ sea	+18,699	- -	+307	+1,593	- -	- -	- -	+17,112	- -	- -	- -	+3,596
Total	+7,975	−552	+307	+1,593	−1,021	−108	−5,124	+9,077	−4,921	+14,384	+9,463	+3,596
November - By rail	−12,840	−501	- -	- -	−1,412	+232	−2,432	+1,872	−7,951	+9,912	+1,961	—
„ sea	+39,684	- -	+333	+239	- -	- -	- -	+40,410	- -	- -	- -	+25,862
Total	+26,844	−501	+333	+239	−1,412	+232	−2,432	+42,282	−7,951	+9,912	+1,961	+25,862
December - By rail	−30,638	+5,285	- -	- -	+1,405	+3,810	−1,337	+8,219	−12,281	+11,267	−1,014	—
„ sea	+56,135	- -	+1,712	+1,360	- -	- -	- -	+64,227	- -	- -	- -	+45,382
Total	+25,497	+5,285	+1,712	+1,360	+1,405	+3,810	−1,337	+72,446	−12,281	+11,267	−1,014	+45,382
1877.												
January - By rail	−26,984	+4,462	- -	- -	+2,237	+3,986	−1,151	+7,837	−7,872	+11,993	+4,121	—
„ sea	+75,532	- -	+1,366	+2,694	- -	- -	- -	+88,447	- -	- -	- -	+94,954
Total	+48,548	+4,462	+1,366	+2,694	+2,237	+3,986	−1,151	+96,284	−7,872	+11,993	+4,121	+94,954

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail—(*continued*).

		NET RESULTS FOR											
		Places within the Madras Presidency.											
		Districts where there is no distress.							Distressed districts.				
		Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavery.	Tanjore.	South Canara.	Malabar.	Total.	South Arcot.	Kistna.	Nellore.	Cuddapah.	Bellary and Kurnool.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1877.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
February	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	−9,540	−9,540	—	—	—	+9,200	+12,023
	„ sea	−15,248	−1,835	−4,570	−1,677	−877	+21,625	−2,582	+2,613	+305	+5,587	—	—
	Total	−15,248	−1,835	−4,570	−1,677	−877	+12,085	−12,122	+2,613	+305	+5,587	+9,200	+12,023
March	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	−7,297	−7,297	—	—	—	+8,209	+14,208
	„ sea	−11,903	−1,746	−2,842	+352	−824	+27,844	+10,881	+6,099	−806	+3,531	—	—
	Total	−11,903	−1,746	−2,842	+352	−824	+20,547	+3,584	+6,099	−806	+3,531	+8,209	+14,208
April	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	−10,531	−10,531	—	—	—	+5,078	+16,657
	„ sea	−4,328	−544	−1,192	+10,787	−2,345	+34,327	+36,705	—	+617	+8,549	—	—
	Total	−4,328	−544	−1,192	+10,787	−2,345	+23,796	+26,174	—	+617	+8,549	+5,078	+16,657
Total	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	−50,925	−50,925	—	—	—	+47,9 96	+109,237
	„ sea	−47,610	−6,325	−77,404	−14,336	−15,518	+146,515	+14,678	+10,575	−13,871	+24,816	—	—
	Total	−47,610	−6,325	−77,404	−14,336	−15,518	+95,590	−36,247	+10,575	−13,871	+24,816	+47,996	+109,237

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail—(*continued*).

		NET RESULTS FOR—(*continued*).											
		Places within the Madras Presidency—(*continued*).								Places beyond the Madras Presidency.			Grand Total.
		Distressed Districts—(*continued*).											
		Madras or Chingleput.	North Arcot.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Salem.	South Indian Railway.	Total.	Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	Mysore Territory.	Total.	
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1877. February	By rail	−19,970	+3,533	- -	- -	+3,338	+3,460	−481	+11,103	−10,665	+9,102	−1,563	—
	„ sea	+68,865	- -	+578	+3,065	- -	- -	- -	+80,913	- -	- -	—	+78,331
	Total	+48,895	+3,533	+578	+3,065	+3,338	+3,460	−481	+92,016	−10,665	+9,102	−1,563	+78,331
March	By rail	−34,671	+4,789	- -	- -	+3,221	+5,492	−1,209	+39	−8,226	+15,484	+7,258	—
	„ sea	+46,464	- -	+2,459	+8,374	- -	- -	- -	+66,121	- -	- -	- -	+77,002
	Total	+11,793	+4,789	+2,459	+8,374	+3,221	+5,492	−1,209	+66,160	−8,226	+15,484	+7,258	+77,002
April	By rail	−31,801	+2,733	- -	- -	+8,073	+5,238	−773	+5,205	−9,583	+14,909	+5,326	—
	„ sea	+39,488	- -	+5,327	+9,678	- -	- -	- -	+63,659	- -	- -	- -	+100,364
	Total	+7,687	+2,733	+5,327	+9,678	+8,073	+5,238	−773	+68,864	−9,583	+14,909	+5,326	+100,364
Total	By rail	−176,359	+19,437	- -	- -	+18,511	+22,877	−16,110	+25,589	−70,701	+96,037	+25,336	—
	„ sea	+368,508	- -	+11,920	+30,569	- -	- -	- -	+432,517	- -	- -	- -	+417,839
	Total	+192,149	+19,437	+11,920	+30,569	+18,511	+22,877	−16,110	+458,106	−70,701	+96,037	+25,336	+417,839

Madras, 1st June 1877.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES, Secretary.

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail.

		RECEIVED AT										
		Places within the Madras Presidency.										
		Districts where there is no distress.							Distressed districts.			
		Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavery.	Tanjore.	South Canara.	Malabar.	Total.	Kistna.	Nellore.	Cuddapah.	Bellary and Kurnool.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1876.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Ton
August	By rail	-	-	-	-	-	2,169	2,169	-	-	782	3,359
	„ sea	-	879	-	419	32	2,002	3,332	-	61	—	—
	Total	-	879	-	419	32	4,171	5,501	-	61	782	3,359
September	By rail	-	-	-	-	-	615	615	-	-	762	5,040
	„ sea	16	1,267	4	1,797	114	4,967	8,165	-	53	—	—
	Total	16	1,267	4	1,797	114	5,582	8,780	-	53	762	5,040
October	By rail	-	-	-	-	-	839	839	-	-	2,641	8,466
	„ sea	-	210	-	930	212	8,850	10,202	47	—	—	—
	Total	-	210	-	930	212	9,689	11,041	47	-	2,641	8,466
November	By rail	-	-	-	-	-	1,324	1,324	-	-	4,760	15,189
	„ sea	-	-	-	516	309	11,722	12,547	272	—	—	—
	Total	-	-	-	516	309	13,046	13,871	272	-	4,760	15,189
December	By rail	-	-	-	-	-	868	868	-	-	10,091	21,729
	„ sea	-	4	-	610	721	16,885	18,220	716	2,623	—	—
	Total	-	4	-	610	721	17,753	19,088	716	2,623	10,091	21,729
1877.												
January	By rail	-	-	-	-	-	966	966	-	-	8,856	20,455
	„ sea	-	59	61	477	1,537	35,153	37,287	473	5,899	—	—
	Total	-	59	61	477	1,537	36,119	38,253	473	5,899	8,856	20,455

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail—(*continued*).

		RECEIVED AT—(*continued*).										
		Places within the Madras Presidency—(*continued*).									Places beyond the Presidency.	Grand Total.
		Distressed districts—(*continued*).										
		Madras or Chingleput.	North Arcot.	South Arcot.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Salem.	South Indian Railway.	Total.	Mysore.	
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1876. August	By rail	429	653	-	-	-	1,667	642	-	7,532	3,049	12,750
	„ sea	14,177	-	590	95	1,901	-	-	-	16,824	-	20,156
	Total	14,606	653	590	95	1,901	1,667	642	-	24,356	3,049	32,906
September	By rail	328	1,949	-	-	-	1,238	1,264	-	10,581	6,173	17,369
	„ sea	9,987	-	456	245	1,678	-	-	-	12,419	-	20,584
	Total	10,315	1,949	456	245	1,678	1,238	1,264	-	23,000	6,173	37,953
October	By rail	234	1,863	-	-	-	925	1,643	-	15,772	14,485	31,096
	„ sea	18,814	-	621	441	1,617	-	-	-	21,540	-	31,742
	Total	19,048	1,863	621	441	1,617	925	1,643	-	37,312	14,485	62,838
November	By rail	368	1,879	-	-	-	1,962	2,183	-	26,341	10,194	37,859
	„ sea	39,684	-	-	357	410	-	-	-	40,723	-	53,270
	Total	40,052	1,879	-	357	410	1,962	2,183	-	67,064	10,194	91,129
December	By rail	107	6,775	-	-	-	3,451	4,475	-	46,628	11,515	59,011
	„ sea	56,144	-	1,858	1,903	1,361	-	-	-	64,605	-	82,825
	Total	56,251	6,775	1,858	1,903	1,361	3,451	4,475	-	111,233	11,515	141,836
1877. January	By rail	201	5,034	-	-	-	3,567	4,908	-	43,021	12,072	56,059
	„ sea	75,967	-	2,536	1,642	2,765	-	-	-	89,282	-	126,569
	Total	76,168	5,034	2,536	1,642	2,765	3,567	4,908	-	132,303	12,072	182,628

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail.

		RECEIVED AT										
		Places within the Madras Presidency.										
		Districts where there is no distress.							Distressed districts.			
		Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavèry.	Tanjore.	South Canara.	Malabar.	Total.	Kistna.	Nellore.	Cuddapah.	Bellary and Kurnool.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1877.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
February	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	525	525	—	—	9,389	13,614
	„ sea	—	2	39	2,036	714	26,634	29,425	435	5,587	—	—
	Total	—	2	39	2,036	714	27,159	29,950	435	5,587	9,389	13,614
March	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	372	372	—	—	8,209	14,208
	„ sea	—	153	93	5,391	702	34,741	41,080	700	3,795	—	—
	Total	—	153	93	5,391	702	35,113	41,452	700	3,795	8,209	14,208
April	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	447	447	—	—	5,078	16,657
	„ sea	—	313	481	13,242	442	40,712	55,190	686	8,728	—	—
	Total	—	313	481	13,242	442	41,159	55,637	686	8,728	5,078	16,657
Total	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	8,125	8,125	—	—	50,568	118,717
	„ sea	16	2,887	678	25,418	4,783	181,666	215,448	3,329	26,746	—	—
	Total	16	2,887	678	25,418	4,783	189,791	223,573	3,329	26,746	50,568	118,717

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail.

		RECEIVED AT—(*continued*).										
		Places within the Madras Presidency—(*continued*).									Places beyond the Presidency.	Grand Total.
		Distressed districts—(*continued*).										
		Madras or Chingleput.	North Arcot.	South Arcot.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Salem.	South Indian Railway.	Total.	Mysore.	
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1877.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
February	By rail	143	4,165	- -	- -	- -	3,826	4,037	- -	35,174	9,220	44,919
	„ sea	69,057	- -	2,687	634	3,093	- -	- -	- -	81,493	- -	110,918
	Total	69,200	4,165	2,687	634	3,093	3,826	4,037	- -	116,667	9,220	155,837
March	By rail	76	5,056	- -	- -	- -	3,612	5,786	- -	36,947	15,484	52,803
	„ sea	48,393	- -	6,149	3,016	8,400	- -	- -	- -	70,453	- -	111,533
	Total	48,469	5,056	6,149	3,016	8,400	3,612	5,786	- -	107,400	15,484	164,336
April	By rail	45	2,818	- -	- -	- -	8,479	5,382	201	38,660	14,909	54,016
	„ sea	41,779	- -	- -	6,359	9,694	- -	- -	- -	67,246	- -	122,436
	Total	41,824	2,818	- -	6,359	9,694	8,479	5,382	201	105,906	14,909	176,452
Total	By rail	1,931	30,192	- -	- -	- -	28,727	30,320	201	260,656	97,101	365,882
	„ sea	374,002	- -	14,897	14,692	30,919	- -	- -	- -	464,585	- -	680,033
	Total	375,933	30,192	14,897	14,692	30,919	28,727	30,320	201	725,241	97,101	1,045,915

Madras, 1st June 1877.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES, Secretary.

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail.

	FORWARDED FROM											
	Places within the Madras Presidency.											
	Districts where there is no distress.							Distressed districts.				
	Ganjam.	Vizaga-patam.	Godavery.	Tanjore.	South Canara.	Malabar.	Total.	South Arcot.	Kistna.	Nellore.	Cuddapah.	Bellary and Kurnool.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1876.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	To
August - By rail	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,081	1,081	- -	- -	- -	79	417
„ sea	1,293	61	8,744	7,547	16	70	17,731	1,383	7,296	1,196	—	—
Total	1,293	61	8,744	7,547	16	1,151	18,812	1,383	7,296	1,196	79	417
September - By rail	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	836	836	- -	- -	- -	116	773
„ sea	996	112	5,846	5,601	280	211	13,046	1,302	5,112	288	—	—
Total	996	112	5,846	5,601	280	1,047	13,882	1,302	5,112	288	116	773
October - By rail	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2,267	2,267	- -	- -	- -	878	735
„ sea	172	497	13,861	6,818	798	1,572	23,718	1,513	2,642	—	—	—
Total	172	497	13,861	6,818	798	3,839	25,985	1,513	2,642	- -	878	735
November - By rail	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	5,157	5,157	- -	- -	- -	550	574
„ sea	902	907	12,253	5,678	4,282	3,073	27,095	- -	118	—	—	—
Total	902	907	12,253	5,678	4,282	8,230	32,252	- -	118	- -	550	574
December - By rail	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	8,073	8,073	- -	- -	- -	389	1,737
„ sea	6,512	1,643	17,112	1,660	5,691	4,447	37,065	- -	174	3	—	—
Total	6,512	1,643	17,112	1,660	5,691	12,520	45,138	- -	174	3	389	1,737
1877.												
January - By rail	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	12,924	12,924	- -	- -	- -	371	3,653
„ sea	6,272	1,399	11,049	1,243	3,330	7,487	30,780	- -	53	—	—	—
Total	6,272	1,399	11,049	1,243	3,330	20,411	43,704	- -	53	- -	371	3,653

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail—(*continued*).

	FORWARDED FROM—(*continued*).											
	Places within the Madras Presidency—(*continued*).								Places beyond the Presidency.			Grand Total.
	Distressed districts—(*continued*).											
	Madras or Chingleput.	North Arcot.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Salem.	South Indian Railway.	Total.	Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	Mysore.	Total.	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1876.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
August — By rail	3,098	1,661	- -	- -	106	539	1,573	7,473	4,039	157	4,196	12,750
„ sea	201	- -	211	10	- -	- -	- -	10,297	- -	- -	- -	28,028
Total	3,299	1,661	211	10	106	539	1,573	17,770	4,039	157	4,196	40,778
September — By rail	6,390	1,253	- -	- -	129	600	2,030	11 291	5,163	79	5,242	17,369
„ sea	322	- -	291	3	- -	- -	- -	7,318	- -	- -	- -	20,364
Total	6,712	1,253	291	3	129	600	2,030	18,609	5,163	79	5,242	37,733
October — By rail	10,958	2,415	- -	- -	1,946	1,751	5,124	23,807	4,921	101	5,022	31,096
„ sea	115	- -	134	24	- -	- -	- -	4,428	- -	- -	- -	28,146
Total	11,073	2,415	134	24	1,946	1,751	5,124	28,235	4,921	101	5,022	59,242
November — By rail	13,208	2,380	- -	- -	3,374	1,951	2,432	24,469	7,951	282	8,233	37,859
„ sea	- -	- -	24	171	- -	- -	- -	313	- -	- -	- -	27,408
Total	13,208	2,380	24	171	3,374	1,951	2,432	24,782	7,951	282	8,233	65,267
December — By rail	30,745	1,490	- -	- -	2,046	665	1,337	38,409	12,281	248	12,529	59,011
„ sea	9	- -	191	1	- -	- -	- -	378	- -	- -	- -	37,443
Total	30,754	1,490	191	1	2,046	665	1,337	38,787	12,281	248	12,529	96,454
1877.												
January — By rail	27,185	572	- -	- -	1,330	922	1,151	35,184	7,872	79	7,951	56,059
„ sea	435	- -	276	71	- -	- -	- -	835	- -	- -	- -	31,615
Total	27,620	572	276	71	1,330	922	1,151	36,019	7,872	79	7,951	87,674

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail.

		FORWARDED FROM											
		Places within the Madras Presidency.											
		Districts where there is no distress.							Distressed Districts.				
		Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavery.	Tanjore.	South Canara.	Malabar.	Total.	South Arcot.	Kistna.	Nellore.	Cuddapah.	Bellary and Kurnool.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1877.		Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
February	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	10,065	10,065	—	—	—	189	1,591
	„ sea	15,248	1,837	4,609	3,713	1,591	5,009	32,007	74	230	—	—	—
	Total	15,248	1,837	4,609	3,713	1,591	15,074	42,072	74	230	—	189	1,591
March	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	7,669	7,669	—	—	—	—	—
	„ sea	11,903	1,899	2,935	5,039	1,526	6,897	30,199	50	1,506	264	—	—
	Total	11,903	1,899	2,935	5,039	1,526	14,566	37,868	50	1,506	264	—	—
April	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	10,978	10,978	—	—	—	—	—
	„ sea	4,328	857	1,673	2,455	2,787	6,385	18,485	—	69	179	—	—
	Total	4,328	857	1,673	2,455	2,787	17,363	29,463	—	69	179	—	—
Total	By rail	—	—	—	—	—	59,050	59,050	—	—	—	2,572	9,480
	„ sea	47,626	9,212	78,082	39,754	20,301	35,151	230,126	4,322	17,200	1,930	—	—
	Total	47,626	9,212	78,082	39,754	20,301	94,201	289,176	4,322	17,200	1,930	2,572	9,480

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail.

	FORWARDED FROM—(*continued*).											
	Places within the Madras Presidency—(*continued*).								Place beyond the Presidency.			Grand Total.
	Distressed districts—(*continued*).											
	Madras or Chingleput.	North Arcot.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Salem.	South Indian Railway.	Total.	Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	Mysore.	Total.	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1877.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
February - By rail - -	20,113	632	- -	- -	488	577	481	24,071	10,665	118	10,783	44,919
„ sea - -	192	- -	56	28	- -	- -	- -	580	- -	- -	- -	32,587
Total - -	20,305	632	56	28	488	577	481	24,651	10,665	118	10,783	77,506
March - By rail - -	34,747	267	- -	- -	391	294	1,209	36,908	8,226	- -	8,226	52,803
„ sea - -	1,929	- -	557	26	- -	- -	- -	4,332	- -	- -	- -	34,531
Total - -	36,576	267	557	26	391	294	1,209	41,240	8,226	- -	8,226	87,334
April - By rail - -	31,846	85	- -	- -	406	144	974	33,455	9,583	- -	9,583	54,016
„ sea - -	2,291	- -	1,032	16	- -	- -	- -	3,587	- -	- -	- -	22,072
Total - -	34,137	85	1,032	16	406	144	974	37,042	9,583	- -	9,583	76,088
Total - By rail - -	178,290	10,755	- -	- -	10,216	7,443	16,311	235,067	70,701	1,064	71,765	365,882
„ sea - -	5,494	- -	2,772	350	- -	- -	- -	32,068	- -	- -	- -	262,194
Total - -	183,784	10,755	2,772	350	10,216	7,443	16,311	267,135	70,701	1,064	71,765	628,076

Madras, 1st June 1877.

(Signed) H. E. STOKES, Secretary.

No. 31. Encl. in No. 103.

1877.

NUMBER of PEOPLE fed gratuitously by GOVERNMENT in the distressed districts of the MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

NAMES OF DISTRICTS.	JANUARY.				FEBRUARY.				MARCH.				
	Week ending				Week ending				Week ending				
	6th.	13th.	20th.	27th.	3rd.	10th.	17th.	24th.	3rd.	10th.	17th.	24th.	31st.
Kistna	201	168	722	334	455	41	430	191	160	184	397	235	530
Nellore	3,400	6,420	7,956	9,103	9,539	5,406	9,025	5,953	4,681	5,204	5,595	6,613	4,976
Cuddapah	885	1,003	1,419	893	1,623	1,723	1,723	1,705	1,634	1,256	2,600	3,268	6,129
Bellary	36,555	39,522	39,201	33,497	28,129	14,386	10,014	14,829	16,589	17,575	25,853	33,102	82,519
Kurnool	17,379	3,819	2,829	2,680	3,674	3,567	4,026	3,538	3,651	11,233	19,406	25,572	33,753
Chingleput — District	4,542	3,066	4,008	3,425	3,081	4,419	4,095	4,843	5,102	5,666	6,006	6,030	6,211
Chingleput — City Camps	19,714	21,196	22,740	20,059	20,599	20,447	19,934	18,500	20,732	21,238	21,816	23,135	24,224
North Arcot	-	-	-	-	-	324	619	557	835	1,398	1,712	2,089	2,060
Trichinopoly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madura	841	185	589	331	296	557	197	230	188	328	537	1,263	1,484
Tinnevelly	-	5	283	359	92	71	93	138	192	272	260	417	415
Coimbatore	-	8	114	58	93	1,809	1,573	1,297	1,309	1,093	1,759	2,291	3,129
Salem	7,622	2,780	7,191	9,750	6,157	4,530	3,493	3,056	3,563	3,740	5,594	5,846	10,143
Total	91,139	78,172	87,052	80,489	73,738	57,280	55,222	54,837	58,636	69,187	91,535	109,861	175,573
South Arcot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	156	-	47	59	93
Malabar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
GRAND TOTAL	91,139	78,172	87,052	80,489	73,738	57,280	55,222	54,837	58,792	69,187	91,582	109,920	175,666
Average per month	84,213				60,269				101,029				

Number of People fed gratuitously by Government in the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency—(*continued*).

Names of Districts.	April.				May.				June.				
	Week ending				Week ending				Week ending				
	7th.	14th.	21st.	28th.	5th.	12th.	19th.	26th.	2nd.	9th.	16th.	23rd.	30th.
Kistna - - -	442	2,298	4,141	509	364	382	259	179	382	383	356	480	1,145
Nellore - - -	22,267	38,447	58,235	13,151	18,431	21,797	18,217	18,873	20,322	16,978	27,225	28,901	27,980
Cuddapah - - -	14,397	30,409	29,013	24,988	24,810	28,726	27,434	26,321	33,629	36,314	45,955	51,469	56,362
Bellary - - -	66,551	80,366	95,074	101,623	108,499	120,917	132,394	136,110	139,886	155,044	154,583	157,066	148,366
Kurnool - - -	46,841	53,111	70,024	63,797	64,817	61,049	61,759	62,486	60,611	59,842	57,060	59,937	58,731
Chingleput { District -	6,473	18,215	51,996	9,059	10,441	13,477	11,540	16,751	19,662	18,621	27,770	43,565	35,256
Chingleput { City Camps -	25,805	27,425	27,776	28,997	30,025	32,972	33,122	33,214	30,576	26,855	24,444	23,600	22,756
North Arcot - - -	2,174	2,482	3,115	8,071	12,843	11,563	12,304	14,753	20,622	22,011	22,281	26,595	29,110
Trichinopoly - - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	40	32	103	394	463	1,131	1,013	947
Madura - - -	11,056	27,595	5,871	6,224	7,776	8,286	8,905	9,106	11,448	13,941	11,247	14,293	15,976
Tinnevelly - - -	428	2,044	1,843	225	568	677	786	738	755	835	866	898	1,041
Coimbatore - - -	4,194	5,023	7,464	11,181	12,632	16,003	16,234	21,220	24,713	28,202	31,719	34,073	39,798
Salem - - -	16,836	25,021	34,364	35,540	60,420	44,146	56,026	58,237	74,238	78,878	74,949	83,321	94,418
Total - -	217,464	312,436	318,916	303,365	351,626	360,035	379,012	398,091	437,238	458,367	479,586	525,211	531,886
South Arcot - - -	1,256	2,368	5,689	1,280	1,991	2,844	3,443	4,108	4,530	6,198	8,296	8,239	10,606
Malabar - - -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	6	12	27	85	58	87
Grand Total - -	218,720	314,804	394,605	304,645	353,617	362,879	382,455	402,205	441,780	464,592	487,967	533,508	542,579
Average per month - -	308,193				375,289				494,085				

Encl. in No. 37.

No. 32.

No. 313, dated Simla, 4th June 1877.

From SURGEON-MAJOR S. C. TOWNSEND, Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government, a copy of Dr. Lewis' Report on his preliminary investigations into the nature of the fever lately prevalent in Bombay.

Encl. in No. 60.

No. 33.

No. 1,054, dated Simla, 4th June 1877.

From R. B. CHAPMAN, ESQ., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT of BOMBAY.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 1,914, dated the 17th April, I am directed to say that the principle upon which the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 1,826, dated 28th March 1877, is based, was, as appears upon its face, adopted during the operations undertaken for the relief of the people of Bengal in the famine of 1873–74.

2. It seemed to the Governor-General in Council then, and seems still, that when a great calamity is confined to any particular Province, it is necessary and right that all provincial and local resources shall be exhausted in contending against it, before any demands are made upon the General Treasury of the Empire, and further that the Government of the Province is bound to take care that this principle is effectually applied, and to submit to every possible sacrifice in order to reduce to the utmost its ultimate demands upon the Imperial Revenues.

3. The extent to which provincial resources shall be held responsible for charges incurred on such occasions from the Imperial Treasury has yet to be determined; but the general principle that some such responsibility must be enforced has, as the Government of Bombay is aware, been recognised by the Secretary of State and by the Government of India.

4. The duty required from the Governments of Madras and Bombay by the Resolution against which the Government of Bombay now remonstrates was accepted, without controversy, by the Government of Bengal, and the accounts show that a sum of Rs. 12,70,476 was contributed from the provincial and local resources of Bengal towards the cost of the operations of 1873–74. The Government of Bombay will probably on reconsideration admit that, although these contributions doubtless pressed heavily upon provincial and local resources, the Government of India was right to require them, and the Government of Bengal right to make them; and that the rule should hereafter be always observed that Local Governments shall bear from provincial and local resources as large a share as possible of any expenditure incurred upon the operations for the relief of the people in time of famine.

5. The Government of India, on its part, while it would not think it right to relieve the provincial and local funds of other Provinces any more than it did those of Bengal, from any part of the burden which they can properly bear, or from the inconvenience and sacrifices thence resulting, will yet take care, as it did in the case of Bengal, that these funds are not left at the end of the operations insolvent. It must not, however, be assumed that because it was considered right, upon this principle, to assure to the Government of Bengal an unencumbered balance of Rs. 5,00,000 at the end of the famine of 1873–74, it will be necessary to leave as large a sum in the Provincial and Local Treasuries of the less populous and less extensive Presidencies.

6. In settling the accounts of the Government of India with that of Bengal, the Governor-General in Council did not appropriate any part of the balances belonging by law or equity to the District and Local Funds. The five lakhs of rupees left with the Government of Bengal was the aggregate amount placed at credit of that Government

in its Provincial Treasury including the Local Funds which were by law and equity at the disposal of the Local Government at its discretion for provincial purposes. The balances of the District and other Appropriated Local Funds were not absorbed, but were left in the possession of the Committees apart from the settlement which left Rs. 5,00,000 at the disposal of the Provincial Government. These bodies were, however, required to contribute to the general need so far as the law allowed them, and so far as it was considered in each case just to demand contributions from them. Of the total sum of Rs. 12,70,746 contributed from Bengal provincial and local sources, Rs. 2,50,000 was thus paid by these separate District and other Local Committees.

7. The same course should be followed by the Government of Bombay in the present emergency. The Government of India cannot require and has not asked the Governments of Madras and Bombay to demand from any District, Municipal, or other Local Committee, any contribution towards the great expenditure for the relief of the present distress which is now proceeding, which the law does not authorise, or which, even though it might be legal, local circumstances may make inequitable. But it is, undoubtedly, the duty of the Local Governments to exact from every such local body the utmost contribution towards meeting the cost of relieving the local distress, which may legally and equitably be required from it.

8. The principle seems to the Government of India to be clearly right that the distress should first be met from local resources so far as is possible, and that district resources should only be responsible when local resources fail, provincial resources when district resources fail, and imperial resources last of all.

9. The Governor-General in Council trusts that the principle thus explained will now be accepted by the Government of Bombay as reasonable and right. His Excellency in Council will be prepared, on his part, to give liberal consideration to the representations which he will expect to receive hereafter as to the amount to be left at the credit of the Local Government and as to the contributions which should be exacted from the District and other Local Funds or resources.

Copy forwarded to the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce for information.

No. 34.

Encl. in No. 37.

No. 504.—From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Chief Commissioner in Mysore.

Simla, 8th June 1877.

His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has lately had under his consideration the condition of the Province of Mysore, with reference to the prevailing scarcity.

2. According to the latest accounts which have been received, the persons in receipt of relief appear to have been as under :—

Date—week ending.	Numbers on Works.		Numbers charitably relieved.	Total.
	Under Public Works agency.	Under Civil Officers.		
Christmas	48,644		21,959	70,603
February 17th, 1877	31,248	63,348		94,596
March 3rd, „	30,794	33,513	23,295	87,602
„ 10th, „	30,794	36,600	37,361	104,805
„ 17th, „	31,052	38,512	48,861	118,425
„ 24th, „	31,052	44,365	52,471	127,888
„ 31st, „	31,715	55,687	57,974	145,376
April 7th, „	31,715	32,047	59,444	123,206
„ 14th, „	30,542	29,159	68,641	128,342
„ 21st, „	30,542	27,686	82,501	140,729
„ 28th, „	33,183	30,070	87,693	150,946
May 5th, „	30,159	32,352	94,873	157,384
„ 12th, „	34,222	32,281	102,399	168,902
„ 19th, „	34,466	29,933	108,482	172,881

3. According to the telegram of the 31st ultimo, the distribution of numbers was as under :—

	On works.	Charitably relieved.	Total.
Bangalore	4,630	56,996	61,626
Kolar	4,730	12,389	17,119
Túmkúr	5,529	16,247	21,776
Mysore	700	5,248	5,948
Hassan	1,761	4,701	6,462
Shimoga	1,234	936	2,170
Kadur	1,232	1,247	2,479
Chitaldroog	10,117	10,718	20,835
	29,933	108,482	138,415
On works under Public Works Department			34,466
Total			172,881

4. According to your letter No. 829—12 of April 21st, the allotments made up to April 17th, from the sum of 8 lakhs of rupees sanctioned for relief expenditure were as under :—

	Rs.	Rs.
Nundidroog Commissioner		49,216
Bangalore District—		
Cantonment	12,637	
Municipality	30,513	
Public Works Department	2,230	
District generally	1,28,766	
Ditto kitchens	74,000	
Cantonment and town kitchens	27,803	
Miscellaneous	2,489	
		2,79,438
Kolar District—		
Relief works	58,283	
Kitchens	27,156	
		85,439
Túmkúr District—		
Relief works	47,500	
Kitchens	38,300	
		85,800
Ashtagram Commissioner		16,000
Mysore District and Town		20,625
Hassan District		13,200
Nagar Commissioner		7,000
Shimoga District and Town		21,000
Kadur District-		27,267
Chitaldroog District		33,000
Total		6,37,985

The actual expenditure against these allotments does not appear.

5. According to the weekly report for April 21st, the sanctioned and actual expenditure was as follows :—

	Sanctioned amounts. Rs.	Actual expenditure. Rs.
For works under Civil officers	10,51,547	7,25,272
Ditto Public Works Department	19,11,634	14,96,760
For charitable relief	1,77,792	1,59,688
Total	31,40,973	23,81,720

By May 5th these totals had risen to Rs. 33,51,033 and Rs. 29,52,596 respectively. It is, however presumed that these larger figures comprise the whole regular Public Works

expenditure of the year, and possibly the District Fund and Municipal Fund charges too, much of which is not really for relief purposes.

6. The return for the week ending May 12th states the number of works in progress under revenue officers as 2,170. The number of persons employed on them being 32,281, the average on each work must be only about 15.

7. From the statistics above given, the following facts are apparent:—

1st.—That the numbers on works under professional agency have scarcely varied during the last two months and a half.

2nd.—That the numbers on works under revenue officers have on the whole varied little; they rose up to the end of March, then fell, for reasons which have formed the subject of separate correspondence; and now again are rising slowly, if at all.

3rd.—That the charitably relieved, who on March 17th were only as 49 to 69 on the works, were on May 19th as 108 to 64, thus preponderating greatly, whereas in Bombay and Madras their proportion to persons on works is only about one-third and one-half respectively.

4th.—That the relief afforded in the district of Bangalore enormously exceeds, both as to numbers and cost, that in other districts.

8. From these facts it might be inferred that relief works were regulated by the work in hand to be done, rather than by the number of persons requiring relief and able to do a full day's work; that no efficient supervision of such petty works could exist; that either multitudes are being improperly and unnecessarily fed, or relief works have been kept down to so narrow a limit that the people have been reduced to the last stage of distress, and have no alternative but to resort to the kitchens; or, again, that if village relief were efficient, such large bodies of persons would not leave their homes and crowd to centres of relief. In this connexion it may be noticed that in the weekly report of the 21st ultimo, the Commissioner of Ashtagram is said to state that "a large "portion of the persons fed at kitchens were half-starved and sickly emigrants from other "places."

9. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is not, however, prepared to draw these conclusions, being well aware that the total numbers relieved is not excessive compared with the population, that emigration may have had an important effect upon the numbers able to work, and that habit, difficult to overcome, may promote resort to centres. At the same time his Excellency in Council considers that the apparently peculiar condition of affairs at the present juncture demands your most careful consideration, made by means of specially deputed officers, or otherwise as you may deem best, with the view of ensuring, on the one hand, that all who can work shall be forced to do so, and on the other, that charitable relief may reach all who are really in need of it without too great concentration of recipients, and its concomitant evils and abuses. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council has every confidence that you will take with vigour and promptitude whatever steps may seem to you advisable for these ends, and will be glad to know by telegraph the course you propose to adopt.

No. 35.

Encl. in No. 37.

No. 510.—From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Simla, 8th June 1877.

With reference to your letter No. 492 C. W.—1,145 of the 6th instant, on the subject of the Ashteh Tank, I am directed to remark that in the programme appended to the resolution of the Bombay Government, No. 6,152 of October 27th, 1876, this work was entered as "Ashteh Tank, Mahrah, amount Rs. 3,64,000."

2. In the statement submitted with your letter No. 257 C. W.—986, dated December 8th, 1876, in reply to the request of the Government of India for full particulars, it is stated that the "amount of estimate" is Rs. 5,28,760.

3. In the memorandum forwarded with your letter No. 309—1,110 C. W. of December 23rd, in consequence of the telegram of the Government of India of December 12th, intimating that the statement above referred to did not give sufficient details, it is stated that the cost of the work will be Rs. 6,45,260, including all direct charges, and that the revenue will be 5·1 per cent. on this outlay.

4. From your letter No. 403 C. W.—921 of April 21st, 1877, it appears, however, that the direct outlay will be Rs. 6,77,618, and the total outlay including indirect charges Rs. 7,98,938, thus bringing the revenue down to 4·15 per cent.

5. Your reply of the 16th instant to the inquiry what amount of *bonâ fide* relief labour the project affords is not very explicit, but as the number of relief labourers on the work has not yet reached 15,000, and the part of the work to cost Rs. 3,66,274 is said to be not quite all suitable for relief labour, it may be inferred that probably the *bonâ fide* relief labour will not cost above three lakhs, or one-third of the total.

6. I am directed to request the attention of his Excellency the Governor in Council to the foregoing remarks.

Encl. in No. 37.

No. 36.

No. 514.—From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, Public Works Department.

Simla, 11th June 1877.

I have the honour to inform you that his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has had under consideration the Resolutions of the Bombay Government regarding the Pangaon Tank, which are quoted in the margin.

No. 303 C. W.—225, dated January 30th, 1877.
No. 535 C. W.—1,220, dated May 24th, 1877.

2. The amount of the estimate is said to be Rs. 12,79,819, but whether this includes indirect charges or not, and what return is expected for the outlay, does not appear, the project not having yet been submitted as usual.

3. It is also not stated what arrangements have been effected with the Nizam for a fair apportionment of the cost with him, in consideration of the fact that five out of the 10 villages which it is proposed to irrigate are situated in his Highness's dominions.

4. The earthwork of the dam will, it appears, "afford employment to 20,000 relief labourers for as long as the famine is likely to last." As, however, the work was only recently commenced, and the numbers of labourers have not up to the latest known date exceeded those stated in the margin, while the near approach of the monsoon may render any large increase improbable, it would appear that the work is likely to afford but a small proportion of relief compared with the total outlay.

	No.
April 27th	1,278
May 4th	1,244
„ 11th	3,552
„ 18th	6,730
„ 25th	7,453

5. There may, of course, be circumstances which render the continuance of the work desirable, notwithstanding the apparent heavy future liability, but I am directed to invite the attention of his Excellency the Governor in Council to the subject in connexion with the foregoing remarks.

No. 37.

No. 26 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, 11th June 1877.

No. 20. We enclose for your Lordship's information a copy of the reply of the Madras Government to the important Minutes of Sir Richard Temple regarding the utilisation of the Public Works Department, the removal of paupers from relief camps, and the exclusion of masonry and other work not purely relief work from the famine charges.

No. 26. We observe, however, from the Madras proceedings No. 1,830, dated May 28, of which a copy is appended, that the Madras Government have issued instructions in the sense of Sir Richard Temple's recommendations on the subject of the return of paupers to their homes.

2. The condition of the province of Mysore has for some time past occasioned us anxiety, on account of the large preponderance of the charitably relieved over those employed on the works, and the flocking of the former to the administrative centres, especially Bangalore. We are not prepared to affirm that these features necessarily indicate insufficient application of the labour test, or inadequate village relief, but we

No. 34. have thought it right to direct the attention of the Chief Commissioner to the subject, and to instruct him to make without delay any special inquiries into the state of affairs which he may deem to be requisite.

Nos. 35, 36. 3. We request your Lordship's attention to two letters which we have addressed to the Government of Bombay adverting to certain facts connected with the selection of the Ashti and Pangaon tanks as relief works. We consider it to be regretted that in the case of the former the full charge involved was not shown at the outset, and in the case

of both, that works involving a less heavy ultimate outlay in order to render them serviceable were not selected for relief purposes.

4. The prospects of the season continue favourable. In Bombay two inches of rain have fallen at Carwar, and indications of the near approach of the monsoon are general. In Mysore heavy showers have fallen generally, and 1·15 inches have been registered at Bangalore. In Madras there has been rain in all districts except Chingleput. In Tinnevelly it has amounted to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and in Kistna, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and Salem to about 1 inch, though not always generally. In the ceded districts and Kurnool only very slight showers have fallen, and the distress is proportionately severe. The numbers in receipt of relief were, by the latest returns, as follows :—

In Madras	- -	- { 790,304 on relief works. 430,727 charitably relieved.
In Bombay	- -	- { 387,075 on relief works. 143,737 charitably relieved.
In Mysore	- -	- { 56,631 on relief works. 107,814 charitably relieved.

5. We take this opportunity of enclosing a report by Dr. Lewis, Special Assistant to the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, of his preliminary investigations into the nature of the fever lately prevalent in Bombay. "Opinions have been expressed," Dr. Lewis remarks, "that the fever is of an infectious character; that it was originally "produced by want; and that the disease presents the character usually ascribed to the "relapsing or famine fever of systematic writers." These conclusions have probably, he adds, been influenced by the discovery by Dr. Vandyke Carter of certain organisms in the blood of Bombay fever patients which are known as *spirilla*, and were discovered some nine years ago by Obermeier in the blood of relapsing fever patients. No. 25.

6. Although Dr. Lewis detected these *spirilla* in five out of 25 fever patients examined he saw no features in the fever itself sufficient to distinguish it from the ordinary "remittent" fevers of India, and he considers that similar comparisons should be made in Calcutta and elsewhere, and that his colleague Dr. D. D. Cunningham's inquiries in Madras should be collated before any satisfactory decision can be arrived at. As to the supposed infectious character of the fever found in Bombay, and any direct causative relation between the fever and the famine, Dr. Lewis failed to find any satisfactory evidence, but he hopes to be hereafter in a position to submit a more detailed account of the technical features of the inquiry, especially as regards the import of the presence of *spirilla* in the blood.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
E. C. BAYLEY.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
WHITLEY STOKES.

No. 38. Encl. in No. 60.

No. 42 P., dated Bombay Castle, 11th June 1877.

From MAJOR-GENERAL M. K. KENNEDY, R.E., Secretary to Government of Bombay, P. W. Department, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to bring to the notice of the Government of India that this Government have been furnished by the Government of Madras with a copy of their Despatch to the Secretary of State for India, No. 38 of the 26th May last, and, among other accompanying papers, with a copy of a Resolution by the Government of Madras, in the Revenue Department, No. 1,788 of the 22nd May, and I am to submit, for the information of the Government of India, one or two observations on these documents, so far as they refer to the arrangements for famine relief that have been made in Bombay.

2. In speaking of the lower scale of wage, *i. e.*, the scale which provides that an adult male shall receive the value of 1 lb. of grain in addition to half an anna in money, women and children in proportion—commonly called the Civil Agency scale—the Madras

Government remark that they have "seen reason to believe that the scale is practically "of very limited operation in Bombay, and there only with a specially light task." As regards this observation, I am to state that, speaking of the present time and of the progress of the famine operations in Bombay since January last, the Government of Madras are correct in respect to the limited number of persons who are on the lower scale of wages.

3. In the earlier stages of the distress, and before the Government of Bombay were able to undertake large works, the number of relief labourers on the Civil Agency works was very considerable, amounting to nearly a half of the whole. As soon, however, as works under the better discipline and more strict management of the Public Works Department were organised, the numbers on the lower scale under the Civil officers were reduced, and they now stand, and for some time past have stood, at about one-tenth of the whole number employed.

4. The cause which has conduced to the limited application of the lower scale noticed by the Government of Madras has been, that the Government of Bombay have been enabled in the great majority of cases to grant the higher scale of the value of 1 lb. of grain, plus 1 anna in money, per man, in payment for a commensurate return of good and useful work.

5. Most of the persons who have been employed on the lower scale are old and partially incapable persons, who have not been found fit to perform the higher task exacted on the works under the Public Works Department, but the task that has been demanded from the less capable persons can hardly be called "specially light," and it is the same task that the Government of Madras have now ruled should be exacted from the persons to whom that Government have applied the higher scale of wages. The Government of Madras rule that the work to be performed on the higher rate of pay shall be limited to 50 per cent. of a full task according to individual's physical capacity and other collateral circumstances; and this is precisely the task that has been laid down to accompany the lower scale of wages in Bombay, the task for the higher scale being 75 per cent. of a full task.

6. Orders regarding the special relief of nursing mothers, and of children under 7 years of age, have been in force in Bombay from a very early period of the famine operations.

7. Piece-work at ordinary rates has been disallowed in Bombay on the principle that, although the Government have determined to sustain the people in a manner that will secure, as far as possible, a commensurate return for the outlay incurred, and that will not demoralise the recipients of relief, yet they do not propose to expend a larger sum of the public money than is absolutely needed to secure the essential object aimed at; and they hold that, if the extent of relief necessary to secure the substantial safety of the people be afforded, any excess on the outlay needed for that purpose is not justifiable, even though it be ultimately represented by work which, though it may prove useful, would not have been undertaken in ordinary times and under normal conditions. If this view be correct as regards large and useful works undertaken for relief purposes, but carried out under strict discipline and by professional agency, it is, perhaps, especially so as regards the petty works usually performed in return for the lower rate of wages under Civil officers, and for the most part in and near villages.

No. 39.

TELEGRAM from VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, 12th June 1877.

Yesterday's Despatch covered reply of the Madras Government to Sir Richard Temple's suggestions regarding utilisation of Public Works agency, the reduction of relief camps, and the exclusion from famine charges of masonry and other not purely relief work; they have apparently not adopted the first suggestion, but have issued instructions in the sense of the others.

Mysore occasions anxiety on account of large proportion of charitably relieved. We have invited Chief Commissioner's attention to conditions of province, and authorised special inquiries. We have also sent report by Dr. Lewis on nature of fever recently prevalent in Bombay. He reserves final opinion, but has not found satisfactory evidence that fever is infectious or caused by famine, or different from ordinary remittent fever.

Prospects of season continue favourable in Bombay, two inches of rain at Carwar, and general indications of near approach of monsoon. In Mysore heavy showers general.

In Madras rain in all districts except Chingleput, but very slight in ceded districts and Kurnool.

Numbers relieved were, in Madras, 730,000 on works, 430,000 charitably relieved. In Mysore, 57,000 on works, 108,000 charitably relieved. In Bombay, 387,000 on works, 144,000 charitably relieved.

No. 40.

Encl. in No. 60.

No. 1,963, dated Fort St. George, 12th June 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras to the Secretary to the Government of India.

For some weeks there has been a gradual and continuous rise in prices in the districts of this Presidency generally. This rise has left the prices which are now generally stationary at the dates marginally shown in terms of seers of 80 tolas to the rupee.

Districts.	Rice.		Cholum.		Raggi.		Cumboo.	
	Week ending 5th June.	Price in May last year.	Week ending 5th June.	Price in May last year.	Week ending 5th June.	Price in May last year.	Week ending 5th June.	Price in May last year.
Ganjam - -	13·	20·2	19·	23·9	21·	36·3	26·	..
Vizagapatam -	11·	16·7	17·	28·4	19·	30·2	21·	..
Godavery -	10·	20·9	16·	38·1	17·	38·0	20·	..
Kistna - -	8·45	19·8	11·15	30·3	12·94	35·2	10·38	..
Nellore - -	7·78	15·1	9·64	27·8	11·74	29·8	10·06	..
Madras - -	8·76	11·7	11·90	18·0	10·64	19·3	..	..
Chingleput -	8·90	15·9	9·05	..	10·72	22·6	..	..
South Arcot -	8·75	15·4	11·	24·4	11·5	23·9	11·75	..
Trichinopoly -	7·6	14·4	13·2	34·1	10·3	26·3	9·7	..
Tanjore - -	8·	14·7	10·	27·3	12·18	25·8	10·81	..
Madura - -	8·2	14·7	10·4	35·1	9·8	30·8	9·7	..
Tinnevelly -	8·25	12·3	11·25	24·4	10·75	25·5	11·	..
Kurnool - -	6·95	15·3	8·06	28·3	9·51	28·1	8·92	..
Cuddapah -	7·73	14·1	8·66	26·2	9·25	27·6	8·92	..
Bellary - -	6·83	14·8	7·56	25·3	8·25	25·4	7·29	..
North Arcot -	7·9	14·5	8·9	23·0	9·8	23·1	8·2	..
Salem - -	7·43	13·2	9·	21·7	8·81	23·5	8·12	..
Coimbatore -	7·40	12·7	8·41	20·3	8·89	23·6	8·61	..
Nilgiris - -	7·4	10·4	8·45	14·2	9·	16·6	9·	..
South Canara -	9·73	12·5	..	..	11·84	17·7	..	..
Malabar - -	9·09	12·5	..	..	12·25	19·5	..	..

The Collector's reports, however, show that while in April all markets were supplied with either raggi, cholum, or cumboo, as well as rice, at the end of May, in Tanjore, no cholum or cumboo was obtainable in four markets out of nine, and no cholum or cumboo in two others, while rice was 7·5 seers to the rupee in three markets. In Trichinopoly, out of five markets no grain, except rice, was obtainable at Kulitalai, and rice was 6·5 seers in Udyapolium. In Coimbatore rice was 4·9 seers the rupee in Collegal taluk, and raggi 6·9, while prices were high generally in Pallachi taluk. In Salem prices at Tripatore were, rice 6·42 seers the rupee, raggi 8·12, and cumboo 7·44, while in Salem itself rice was 7·68. In Bellary, though prices are stationary in Kudlighi and Hurpenhully, rice is 5·25 seers the rupee, and 5·5 in Hudgully, while cholum is 6 to 6½ seers the rupee. In South Arcot, of eight markets cholum was not quoted in four, nor cumboo in two. In Chingleput, of six markets cholum and cumboo were not quoted each in five markets. In South Canara cholum and cumboo are not quoted, but are not consumed. In Tinnevelly cholum and cumboo were not quoted in four and three markets out of five. In Malabar cholum and cumboo are not quoted; in Madura cholum is not quoted at all in one out of six markets. In Kistna, out of four markets cumboo is not quoted in two. On the Nilgiris, of four markets, cholum is not quoted in one, cumboo in two. In the Godavery, of six markets cumboo is not quoted in four. While in Kurnool the price at Ramalcotta was quoted for rice at 6·0, while cholum was 7·1, and no other grain was quoted.

It thus appears that throughout the greater portion of this Presidency prices are at a point which causes a most severe pressure and continually increasing distress.

There are doubtless yet considerable stocks in the Presidency, although it is found impossible to obtain certain and reliable information, and these a favourable south-west monsoon may cause to be brought forward; but that these stocks must have been seriously diminished is apparent from the fact that while the consumption of the population at 1 lb. per head per diem would equal about 3,849,300 tons, the total import of food-grain to the Presidency, from August to April has been only 417,839, as shown by the annexed statement prepared by the Board of Revenue. The increasing demand on the stock at Bellary for Mysore territory is also noticeable, the export of grain from Bellary being as shown below:—

	To Mysore.	To Hyderabad.	Total.
From 3rd to 31st March -	285·8	911·6	1197·2
During April - -	660·0	1604·2	2264·2
Up to 26th May - -	822·1	1649·9	2472·0

The stock available at the ports for inland transport was ascertained at the end of last month to be:—

		Tons.
Madras - - - -	25,000	35,000
On sea - - - -	10,000	
Negapatam - - - -	-	8,000
Beypore station, and some in boats -	-	1,500
Total -	-	44,500
Say -	-	45,000

This stock will be entirely moved up-country, in the usual course of traffic, by the end of the current month, and Government are not aware of any considerable further quantity being on its way or ordered; and there is no accumulation at the up-country railway stations. While it is very probable that the price grain has now reached may induce increased importations, yet the Governor in Council deems it his duty to point out that, while he is under no apprehension as to the means of the railways to carry the daily supplies, yet, if the railway power is not made use of with regularity, there will be very serious ground for apprehension, because the number of trains that can be run is limited by the circumstances of the line, and the locomotive power and waggon stock available. If any material diminution of the grain traffic inland occurs for a fortnight, it will probably be found in practice impossible to carry up the quantity which will be thus deficient in addition to the ordinary daily demands.

For these reasons I am directed to state that the present state of trade causes this Government much anxiety, the pressure of the existing high prices is rapidly adding to the numbers whose sole dependence must be State aid, not only in those districts which have been noticed as distressed, but even in others; and it is moreover reducing to abject poverty very many of those who should and would have maintained themselves throughout, had prices similar to those which generally prevailed in the famine districts of Bengal in 1874 prevailed in this Presidency.

Movements of Food-grains by Sea and by the Madras Rail.

NET RESULTS FOR

	Places within the Madras Presidency.																			Places beyond the Madras Presidency.			Grand Total.
	Districts where there is no Distress.							Distressed Districts.															
	Ganjam.	Vizagapatam.	Godavery.	Tanjore.	South Canara.	Malabar.	Total.	South Arcot.	Kistna.	Nellore.	Cuddapah.	Bellary and Kurnool.	Madras or Chingleput.	North Arcot.	Madura.	Tinnevelly.	Coimbatore.	Salem.	South Indian Railway.	Total.	Great Indian Peninsula Railway.	Mysore Territory.	Total.	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
August 1876 — By rail	..	..	..	..	..	+1,088	+1,088	..	..	..	+703	+2,942	−2,669	−1,008	..	..	+1,561	+103	−1,573	+59	−4,039	+2,892	−1,147	..
August 1876 — By sea	−1,293	+818	−8,744	−7,128	+16	+1,932	−14,399	−793	−7,296	−1,135	..	..	+13,976	..	−116	+1,891	..	..	..	+6,527	..	..	..	−7,872
Total	−1,293	+818	−8,744	−7,128	+16	+3,020	−13,311	−793	−7,296	−1,135	+703	+2,942	+11,307	−1,008	−116	+1,891	+1,561	+103	−1,573	+6,586	−4,039	+2,892	−1,147	−7,872
September 1876 — By rail	..	..	..	..	..	−221	−221	..	..	..	+646	+4,267	−6,062	+696	..	..	+1,109	+664	−2,030	−710	−5,163	+6,094	+931	..
September 1876 — By sea	−980	+1,155	−5,842	−3,804	−166	+4,756	−4,881	−846	−5,112	−235	..	..	+9,665	..	−46	+1,675	..	..	..	+5,101	..	..	..	+220
Total	−980	+1,155	−5,842	−3,804	−166	+4,535	−5,102	−846	−5,112	−235	+646	+4,267	+3,603	+696	−46	+1,675	+1,109	+664	−2,030	+4,391	−5,163	+6,094	+931	+220
October 1876 — By rail	..	..	..	..	..	−1,428	−1,428	..	..	..	+1,763	+7,731	−10,724	−552	..	..	−1,021	−108	−5,124	−8,035	−4,921	+14,384	+9,163	..
October 1876 — By sea	−172	−287	−13,861	−5,888	−586	+7,278	−13,516	−892	−2,595	..	..	..	+18,699	..	+307	+1,593	..	..	..	+17,112	..	..	..	+3,596
Total	−172	−287	−13,861	−5,888	−586	+5,850	−14,944	−892	−2,595	..	+1,763	+7,731	+7,975	−552	+307	+1,593	−1,021	−108	−5,124	+9,077	−4,921	+14,384	+9,463	+3,596
November 1876 — By rail	..	..	..	..	..	−3,833	−3,833	..	..	..	+4,210	+14,615	−12,840	−501	..	..	−1,412	+232	−2,432	+1,872	−7,951	+9,912	+1,961	..
November 1876 — By sea	−902	−907	−12,253	−5,162	−3,973	+8,649	−14,548	..	+154	..	..	..	+39,684	..	+333	+239	..	..	..	+40,410	..	..	..	+25,862
Total	−902	−907	−12,253	−5,162	−3,973	+4,816	−18,381	..	+154	..	+4,210	+14,615	+26,844	−501	+333	+239	−1,412	+232	−2,432	+42,282	−7,951	+9,912	+1,961	+25,862
December 1876 — By rail	..	..	..	..	..	−7,205	−7,205	..	..	..	+9,702	+19,992	−30,638	+5,285	..	..	+1,405	+3,810	−1,337	+8,219	−12,281	+11,267	−1,014	..
December 1876 — By sea	−6,512	−1,639	−17,112	−1,050	−4,970	+12,438	−18,845	+1,858	+542	+2,620	..	..	+56,135	..	+1,712	+1,360	..	..	..	+64,227	..	..	..	+45,382
Total	−6,512	−1,639	−17,112	−1,050	−4,970	+5,233	−26,050	+1,858	+542	+2,620	+9,702	+19,992	+25,497	+5,285	+1,712	+1,360	+1,405	+3,810	−1,337	+72,446	−12,281	+11,267	−1,014	+45,382
January 1877 — By rail	..	..	..	..	..	−11,958	−11,958	..	..	..	+8,485	+16,802	−26,934	+4,462	..	..	+2,237	+3,986	−1,151	+7,837	−7,872	+11,993	+4,121	..
January 1877 — By sea	−6,272	−1,340	−10,988	−766	−1,793	+27,666	+6,507	+2,536	+420	+5,899	..	..	+75,532	..	+1,366	+2,694	..	..	..	+88,447	..	..	..	+94,954
Total	−6,272	−1,340	−10,988	−766	−1,793	+15,708	−5,451	+2,536	+420	+5,899	+8,485	+16,802	+48,598	+4,462	+1,366	+2,694	+2,237	+3,986	−1,151	+96,284	−7,872	+11,993	+4,121	+94,954
February 1877 — By rail	..	..	..	..	..	−9,540	−9,540	..	..	..	+9,200	+12,023	−19,970	+3,533	..	..	+3,338	+3,460	−481	+11,103	−10,665	+9,102	−1,563	..
February 1877 — By sea	−15,248	−1,835	−4,570	−1,677	−877	+21,625	−2,582	+2,613	+205	+5,587	..	..	+68,865	..	+578	+3,065	..	..	..	+80,913	..	..	..	+78,331
Total	−15,248	−1,835	−4,570	−1,677	−877	+12,085	−12,122	+2,613	+205	+5,587	+9,200	+12,023	+48,895	+3,533	+578	+3,065	+3,338	+3,460	−481	+92,016	−10,665	+9,102	−1,563	+78,331
March 1877 — By rail	..	..	..	..	..	−7,297	−7,297	..	..	..	+8,209	+14,208	−34,671	+4,789	..	..	+3,221	+5,492	−1,209	+39	−8,226	+15,484	+7,258	..
March 1877 — By sea	−11,903	−1,746	−2,842	+352	−824	+27,844	+10,881	+6,099	−806	+3,531	..	..	+46,464	..	+2,459	+8,374	..	..	..	+66,120	..	..	..	+77,002
Total	−11,903	−1,746	−2,842	+352	−824	+20,547	+3,584	+6,099	−806	+3,531	+8,209	+14,208	+11,793	+4,789	+2,459	+8,374	+3,221	+5,492	−1,209	+66,160	−8,226	+15,484	+7,258	+77,002
April 1877 — By rail	..	..	..	..	..	−10,531	−10,531	..	..	..	+5,078	+16,657	−31,801	+2,733	..	..	+8,073	+5,238	−773	+5,205	−9,583	+14,909	+5,326	..
April 1877 — By sea	−4,328	−544	−1,192	+10,787	−2,345	+34,327	+36,705	..	+617	+8,549	..	..	+39,488	..	+5,327	+9,678	..	..	..	+63,659	..	..	..	+100,364
Total	−4,328	−544	−1,192	+10,787	−23,45	+23,796	+26,174	..	+617	+8,549	+5,078	+16,657	+7,687	+2,733	+5,327	+9,678	+8,073	+5,238	−773	+68,864	−9,583	+14,909	+5,326	+100,364
Total — By rail	..	..	..	..	..	−50,925	−50,925	..	..	..	+47,996	+109,237	−176,359	+19,437	..	..	+18,511	+22,877	−16,110	+25,589	−70,701	+96,037	+25,336	..
Total — By sea	−47,610	−6,325	−77,404	−14,336	−15,518	+146,515	−14,678	+10,575	−13,871	+24,816	..	..	+368,508	..	+11,920	+30,569	..	..	..	+432,517	..	..	..	+417,839
Total	−47,610	−6,325	−77,404	−14,336	−15,518	+95,590	−65,603	+10,575	−13,871	+24,816	+47,996	+109,237	+192,149	+19,437	+11,920	+30,569	+18,511	+22,877	−16,110	+458,106	−70,701	+96,037	+25,336	+417,839

Encl. in No. 60.

No. 41.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Financial Department, No. 1,169, dated Simla, the 14th June 1877.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor-General in Council is pleased to decide that all outlay on public works executed for the purpose of relieving distress among the people arising from famine, whether supervised by the officers of the Public Works Department, or by Civil officers, shall, in the first instance, be recorded in the accounts of the Public Works Department under a suspense head to be called "Famine Relief."

2. Of the whole outlay thus recorded, the portion which represents the value of the work done calculated at normal rates must be ultimately recorded as expenditure under the proper sub-divisions of the Service head Public Works, ordinary or extraordinary, as the case may be, the remainder being transferred to the Service head "Famine Relief."

3. The responsibility of determining, in each case, how much of such outlay shall be recorded as Public Works expenditure, and how much as expenditure under the head of Famine Relief, will rest upon the Public Works Department. But it is important that the Suspense Account to be kept in the Public Works Department should be cleared as quickly as possible, and no such refinements of calculations should be attempted or permitted as will cause any delay in the attainment of this object.

4. The Governor-General in Council trusts to the Local Governments to issue such subsidiary orders as will secure this result.

5. As a rule, the Governor-General in Council considers that experience shows, conclusively, that public works executed for relief purposes can be most conveniently and economically supervised by the professional officers of the Public Works Department; but if, in any case, this is found impracticable and the supervision of such works is entrusted to Civil officers, the arrangement must not be allowed to interfere with thorough obedience to the present order, and the Civil officers must act only as disbursers of the Public Works Department, submitting to that Department all accounts of their outlay.

6. This Resolution is to be applied immediately, and with retrospective effect, to the outlay now being incurred for the relief of the distress arising from the present famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay.

ORDERED.—That this Resolution be communicated to the Revenue and Public Works Departments of the Government of India, to the Local Governments, to the Comptroller-General, and to the Accountants-General, and Deputy Accountants-General in independent charge.

No. 42.

TELEGRAM from the GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, 15th June 1877.

Weekly report sent yesterday.

Rain has fallen in all distressed districts, also in Bombay, but monsoon has not properly commenced.

Situation slightly improved, and agriculture progressing. No marked change. Prices still high.

No. 43.

TELEGRAM from the GOVERNOR OF MADRAS to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, 16th June 1877.

Monsoon rains have commenced.

Hugry River stopped Bellary Railway, Monday. Bridge, permanent, will be ready Sunday.

Prices generally steady.

No. 44. Encl. in No. 60.

Dated Calcutta, 18th June 1877.

From SURGEON D. D. CUNNINGHAM, Special Assistant to the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, to SURGEON-MAJOR S. C. TOWNSEND, Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

I have the honour to report that, in accordance with your instructions, I proceeded to Madras in order to ascertain whether any peculiar form of fever were present among the inmates of the relief camps there, and to investigate the pathology of the so-called "famine diarrhœa" and "famine dysentery." I arrived in Madras on the 20th of May and left on the 8th June, reaching Calcutta on the 13th of the month.

2. In regard to the occurrence of any peculiar forms of fever, careful inquiries were made as to the presence, then or at any previous period during the prevalence of the famine, of any forms of fever which could in any way be ascribed to the influence of want. I could hear of no such disease as having occurred previously, and during the whole period of my stay in Madras fevers of any kind were practically non-existent, hardly a case being present in any of the hospitals or relief camps in spite of the high degree of mortality prevalent at that time among the inmates of the latter.

3. I had, however, ample opportunity of investigating the pathology of the diarrhœa and dysentery so prevalent and fatal in the camps. Careful *post-mortem* examinations were made of the bodies of persons dying in the Monegar Choultry relief camp where the mortality was very high, and almost entirely due to diarrhœa and dysentery. Numerous specimens of the various tissues and organs of such cases have been preserved, and will form the subject of minute microscopic investigation. As this, however, will necessarily be the work of some time, I shall in the meantime give a brief account of such of the results arrived at in the examinations conducted in Madras as appear to be of most practical importance.

4. The general results of such examinations were confirmatory of the belief that morbid conditions exist which may with propriety be termed "famine diarrhœa" or "famine dysentery," as the case may be. There are, without doubt, cases in which the symptons of disease observed during life can be referred to no other origin save morbid changes and degenerations dependent on mal-nutrition. Many other cases occurring among the inmates of the relief camps are, however, complicated by the supervention of other diseases, such as acute dysentery, pneumonia, &c., and although in the majority of such cases the conditions leading to true "famine diarrhœa" may be distinctly detected, and in some the complications may be directly ascribed to their agency, yet the fatal termination is caused, or at all events accelerated by the complications.

5. The pathological changes essentially characteristic of "famine diarrhœa and dysentery" consist in a softening and subsequent atrophy of the mucous membrane of the intestinal canal, due apparently to a process of fatty degeneration of the tissues, and leading to the destruction of the apparatus provided for the absorption of nutritive material. That such a process is sufficient to account for the phenomena of the disease observed during life, is manifest. The disintegration of the intestinal mucous membrane fully accounts for the disordered state of the alimentary functions. The pathological appearances also account for the failure of curative measures, improved diet, medicines, &c., in the treatment of the disease. Where once the complex structures of the intestinal mucous membrane have been so seriously affected by degenerative changes dependent on insufficient nourishment, they cannot be renewed, and no diet, however careful and generous it be, can be of any avail when once the means, by which alone it can be appropriated to the necessities of the body, have been destroyed.

6. In conclusion, I must acknowledge the great obligation which I am under to the medical officers in Madras who assisted me in obtaining opportunities for investigation, and facilitated my work in other ways—more especially must I acknowledge the aid which was afforded to me by Mr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras.

No. 45. Encl. in No. 79.

No. 2,030, dated Fort St. George, 18th June 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, Revenue Department, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

In reply to your letter No. 441, dated 12th May 1877, I am directed to state that his Grace the Governor of Madras in Council is fully alive to the importance of inducing

the inmates of relief camps to return as speedily as may be to their own homes, as well with regard to economy in the administration of relief as to lessen the evils attendant upon large gatherings of comparatively unemployed people.

2. With this view many had been sent home before the date of Sir Richard Temple's note of the 22nd April, but the results were not encouraging. It was found in practice that there was not sufficient inducement to these people to remain at their homes either on the relief wage or village relief. Thus many such persons after being cared for and strengthened by food and removed by train to Vellore in the North Arcot district, almost immediately set out to wander back to Madras, where, after a time, they were again found in the streets exhausted and famine-stricken.

3. This Government consider that no extensive enforced removals from relief camps can be successfully carried out until, in the ordinary operations of agriculture, are found sufficient inducements to overcome those which draw the people into the large towns.

4. Hitherto movements of the people under direct pressure, whether it be in large parties or in small, whether to the large relief works or from relief camps under escort of camp servants, have proved barren of results for good, as the people largely desert on the road.

5. Considerable numbers have, however, been induced voluntarily to return to their villages.

6. I am further directed to state that his Grace the Governor in Council is giving, and will continue to give, that attention to the subject noticed by Sir Richard Temple which its importance demands.

No. 46.

Telegram, dated 19th June 1877.

From the Viceroy to the Secretary of State for India.

In Madras, rain has fallen in all districts in fair quantities; on works 848,000, charitably relieved 461,000; prices generally high, and grain imports limited.

In Mysore, heavy showers throughout the Province; one inch at Bangalore; four inches in Coorg; prospects encouraging; on works 58,000, charitably relieved 109,000.

In Bombay, one to three inches in Nassik, Poona, Ahmednagar, and Sholapur, three-quarters inch in Sattara, six inches in Canara; numbers on works 375,000, charitably relieved 157,000, of whom children 114,000. Heavy rain has just begun at Bombay.

Temple telegraphs, young crops Dharwar, Belgaum thriving; large areas preparing Kaladgi, Satara, Nassik, Khandesh, and sowing begun, prices of grain unaltered. Imports coast reduced, on railway considerably increased, general situation hopeful, marked improvements shortly expected, cattle benefit by new grass.

Encl. in No. 79.

No. 47.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the Public Works Department, No. 98 P., dated 20th June 1877.

Resolution.—As soon as the monsoon shall have been favourably established, it is necessary for the agricultural prospects of the season, and for the relief of the existing demands on the treasury for outlay on account of State charity, that many of the persons who are now supported at the public expense should resume their usual avocations, and revert to their ordinary modes of obtaining a livelihood. The preliminary eastern showers have been very heavy and general, the regular western rain has now commenced, and there is a prospect that the season will be a very favourable one as far as rain-fall is concerned; but this inestimable advantage will be lost, if those on whose labour the tillage and cultivation of the land depend should cling, in large numbers, to the charity of the State, instead of making efforts to help themselves, and to resume their independent occupations. Many are now voluntarily leaving the relief works, and more, it may confidently be expected, will do so shortly. But if any who ought to return to their own avocations should try to remain on State relief, some pressure may be needed for them, and must be applied gently, and prudently, but firmly.

2. In order to effect this, the following measures should be adopted in each district,

and in every case wherever and as soon as the rain-fall has been good and favourable :—

1st.—The gangs on each work should be carefully inspected by the Civil officers of the district, the registers should be examined, and all the holders or sub-holders of land, who may be in good physical condition, should be relegated to their villages, and be told that they should now betake themselves, as in ordinary years, to the cultivation of their fields.

2nd.—The class of agricultural labourers should be similarly examined, and sent to their villages to assist the landholders as in ordinary years; for unless labour be available, or if it be detained on the relief works, the landholders will be placed in difficulties, and their field operations will be materially impeded.

3rd.—To these people, and to those who may seek to remain on the works, it should be explained, that at this season of the year Government can neither carry on the works in progress, nor open fresh ones, and that it is not for the good of the people that Government shall endeavour to do so; that this has been a season of difficulty due to drought, during which the Government have consented to aid people who would otherwise have been unable to find subsistence, but that this drought has happily passed away, and that the people can, and must now, exert themselves in their own behalf, and that the remaining works will therefore be very shortly entirely closed.

4th.—That Government will not give any general Tagai advances, but will only afford assistance in special cases, and on good security; and that for such credit as they may need, and as they would ordinarily require, the people must look to the sources from which they usually obtain it.

5th.—That it will shortly be necessary, as the people who are not ordinary labourers leave the works, and as the latter, or such of them as it may be necessary or practicable to keep open, gradually assume the character of ordinary Public Works, to raise the tasks to the usual standard, and to cease to pay wages, should tasks not be performed, in consequence of idleness, interruption by rain, or from any other cause.

3. The Civil and Public Works Department officers in each district should co-operate fully, and should work together in carrying out these arrangements; but all the necessary measures as above detailed should, as regards the time and extent of their application, be left to be finally determined by the Collectors and their assistants. These officers should bear in mind that, though the general policy to be adopted is indicated above, and is to be generally adopted, it need not and should not be applied abruptly or mechanically, but should be introduced with judgment and discrimination, as well as with firmness on a careful consideration of the prospects of the season in each district as regards agriculture and of the condition of the people.

No. 48.

Encl. in No. 79.

Dated Bombay, the 21st June 1877.

DEMI-OFFICIAL from Dr. J. B. LYON, to General KENNEDY.

Thinking the enclosed may interest you, I have cut it out of the "Bombay Gazette," of the 19th where it appeared.

The corresponding value in grains of nitrogen 12·5 grammes is 193 grains and of carbon 263 grammes=4,060 grains; this for men weighing 140 lbs. is about my scale, No. 3 (bare sustenance). As the experience detailed in the letter cut from the "Bombay Gazette," shows that men can do a considerable amount of work on a diet of the value quoted above, the indication is that my scales are on the side of liberality rather than in the other way.

No. 49.

TELEGRAM from the GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, 22nd June 1877.

Monsoon begun well on Bombay coast and throughout Deccan. Effect not fully produced on relief operations. Prices still high, but numbers on relief works decreasing, and agriculture progressing.

No. 50.

No. 538. From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Simla, 25th June 1877.

I am directed to transmit, for the consideration of his Grace the Governor of Madras in Council, the enclosed copies of a Minute by Sir Richard Temple, under date the 9th ultimo, and of two memoranda by his late Secretary, Mr. C. Bernard, on the subject of remissions of land revenue.

2. The Governor-General in Council thinks that this question should receive very careful attention when the pressure of the present famine shall have passed away; and will be glad to be furnished with a full statement of the conclusions at which the Madras Government may arrive after considering the arguments and observations contained in the enclosed papers.

No. 51.

No. 27 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 25th June 1877.

Your Lordship has been furnished by the Madras Government, in their Despatches of the 14th and 28th April last, with the correspondence which has taken place between that Government and the Government of India on the subject of supplying Sir Richard Temple with copies of certain papers for which he applied relating to the subject of granting remissions of the land revenue on the occasion of failure of the crops. We now enclose a complete collection of the correspondence which has taken place on this subject, including a Minute by Sir Richard Temple, under date the 9th ultimo, and two memoranda by his late Secretary, Mr. Bernard. We have caused copies of these papers to be furnished to the Government of Madras, with a request that they will give them their careful consideration, and furnish us hereafter with a full statement of the conclusions at which they may arrive. A copy of the letter which we have addressed to the Madras Government on the subject is enclosed.

Nos. 2 to 7, 9 to 12, 14 to 19, 22 to 24, 27, 50.

2. It will be in the recollection of your Lordship that the suggestion made by Sir Richard Temple at an early period of his tour that, instead of entirely remitting the revenue due to Government on land on which the crops had failed, its collection should be only suspended pending inquiries as to the circumstances of the persons concerned was referred to in our Despatches of the 26th January and the 9th and 16th of February last, in the last of which Despatches we stated that we had intimated to the Governments of Madras and Bombay that the matter would be left to their discretion, adding that, in our opinion, the Madras Government had shown good reasons for the opinion which they strongly held, that in *ryotwari* districts it would, as a general rule, be inexpedient to substitute suspensions for remissions of revenue, especially in the case of a season so disastrous as the present. The course taken by us in this matter received the approval of your Lordship in your Despatch of the 29th March last, paragraph 6.

3. In forwarding to the Government of Madras Sir Richard Temple's telegram of the 18th March, requesting that he might be furnished with the papers above alluded to, we were actuated by the consideration that, however inexpedient it might be, during the pressure of a serious famine, to interfere with the discretion of a Local Government on a subject specially demanding a knowledge of local circumstances, it would not be right or proper that an officer engaged upon the arduous duty which had been entrusted to Sir Richard Temple, should be denied access to official records which he desired to consult on a matter to which he attached importance, and which was closely connected with the work upon which he was engaged. It was subsequently explained to the Madras Government in the Viceroy's telegram to the Duke of Buckingham, dated the 9th April, that there was no intention of interfering with the discretion of the Local Government regarding remissions on the present occasion; but that a full discussion of the subject might be useful for future famines; that the discussion could be treated as confidential if the Madras Government desired, but that it seemed due to Sir Richard Temple that his request should be complied with. The Madras Government having declined to comply with our request, and having persisted in their refusal after the receipt of the Viceroy's telegram just referred to, we deemed it necessary to issue the order conveyed in our

telegram of the 20th April, which led to Sir Richard Temple's being furnished with the papers for which he had applied.

4. We have not deemed it expedient for the present, in our correspondence with the Government of Madras, to take any notice of their letter dated the 10th April last, stating their reasons for declining to comply with the request made in our telegram of the 21st March; but we think it right to call your Lordship's attention to the tone and tenor of that letter, which appear to us to indicate a very extraordinary misapprehension on the part of the present Government of Madras of their position in relation to the Government of India. We shall probably recur to this subject when the time comes for reviewing the incidents of the present famine.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
E. C. BAYLEY.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
WHITLEY STOKES.

No. 52.

Encl. in No. 60.

No. 348, dated Simla, 25th June 1877.

From SURGEON-MAJOR S. C. TOWNSEND, Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, to the Hon. T. C. HOPE, C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

I have the honour to submit, for the information of the Government, a copy of Dr. D. D. Cunningham's report on his preliminary investigations into the nature of the diarrhœa and dysentry lately prevalent in Madras.

No. 53.

Encl. in No. 103.

No. 2,875, dated 25th June 1877.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY, TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Financial Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,054, dated 4th instant, on the subject of the appropriation of Provincial and Local Funds for famine expenditure, and in reply to state that his Excellency the Governor in Council will gladly accept the principle therein explained, and is assured that the Viceroy in Council will give liberal consideration to the representations which will be made hereafter on this subject.

No. 54.

Telegram, dated 26th June 1877.

From VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Yesterday's Despatch covers complete collection of correspondence about question of remission or suspension of land revenue on failure of crops, includes Minute by Temple and two memoranda by Bernard; these papers have been also sent for consideration and opinion of Madras Government, without intention of limiting discretion in present case already given, but for final settlement of question in view of future famines. Madras Government having in April last refused to furnish Temple with necessary information on this subject, we were obliged to order it to be given to him.

Prospects of season generally very encouraging in Madras. Rainfall in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah from 1 to 6 inches; in Kistna, Nellore, North Arcot, Chingleput, varied up to 2 inches; South Arcot, up to 1 inch; Coimbatore, Salem, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; everywhere slight; in Mysore, up to 1 inch, but more needed in Coorg; $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in Bombay. Temple telegraphs thus: "Monsoon burst favourably 19th, 20th, along entire western "border of famine tract, gradually extending eastward; growing crops much benefited; "agriculture being everywhere resumed; prices of grain slightly higher; fall shortly

" expected; imports coast small. Railway returns not received, believed large. Situa-
" tion improved. Good monsoon following heavy eastern rain promises favourable
" season. People encouraged; numbers expected to leave works soon. Cattle saved."
Message ends.

Numbers relieved in Madras, 857,000 on works, 483,000 charitably; in Mysore, 57,000 on works, 115,000 charitably; in Bombay, 366,000 on works, 165,000 charitably.

Encl. in No. 60.

No. 55.

Telegram, dated 27th June 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras, to Revenue Additional Secretary,

Prices still continue high notwithstanding the rain; rice risen in Vizagapatam, Kurnool, Bellary, Chingleput, and South Arcot. Dry grains risen in Vizagapatam, Godavery, Kistna, Kurnool, Bellary, North Arcot, Chingleput, South Arcot, Salem, Madura, Tinnevelly, and Malabar. Stocks entirely exhausted in Nilgiris district and in some taluks of Salem and Bellary. Increased prices at Kurnool reported, attributable to decrease of stocks and difficulty of carriage.

No. 56.

Telegram, dated 29th June 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India.

Weekly famine report favourable. Continued rain in all distressed districts except Kaladgi. Agriculture progressing everywhere except one part of Poona district. Numbers on relief works decreasing. Prices high. No sickness. Monsoon not yet begun in Guzerat.

Encl. in No. 60.

No. 57.

No. 557.—From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Simla, 29th June 1877.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1,963 of the 12th instant, and your telegram of the 27th instant, on the subject of the rise of prices of food-grains, the low condition of stocks, and the consequent increasing pressure upon the population of the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency.

2. The prices given in your letter are contrasted in the following table with those of March 31st as given in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated April 6th, which were published in the Supplement to the " Gazette of India " of the 21st idem:—

Districts.	Rice.		Cholum.		Ragi.		Cumboo.	
	June 5.	Mar. 31.	June 5.	Mar. 31.	June 5.	Mar. 31.	June 5.	Mar. 31.
Kistna - - -	8·45	8·26	11·15	10·97	12·94	13·9	10·38	10·53
Nellore - - -	7·78	7·87	9·64	10·	11·74	11·88	10·06	9·8
Chingleput - - -	8·90	9·40	9·05	10·98	10·72	11·26	..	10·78
South Arcot - - -	8·75	..	11·	..	11·5	..	11·75	..
Trichinopoly - -	7·6	8·12	13·2	16·8	10·3	10·87	9·7	10·32
Tanjore - - -	8·	..	10·	..	12·18	..	10·81	..
Madura - - -	8·2	8·47	10·4	12·15	9·8	10·46	9·7	11·08
Tinnevelly - - -	8·25	8·40	11·25	9·	10·75	11·47	11·	10·85
Kurnool - - -	6·95	7·29	8·06	8·79	9·51	9·92	8·92	8·88
Cuddapah - - -	7·73	7·91	8·66	9·53	9·25	9·91	8·92	8·36
Bellary - - -	6·83	7·41	7·56	9·05	8·25	9·30	7·29	8·64
North Arcot - -	7·9	8·58	8·9	10·58	9·8	10·38	8·2	8·91
Salem - - -	7·43	7·70	9·	9·09	8·81	9·26	8·12	8·93
Coimbatore - - -	7·40	7·62	8·41	9·14	8·89	9·55	8·61	10·61

From this it would seem that in Kistna, Nellore, Salem, and Tinnevelly prices were on June 5th pretty much the same as they were at the end of March; that in North Arcot, Trichinopoly, and Madura there has been a considerable rise, but only in comparison

with a previous lower average; that in Chingleput, Kurnool, and Cuddapah the rise has been about half a seer, and in Bellary and Coimbatore about a seer. For South Arcot and Tanjore the prices of March are not available.

3. Since June 5th the general upward tendency of prices has continued, but the table in the margin, which has been compiled from the telegraphic reports of prices on the 19th instant, which appeared in the "Gazette of India" on the 23rd instant, shows that except in Bellary a man can still everywhere procure for 1 anna more than the 1 lb. ration, which in Bombay at least has been found sufficient for maintaining health; that except in Bellary and North Arcot 1 anna and 3 pies suffice to procure within about 2 ounces of what authorities in Madras have admitted to be sufficient, while in seven districts that sum will procure more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Under the new scale lately introduced the conditions as regards the labourers on the relief works are still more favourable.

—	Lbs. per rupee.		For 1 anna.	For 1-3.	For 1-6.
	Rice.	Dry grain.			
			lbs. oz.	lbs. oz.	lbs. oz.
Kistna -	17·84	23·95	1 7·95	1 13·93	2 3·92
Nellore -	15·90	21·98	1 5·98	1 11·47	2 0·97
Cuddapah -	14·75	17·98	1 1·98	1 6·47	1 10·97
Kurnool -	14·31	17·94	1 1·94	1 6·42	1 10·91
Bellary -	13·82	14·93	0 14·93	1 2·66	1 6·39
North Arcot	15·24	16·89	1 0·89	1 5·11	1 9·33
Chingleput -	17·42	19·69	1 3·69	1 8·61	1 13·53
South Arcot	16·99	22·88	1 6·88	1 12·60	2 2·32
Salem -	14·79	17·55	1 1·55	1 5·94	1 10·32
Coimbatore -	15·14	17·42	1 1·42	1 5·77	1 10·13
Madura -	17·09	21·36	1 5·36	1 10·70	2 0·04
Tinnevelly -	16·48	22·66	1 6·66	1 12·32	2 1·99
Malabar -	18·17	24·20	1 8·20	1 14·25	2 4·30

4. With reference to the supply of food grains, I am to remark that although the marginal statement, taken from the returns published weekly in the "Gazette of India," shows a certain falling off in the imports into the Madras Presidency by sea, the last three weeks have witnessed a very decided improvement in the shipments of rice from both Calcutta and Burmah.

—	By sea.	From Raichore.
	Tons.	Tons.
Gazette of April 7th -	17,768	2,050
" " 14th -	22,956	1,550
" " 21st -	17,634	1,760
" " 28th -	18,526	1,570
" May 5th -	15,666	3,100
" " 12th -	16,583	3,115
" " 19th -	16,295	2,378
" " 26th -	14,441	1,728
" June 2nd -	12,372	1,883
" " 9th -	14,663	3,672
" " 16th -	10,570	2,178
" " 23rd -	8,133	2,378

5. Under these circumstances his Excellency the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the rise of prices which has occurred is not excessive, and considers it, on the whole, a fortunate circumstance that the rates are keeping up for the present, and thus holding out fair inducements for the continued importation of food by private trade. It is indeed not improbable that this rise may lead to some increase in the numbers on the works and in receipt of gratuitous relief, and so may augment the drain on the public Treasury, but this his Excellency in Council believes to be a far lesser evil than that which would result from any reversion to the plan of purchasing supplies of grain on behalf of Government—a plan likely to be more costly and less efficient than that of leaving the present high prices to attract importation. This general principle is, of course, subject to the modification which was referred to in paragraph 9 of the instructions to Sir R. Temple of the 16th January last, in the case of remote localities where private trade may be inactive. In such cases the best course would appear to be for the Government to advertise for supplies to be delivered at the nearest spots to which there are facilities for importation, and to give the relief to those who need it in the shape of food. It is obviously most desirable that the measure here referred to should be adopted only on the most clear and urgent grounds, and that if resorted to, it should be carried out with the utmost practicable publicity.

6. In conclusion, I am to state that with the view of informing the trade of the present condition of supplies, and the continuance of the policy of non-interference hitherto observed, this correspondence will be made public with the least practicable delay.

No. 58.

Encl. in No. 79.

Dated Calcutta, 29th June 1877.

From the SECRETARY, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to the OFFICIATING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce have observed in to-day's papers, with considerable concern and interest, the essential portions of a reported correspondence

between the Supreme Government and the Government of Madras relative to the famine districts of that Presidency, the prices of food-grains, and supplies necessary to maintain adequate stocks for the requirements of the people dependent on Government aid.

But there are some points which do not appear to have been touched upon, and the Committee bring them to notice in the hope that Government will furnish such information as may place private trade in a position to judge how far it may proceed in helping the State in its measures of relief; and with the view that merchants may have full confidence in operating to that purpose it is submitted that the details of stock and of consumption at the various inland markets in the famine districts should be given with all possible publicity both in Calcutta and Madras.

Another material point, in the judgment of the Committee, is that a careful inquiry regarding the probable out-turn of growing crops of food-grains will enable the Government to arrive at an approximate estimate of the extent to which existing stocks should be supplemented by importations from Bengal, Burmah, &c., and it would be expedient to fix, if possible, after such inquiry, a date at which it may be reasonably assumed that such importations might cease.

It appears to the Committee of the Chamber that unless some authoritative declaration in these respects be promptly made, the course of trade may be arrested by merchants discontinuing their shipments, and that the existing scarcity will be aggravated by diminished supplies from this and other rice ports.

No. 59.

Telegram, dated 2nd July 1877.

From VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

To-day's Despatch covers important correspondence with Madras Government, which we have made public. That Government lately reported that a gradual and continuous rise of prices in the famine districts generally was causing a most severe pressure, and increasing the distress; also a serious diminution of stocks, and their exhaustion in Nilgiris, and parts of Salem, Bellary, and Cuddapah. They added that the whole of the stocks at the seaports would be moved inland by the end of the current month. As there were no accumulations at up-country stations, and no considerable fresh imports were known to be expected, they urged the importance of using railways with regularity, and pointed out the impossibility of making up afterwards for even a fortnight's diminished traffic. We replied that, comparing the prices on June 5th with those for 21st March, no very serious increase was perceptible. Even at the prices of the 19th instant, more than 1 lb. of grain was procurable for 1 anna everywhere except at Bellary, and under the new scale, more was procurable everywhere by relief labourers than was sufficient to support health according to the highest estimates. By returns published in "Gazette of India" importations by sea were certainly falling off somewhat, but then the shipments from Bengal and Burmah had increased during the last three weeks, and the Raichore supply was well maintained. We hold that the rise of prices which has occurred is not excessive, and that it is, on the whole, fortunate that the rates are keeping up, for thereby a fair inducement is offered for the continued importation of food by private trade. It is not improbable that the rise may cause some increase in the numbers on the relief works, and of those receiving gratuitous relief, and may so augment the drain of the public Treasury. But we believe this to be a far lesser evil than would result from reversion to the plan of purchasing supplies of grain by Government,—a plan likely to be more costly and less efficient than that of leaving the present high prices to attract importation. This principle was, of course, liable to the modification referred to in paragraph 9 of Sir Richard Temple's instructions of the 16th January last, in the case of remote localities where private trade is inactive. In such cases the best course appeared to be for the Government to advertise for supplies, to be delivered at the nearest spots where there are facilities for importation, and to give relief to those who need it, in the shape of cooked food; but the measure there referred to should be adopted only on the most clear and urgent grounds, and if resorted to, should be carried out with the utmost practicable publicity. Despatch also states that question of carrying powers on railways still engages attention in Revenue and Works Departments. Engines hired by Great Indian Peninsula from Baroda Railway; shelter provided for grain accumulated at numerous stations; Wardha Valley Railway kept open. Despatch forwards letter from Bombay, explaining that paucity of relief labourers on lower scale, to which Madras referred in Despatch, Number 38, is owing to works orga-

nisation obtaining higher tasks. Letter from Doctor Cunningham also sent, regarding the alleged presence of famine, diarrhœa, and dysentery at Madras. Prospects of season generally favourable; fair general rain in all Bombay distressed districts, except Kaladgi; in Mysore, showers, but more required. In Madras, light rain in most districts, but deficient monsoon in Kurnool and Cuddapah apprehended. Numbers relieved are, in Madras, 836,000 on works, 507,000 charitably. In Mysore, 57,000 on works, 111,000 charitably. In Bombay, 325,000 on works, 173,000 charitably. Temple telegraphs that monsoon has not yet reached Kaladgi, favourable elsewhere; prices slightly rising, fall expected when grass springs up and sowing completed; imports, coast small, by rail steady; general position still improving; condition of people good; cattle improving; causes of anxiety passing away.

No. 60.

No. 28. of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, 2nd July 1877.

We enclose for your Lordship's information copies of an important correspondence which has taken place with the Madras Government on the subject of the rise of prices of food-grains, the reduction of stocks, and the consequent pressure upon the population of the distressed districts of the Madras Presidency. The Madras Government represented that there had been a gradual and continuous rise of prices in the districts generally, and that stocks had been seriously diminished in most parts, and were entirely exhausted in the Nilgiris and some portions of Salem, Bellary, and Cuddapah. They also stated that stocks at the ports would have been moved inland by the end of the month, that there were no accumulations at up-country stations, and that no considerable fresh imports by sea were known to be on their way. Finally, they dwelt on the importance of the resources of the railways being used with regularity, and the impossibility of making up at a later date for a material diminution, even of a fortnight's duration, in the grain traffic inland. Nos. 40, 55, 57.

2. These representations have received our most anxious consideration. Comparing the prices of June 5th with those of March 31st, however, we find them in four districts to be pretty much the same as then, and in eight more not to have practically increased above one seer per rupee. Up to the 19th instant the upward tendency is still apparent, but even on that date a man could still procure for 1 anna everywhere, except in Bellary, more than the 1 lb. ration which has been found in Bombay to be sufficient for the maintenance of health under moderate labour, while in seven districts that sum would procure more than the $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. pound ration which is admitted to be adequate by the Madras authorities. Labourers on the relief works would, under the new scale recently adopted, be able to get considerably more. A comparison of prices in Madras with those prevailing in Bombay and Mysore moreover was, in the most distressed districts, in favour of the former.

3. With regard to the supply of food-grains from beyond the Madras Presidency, it appeared that though there had been of late a certain falling off in the actual imports by sea, the shipments from Calcutta and Burma had improved during the last three weeks, and that the importations viâ Raichore were well maintained.

4. Under these circumstances we considered it justifiable to conclude that the rise of prices which had taken place was not excessive, and was on the whole not to be regretted in view of the inducements thereby held out for the continuance and increase of importation by means of private trade. And we were of opinion that the increase which might occur in the numbers relieved by means of the works and charitably, was a lesser evil than that which would be created by any return to the policy of undertaking the supply of grain through Government agency. The only exception to this policy of non-interference was, as it always has been, the case of remote localities which private trade was unable to reach, to which allusion was made in paragraph 9 of the instructions to Sir Richard Temple of January 16th. While reminding the Madras Government of this exception, we have pointed out that such a measure as the supply by Government of the localities indicated should not be resorted to except on the most clear and urgent grounds, and should be carried out by means of advertisement for supplies to be delivered at the nearest points to which there are facilities for importation, and with the fullest practicable publicity. We have made our decision public by means of the press and the "Gazette of India."

5. In connexion with the reduction of stocks and large demand for food-grains in the Madras Presidency, the question of the carrying powers of the various railways has engaged our attention in the Departments both of Revenue and Public Works. For the Great Indian Peninsula Railway 40 engines were some time ago ordered, of which 10 have arrived and will shortly be in use; others have also been procured from the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway, which is enabled by the commencement of the monsoon to dispense with them. The additions necessary to the stock of the East Indian and the Sind, Punjab, and Delhi Railways are under consideration. In the meantime, representations from the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces as to the large accumulations of grain at Nagpore, Katni, and various other places have resulted in the provision of temporary shelter at numerous stations. Arrangements have also been made, on the representation and under the guarantee of the local traders, to keep the Wurdah Valley State Railway open during the monsoon, in order to remove the large quantity of grain now lying and expected to arrive at Hingunghat. Upon the whole, while it is to be regretted that trade should have received any check, and prices in the distressed districts should have been raised through the limited powers of the railways, there can be no doubt, on the one hand, that all existing resources have been fully utilised, and on the other, that trade will have received an important stimulus and a direction into new channels through which it may be expected hereafter to flow.

6. We do not propose, for the present, to offer any further remarks upon the increase lately made by the Government of Madras to the wages of labourers on relief works, as we have not yet satisfied ourselves regarding the extent to which the measure has altered the wages at the time actually in force, or the grounds upon which it was deemed to be necessary. We enclose, however, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a
No. 38. letter from the Government of Bombay, on the subject of the allusion made by the Government of Madras in their Despatch to your Lordship, No. 38, dated the 26th of May, to the scale in force in the former Presidency. The remarks in this letter regarding piece-work have our full concurrence, and have been lately communicated to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore with reference to the adoption of piece-work in that Province.

No. 41. 7. In continuation of paragraphs 5 and 6 of our Despatch No. 26, dated the 11*th* ultimo, we enclose copy of a report from Dr. D. D. Cunningham, the Special Asistant to the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, regarding his preliminary investigations at Madras into the nature of the so-called "famine diarrhœa" and "famine dysentery" lately prevalent there. While unable to discover any forms of fever which could in any way be ascribed to want, Dr. Cunningham considers the existence of morbid conditions which may be termed "famine diarrhœa" and "famine dysentery" to be established. He adds that "where once the complex structures of "the intestinal mucous membrane have been so seriously affected by degenerative "changes dependent on insufficient nourishment, they cannot be renewed, and no diet, "however careful and generous it be, can be of any avail when once the means by "which alone it can be appropriated to the necessities of the body have been "destroyed."

Nos. 8, 13, 33. 8. We would invite your Lordship's attention to two decisions with reference to the method of dealing with charges incurred for famine relief, of which copies are enclosed. In one, it has been distinctly affirmed, in reply to a remonstrance from the Government of Bombay to a previous order of the Financial Department, that a Local Government must exhaust its entire resources, provincial and local, in contending against the calamity of famine before Imperial aid can be afforded, but that, on the other hand, the Imperial Government will, at the conclusion of the emergency, make such a contribution as may suffice to secure the Local Government from actual insolvency. The second
No. 41. decision is to the effect that all outlay on Public Works executed for relief purposes shall be in the first instance debited in the Public Works accounts to a suspense head of account, termed "famine relief," and that of the whole sum thus recorded, the portion which represents the value of the work done, at normal rates, shall be ultimately recorded under the head "Public Works," the remainder being transferred to the head "famine relief."

9. We are glad to be able to report that the prospects of the season continue favourable. Fair general rain has fallen in all distressed districts of Bombay except Kaladgi. In Mysore showers have been pretty general in the plains, but more rain is to be desired. In Madras showers, and in some taluks a fair rainfall, are reported from almost all districts, which are probably sufficient, considering what has fallen already, to meet the present wants of most tracts. Apprehensions of an unfavourable monsoon in

Kurnool and Cuddapah are, however, entertained. The numbers in receipt of relief are as follows:—

In Madras - - - -	836,329 on relief works. 507,433 charitably relieved.
In Mysore - - - -	56,781 on relief works. 110,805 charitably relieved.
In Bombay - - - -	324,491 on relief works. 173,372 charitably relieved.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
E. C. BAYLEY.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
WHITNEY STOKES.

No. 61. Encl. in No. 79.

No. 3,454—69 G., dated Bangalore, 2nd July 1877.

From the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 504, of the 8th ultimo, in which, after setting forth certain inferences to be drawn from a review of the figures supplied in the special famine reports furnished from this office, you remark that the apparently peculiar condition of affairs at the present juncture "of the prevailing distress "in this Province, demands the most careful consideration of the Chief Commissioner, "made by means of specially deputed officers, &c., with the view of ensuring on the "one hand that all that can work shall be forced to do so, and on the other, that "charitable relief may reach all who are really in need of it without too great con-"centration of recipients and its concomitant evils and abuses." No. 34.

2. It may be convenient, Mr. Saunders considers, that the Government of India should be furnished with a brief resumé of the measures which have been taken to supervise and control the administration of relief.

3. In the Nundydroog division, comprising the three districts of Bangalore, Tumkur, and Kolar, the Deputy Commissioners have been generally relieved of the heavier portion of their magisterial duties, and divested temporarily of the powers they have exercised in disposing of sessions cases of a certain class under section 36 of the Criminal Procedure Code, thus setting them free for bestowing greater attention to purely administrative work. Up to the 10th June last, the Civil courts having been kept closed as long as it was practicable to do so, the Deputy Commissioners were aided by the Judicial Assistant Commissioners and Munsiffs and their establishments, in superintending famine relief operations, and the services of these officials are still retained for these duties so far as is compatible with the work of their courts. In Bangalore itself, where several large relief camps or kitchens have been established, owing to the large influx of people to this centre, their supervision has been vested in a Central Executive Relief Committee, of which Mr. Gordon, the Judicial Commissioner, is President. In the Bangalore district proper, the Deputy Commissioner is aided by his several assistants, one of whom is a European officer. In the Kolar district, the Deputy Commissioner's hands have been strengthened by the deputation of an additional Assistant Commissioner, and the Munsiffs who are zealous and able officers are still able to afford him their assistance. In the Tumkur district, the Deputy Commissioner's efforts have been ably seconded by two European officers temporarily transferred from the Mysore Revenue Survey.

4. In the Ashtagram division, the local distress has been confined chiefly to parts of one district, Hassan, and to several taluks of the Mysore district. The Commissioner, Colonel Hay, by constant visits to all parts of his division, has been able with the zealous co-operation of the district officers to cope with requirements in that division without further aid; but while the distress has been comparatively restricted in this division, the difficulty of dealing with it has been aggravated by the migration, through

the Mysore and Hassan districts of large bodies of labourers with their families who were tempted by the prospects and expectation of finding both employment for themselves and pasturage for their cattle in the hill districts of the Wynaad, Coorg, and Manjarabad. As the Government are aware, the supply of labour in those districts is almost wholly obtained in ordinary years from this Province, and though efforts have been made to arrest the stream, and prevent the movement in that direction of persons who were not under engagements to work on the estates, or who were physically unfit for such employment, it has not been found practicable to effect this object as effectually as could be wished. To aid the Commissioner, the services of two European officers of the Mysore Revenue Survey have been placed at his disposal, and more recently, Captain Clerk in charge of the Coorg Survey (which is now in recess) has been deputed for special work under Colonel Hay's orders.

5. In the Nagar division the Chitaldroog district alone is wholly affected; the Kadur Shimoga districts being only partially so. In the Chitaldroog district the Deputy Commissioner has been aided for several months past by a European officer of the Mysore Revenue Survey, and in the Shimoga district the Deputy Commissioner has the assistance of two European Assistants, in addition to his ordinary complement of Native Assistants.

6. The Chief Commissioner has reason to believe that the means taken as above shown to supplement the agencies at the disposal of the divisional and district officers, without looking for aid outside the administration, have been and are on the whole adequate to the purpose in view, but it cannot be denied that the energies of all these officers have been severely strained, and that it is due to the strenuous and hearty exertions of all concerned that the difficulties with which they have had to contend have been, as Mr. Saunders hopes, so far successfully grappled with.

7. It is necessary to add, however, that there are certain circumstances connected with the Bangalore district which have occasioned the Chief Commissioner some anxiety. The disproportionate number of persons who are being gratuitously fed in this district as well as the large expenditure incurred both under this head and on relief works, has attracted the attention of the Government of India. It is true, as has been explained by the Deputy Commissioner, that the inducements which have naturally attracted the people to flock into Bangalore, populated as it is by wealthy natives as well as by a large body of European residents, have led to a large number of distressed persons being thrown upon the relief kitchens in the district, but this reason does not sufficiently explain why such considerable numbers, ascertained to belong to the district, have had recourse to the charity of Government; and inquiries have been set on foot to elucidate the point. The matter is viewed by the Chief Commissioner as important also in so far as it appears that while the ratio of those gratuitously fed to the total population is as 1 to 53 in the Madras Presidency (the affected districts), and as 1 to 58 in the Bombay Presidency, the ratio is as 1 to 46 in Mysore. But if the figures relating to the Bangalore district (not including those of the Bangalore Municipality) as taken from the special famine report No. 19,* be eliminated, the proportion of gratuitously fed to population in this Province is as 1 to 58, being precisely equivalent to that prevailing in the Bombay Presidency.

* For the week ending 16th June 1877.

8. On the subject of the method adopted in respect of affording the distressed people employment on relief works, the Chief Commissioner conceives that a brief explanation may be desirable, with reference to the remarks made in paragraph 8 of your letter under reference. The course followed in this Province has been to provide such works as far as possible within easy reach of the homes of the people, in those localities where the distress has been most felt. A reduced task work was exacted in respect of all who were not sufficiently able-bodied to undertake employment on works in progress under the Public Works Department. In this manner, numerous petty works, such as sinking or deepening wells, excavating silt from tank beds, have been opened and carried out from funds assigned to some extent from local funds, but chiefly from famine grants. Road projects have been taken up to some extent, but in a Province so largely intersected by roads already, an objection has been felt to prosecuting works of this kind too actively, with the certainty of imposing an undue burden on the district funds in their maintenance hereafter. As a circumstance bearing on this subject, it may be needful to state also that, in a large number of the relief camps—certainly in all those where the numbers being gratuitously fed are large—light work is provided for those inmates who are capable of it, by employing them in collecting and breaking road metal, gravel, and in other ways. The advantage of this arrangement is that useful work is provided under more efficient supervision than it is always practicable to secure for petty and scattered relief works.

No. 62.

Telegram, dated 6th July 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to Secretary of State for India.

No rain of consequence since last telegram. Situation not improved. Prices of grain high. Still numbers on relief works decreasing, and agriculture progressing in all distressed districts save Kaladgi, regarding which anxiety felt. Monsoon not yet begun in Guzerat, nor in Nizam's Deccan, nor in neighbouring parts of Madras, all which slightly aggravates Bombay position.

No. 63. Encl. in No. 79.

Telegram, dated 6th July 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Simla, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras.

Governor-General in Council considers it of utmost importance in order to give confidence to merchants, and prevent discontinuance of shipments, that all procurable information regarding stocks, consumption, and growing crops should be made public. His Excellency therefore requests Madras Government will obtain as soon as possible and publish in "Government Gazette," as regards each distressed district or smaller convenient division, first, anything known about quantity of local stocks; secondly, the imports and exports of grain; thirdly, the estimated daily consumption of food grain by the population dependent on each principal market; fourthly, the condition of the growing crops of food grains. Similar information should be published fortnightly in future, and as crops reach maturity their probable out-turn should be given as far it can be roughly estimated.

No. 64. Encl. in No. 79.

Telegram, dated 7th July 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Simla, to Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta.

Governor-General in Council thanks chamber for valuable letter of 29th ultimo, and will gladly afford all information procurable, but it must be remembered that ascertainment of existing stocks and estimate of out-turn of growing crops on vast areas is most difficult. Government of Madras have been requested to ascertain and publish in "Madras Government Gazette," as regards each distressed district, first, anything known about quantity of local stocks; secondly, the imports and exports of grain; thirdly, the estimated daily consumption of food grain by the population dependent on each principal market; fourthly, the condition of the growing crops of food grains. Madras Government have also been told that similar information should be published fortnightly in future, and as crops reach maturity their probable out-turn should be given as far as it can be roughly estimated. Chief Commissioner, Mysore, has been similarly requested. Government India consider that importations on a large scale into the Madras Presidency may be expected to last until the reaping of the new harvest, that is, September and October, and that if the harvest be good they will then probably return by December to their normal average.

No. 65. Encl. in No. 79.

No. 585, dated Simla, the 7th July 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

In reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to enclose post copy of a telegram addressed to you yesterday, which his Excellency the Governor-General in Council trusts will meet the wishes and suggestions of the Chamber of Commerce.

I am directed to add that his Excellency in Council feels considerable doubts whether district officers generally have as good means of ascertaining the extent of stocks, and of estimating probable out-turn of crops as are possessed by the up-country agents of mer-

cantile firms deeply interested in the issue, and having access to many private sources of communication. In the case of district officers in the distressed districts of Madras the difficulty will be enhanced by the multifarious and onerous duties now falling upon them.

No. 66.

Telegram, dated 8th July 1877.

From VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

No despatch this week. Prospects scarcely so favourable in Madras: no rain in Salem, Trichinopoly, Madura; fair in parts of Bellary, Kistna, Tinnevelly, Coimbatore; very slight elsewhere. In Mysore no rain; standing crops beginning to suffer. In Bombay, rain still insufficient in Kaladgi and extreme east, where young crops withering. Elsewhere in Bombay crops good and agriculture spreading. Number relieved,—In Madras, 850,000 on works; 537,000 charitably. In Mysore, 52,000 on works; 116,000 charitably. In Bombay, 297,000 on works; 173,000 charitably. Temple telegraphs thus:—"Prices still slightly rising, specially in Kaladgi, where imports are checked by "the employment of cattle on agriculture; imports of grain by steamer to coast con- "siderable, by rail steady. Condition of people good; cattle improving. General "improvement continues, and would be greater if monsoon were more steady, and rain- "fall extended better eastward. Nearly 100,000 persons voluntarily left works last "three weeks." We anticipate from Bombay reports possible saving of 40 lakhs on estimate for that Presidency.

Encl. in No. 79.

No. 67.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY in the PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Local), No. 190 P., dated 8th July 1877.

RESOLUTION.—His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to issue the following orders for the guidance of the Collector and of the Executive Engineer in the Kaladgi Collectorate. If rain should not have fallen, or if from appearances it is not immediately expected when these orders are received, and if the price of staple grain is dearer than a rupee for 9 lbs., then wherever such prices may prevail, an equivalent for the Sunday's wage should be allowed, both on Public Works Department and Civil agency relief works, by adding an increment to the week days' wages.

2. Should rain continue to hold off, the Collector should be careful not to turn away people off the works who are not actually wanted for agriculture. He should also secure that facilities are given for taking people on to relief works, and that the machinery for village inspection is maintained in its fullest vigour, so that all people who are falling deeper into want may be brought before Relief Officers; the Collector should be informed that he will be held absolutely answerable in this respect, and his attention should again be drawn to Government Resolution No. 260 E.—852, Local, dated 16th April 1877.

3. As an example of the increment to be paid under these orders, the following is given, the price of grain being assumed to be 8 lbs. per rupee:—

On Public Works Department Works.

	Pay per working day, according to the table accompanying Government Resolution No. 268 C.W. —1038, Local, of 13th December 1876.	Increment as ordered, being one-sixth of the daily pay.	Total pay per working day.	
	A. P.		A. P.	
Man	3 0	0 6	3 6	
Woman	2 6	0 5	2 11	
Boy or girl employed upon the works	1 6 or 2 annas at the discretion of the directing officer.	0 3 or 4 pies at the discretion of the directing officer.	1 9 or 2 a. 4 p. at the discretion of the directing officer.	Mean of these rates, or 2 as., probably sufficient in all ordinary cases.

On Civil Agency Works.

Man	2 6	0 5	2 11	
Woman	2 3	0 4½	2 7½	
Boy or girl employed upon the works	1 3 or 1 a. 6 p. at the discretion of the directing officer.	0 2½ or 3 pies at the discretion of the directing officer.	1 5½ or 1 a. 9 p. at the discretion of the directing officer.	The higher rates might here be given.

No. 68.

No. 2271A-228A, dated Fort St. George, 10th July 1877.

Encl. in No. 288

From the Additional Secretary to Government of Madras to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

With reference to your telegram of the 22nd ultimo, requesting that a complete set of death returns for all distressed districts, from July 1876 up to the latest date of receipt in each case, may be sent to you as soon as possible, I am directed to forward the enclosed statement received from the Sanitary Commissioner giving the required information up to the end of April last.

Return showing the Deaths in the Distressed Districts of the Madras Presidency, from July 1876 to April 1877.

Districts.	Population.	Diseases.	1876. July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	1877. January.	February.	March.	April.
Nellore	1,376,811	Cholera	357	533	638	465	997	3,884	8,816	4,802	1,556	545
		Small-pox	18	6	34	17	38	102	399	491	482	513
		Fevers	716	626	745	735	959	912	897	926	794	773
		Bowel complaints	56	41	44	36	31	52	118	77	70	35
		Other causes	554	517	578	564	635	694	912	1,056	737	902
		Total	1,701	1,723	2,039	1,817	2,660	5,644	11,142	7,352	3,639	2,768
Madras	397,552	Cholera	231	240	61	30	98	464	1,635	1,140	650	465
		Small-pox	35	37	36	28	10	67	200	893	1,738	1,441
		Fevers	144	150	219	218	204	245	313	402	552	445
		Bowel complaints	165	202	180	151	151	452	713	966	1,030	843
		Other causes	645	701	643	736	702	806	882	1,000	1,054	884
		Total	1,220	1,330	1,137	1,163	1,165	2,034	*3,743	4,401	5,024	4,078
Chingleput	938,184	Cholera	182	177	110	56	60	191	1,275	413	266	154
		Small-pox	27	33	32	24	30	71	165	309	719	693
		Fevers	505	488	483	480	494	651	759	641	739	586
		Bowel complaints	655	404	237	144	286	806	2,455	1,439	929	520
		Other causes	869	806	772	745	882	1,146	1,440	1,549	1,483	1,037
		Total	2,238	1,908	1,634	1,449	1,752	2,865	6,094	4,351	4,136	2,909
Madura	1,328,231	Cholera	21	..	63	46	140	701	1,680	914	1,069	1,075
		Small-pox	129	123	146	127	133	198	295	289	432	340
		Fevers	905	809	819	823	855	982	909	654	705	711
		Bowel complaints	164	134	134	126	120	136	147	110	149	158
		Other causes	985	662	698	743	727	844	727	613	675	722
		Total	1,904	1,728	1,860	1,865	1,975	2,861	3,758	2,580	3,030	3,006
Kurnool	959,640	Cholera	1,211	423	169	38	876	6,042	1,989	1,463	2,008	1,717
		Small-pox	81	25	26	27	46	121	181	349	468	342
		Fevers	1,273	1,278	1,212	1,194	1,698	3,551	2,571	1,876	2,176	2,600
		Bowel complaints	63	75	51	29	58	80	74	76	98	96
		Other causes	837	592	316	247	379	2,068	1,438	1,483	377	509
		Total	3,465	2,393	1,774	1,535	3,057	11,862	6,253	5,247	5,127	5,264
Cuddapah	1,351,194	Cholera	1,520	1,232	1,102	540	970	3,777	9,924	8,216	3,561	2,235
		Small-pox	107	76	67	91	106	188	371	422	714	776
		Fevers	1,416	1,480	1,578	1,493	1,726	2,038	2,314	2,109	2,658	2,770
		Bowel complaints	53	70	64	57	62	104	141	153	105	140
		Other causes	406	434	417	386	434	505	610	531	647	681
		Total	3,502	3,292	3,228	2,567	3,298	6,612	13,360	11,431	7,685	6,602
Bellary	1,668,006	Cholera	1,970	1,010	335	166	1,341	2,858	4,191	6,953	6,945	3,415
		Small-pox	105	96	98	89	193	380	500	897	1,209	856
		Fevers	705	749	730	724	799	980	1,163	1,225	1,397	1,314
		Bowel complaints	172	157	144	113	216	234	251	334	380	296
		Other causes	2,453	2,442	2,289	2,004	2,374	2,988	3,256	3,556	4,075	4,159
		Total	5,405	4,454	3,566	3,096	4,923	7,440	9,361	12,965	14,006	10,040

* 316 cases from Monegar Camp are not included, as no particulars were received.

RETURN showing the DEATHS in the DISTRESSED DISTRICTS of the MADRAS PRESIDENCY—*cont.*

Districts.	Population.	Diseases.	1876. July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	1877. January.	February.	March.	April.
North Arcot	2,015,278	Cholera	1,375	594	214	683	853	2,471	9,605	8,432	5,657	2,731
		Small-pox	36	15	27	45	75	135	227	213	250	306
		Fevers	1,429	1,467	1,359	1,228	1,291	1,600	1,680	1,593	1,591	1,623
		Bowel complaints	143	127	124	87	128	166	202	172	178	153
		Other causes	1,325	1,374	1,243	1,202	1,389	1,674	1,972	1,759	1,946	1,664
		Total	4,308	3,577	2,967	3,245	3,736	6,046	13,686	12,169	9,622	6,477
Salem	1,966,995	Cholera	411	293	152	124	903	3,928	6,788	7,158	8,523	6,875
		Small-pox	48	24	23	29	34	44	82	108	171	276
		Fevers	1,449	1,316	1,254	1,239	1,284	1,538	1,588	1,493	2,043	2,091
		Bowel complaints	113	129	88	97	129	141	180	169	191	297
		Other causes	1,224	1,077	1,141	1,072	1,157	1,387	1,620	1,488	2,019	2,424
		Total	3,245	2,839	2,658	2,561	3,507	7,038	10,258	10,416	12,947	11,963
Coimbatore	1,763,274	Cholera	119	73	22	9	321	2,157	3,032	3,990	3,093	3,926
		Small-pox	9	12	13	16	16	25	58	80	103	79
		Fevers	931	897	901	915	973	974	865	769	945	922
		Bowel complaints	218	189	204	225	174	187	231	173	187	276
		Other causes	812	829	842	854	837	980	831	823	784	826
		Total	2,089	2,000	1,982	2,019	2,321	4,323	5,017	5,835	5,112	6,029

No. 69.

Telegram, dated 12th July 1877.

From GOVERNOR OF MADRAS to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

South-west monsoon so far very inadequate over wide area causing great increase distress. Recently sown crops in many districts reported withering. Prices still tending upwards.

Encl. in No. 79.

No. 70.

Telegram, dated 12th July 1877.

From REVENUE SECRETARY, Madras, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Your telegram of 6th. All possible reliable information will be published as requested; prices, imports, and movements of grain are communicated to press. Information as to stocks in districts too unreliable to publish authoritatively; any actual shortness of stock has been communicated to Chamber of Commerce.

No. 71.

Telegram, dated 13th July 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

Bad accounts of weather and prices from Madras. Have you any information?

No. 72.

Telegram, dated the 13th July 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to the Secretary of State.

No material improvement since last telegram. Monsoon still suspended, causing anxiety. Prices rising generally, in some parts expensively dear, aggravating distress.

Partial rain has fallen in eastern tracts of Deccan. Numbers on relief works still decreasing, but increasing on gratuitous relief in many places. Importation of grain maintained well. Human labour employed carrying grain, cattle being engaged for agriculture.

No. 73.

Encl. in No. 79.

No. 600, dated Simla, 13th July 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

With reference to your Secretary's letter, No. 3,454–69G., dated the 2nd instant, which has been laid before his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, I am directed to point out that no explanation has been afforded on the subject of paragraphs 4 and 5 of my letter No. 504 of the 8th ultimo as to the amounts sanctioned and those expended, or on the first and second points noticed in paragraph 7.

No. 74.

Encl. in No. 79.

No. 598, dated Simla, the 13th July 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

With reference to your famine report for the week ending 23rd June, I am directed to state that his Excellency the Governor-General in Council has observed with surprise that a system so unsuited to famine times as paying coolies only once in 15 days exists in the Province of Mysore, and has continued so long without attracting notice. This practice alone would go far to account for the small numbers on works under Public Works agency and for the eventual swelling of the numbers in need of charitable relief. His Excellency in Council desires that bi-weekly, and where distress is extreme, daily payment may be substituted as soon as possible.

2. The attention of the Madras Government has been invited to the remarks in paragraph 7 regarding the arrangements of the railway company in favour of certain merchants.

3. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council also observes that the report of the Commissioner of the Ashtagram Division for the month ending 15th May was not despatched till the 26th idem, dealt with until 12th June, or forwarded to the Government of India till 30th June, and considers that all famine matters should be disposed of with the utmost promptitude.

No. 75.

Encl. in No. 79.

Telegram, dated 13th July 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Simla, to the Revenue Secretary, Madras.

Your telegram of 12th very satisfactory. Publication in Gazette in addition to communication to press and Chamber desirable for information of Bengal and elsewhere.

75[a]. Encl. in No. 79.

STATEMENT of the PRICES of FOOD-GRAINS in Seers per Rupee in the MADRAS distressed Districts.—1877.

Districts.	Rice on the						Cholum on the						Raggi on the						Cumboo on the					
	31st March.	5th June.	19th June.	26th June.	3rd July.	10th July.	31st March.	5th June.	19th June.	26th June.	3rd July.	10th July.	31st March.	5th June.	19th June.	26th June.	3rd July.	10th July.	31st March.	5th June.	19th June.	26th June.	3rd July.	10th July.
Kistna -	8·26	8·45	8·66	8·63	8·58	8·42	10·97	11·15	11·15	11·1	11·1	10·45	13·9	12·94	12·96	12·95	12·81	11·33	10·53	10·38	10·77	10·65	10·7	10·05
Nellore -	7·87	7·78	7·72	7·74	7·66	7·28	10·	9·64	9·85	9·89	9·54	9·28	11·88	11·74	11·8	11·82	11·45	10·79	9·8	10·06	10·37	10·25	9·85	9·54
Cuddapah -	7·91	7·73	7·16	7·16	6·99	6·3	9·53	8·66	8·34	8·41	8·49	7·92	9·91	9·25	9·32	9·38	9·43	8·72	8·36	8·92	8·54	8·49	8·69	7·72
Bellary -	7·41	6·83	6·71	6·48	6·34	5·86	9·05	7·56	7·03	6·55	6·72	6·35	9·3	8·25	7·76	7·32	7·35	7·13	8·64	7·29	7·22	6·77	6·94	6·25
			7·56*	7·83*	7·56*	6·21*			7·73†	7·73†	8·24†	6·95†												
Kurnool -	7·29	6·95	6·95	6·67	6·53	6·05	8·79	8·06	7·84	7·48	7·55	7·19	9·92	9·51	9·39	8·79	8·83	8·23	8·88	8·92	8·92	8·91	9·24	8·28
North Arcot	8·58	7·9	7·4	7·4	7·4	6·8	10·58	8·9	8·4	8·4	8·4	8·	10·38	9·8	9·4	9·2	8·9	8·2	8·91	8·2	7·8	7:8	7·7	7·5
Chingleput -	9·4	8·9	8·46	8·34	8·26	6·91	10·98	9·05	9·05	9·05	9·05	8·59	11·26	10·72	10·08	9·92	9·77	8·31	10·78	—	—	—	—	—
Trichinopoly	8·12	7·6	$7\frac{3}{5}$	$7\frac{2}{5}$	$7\frac{2}{5}$	$6\frac{3}{5}$	16·8	13·2	$13\frac{3}{10}$	13·	13·	$16\frac{4}{5}$	10·87	10·3	$10\frac{3}{5}$	$10\frac{3}{5}$	$10\frac{3}{5}$	$9\frac{3}{5}$	10·32	9·7	$9\frac{5}{6}$	$9\frac{2}{3}$	$9\frac{2}{3}$	$8\frac{9}{0}$
Madura -	8·47	8·2	$8\frac{3}{10}$	$8\frac{3}{10}$	$8\frac{1}{5}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	12·15	10·4	$10\frac{2}{5}$	$10\frac{7}{10}$	$10\frac{1}{5}$	$10\frac{3}{16}$	10·46	9·8	$9\frac{9}{10}$	$9\frac{4}{5}$	$9\frac{9}{10}$	$9\frac{2}{5}$	11·08	9·7	$10\frac{3}{5}$	$9\frac{4}{5}$	$10\frac{1}{10}$	$9\frac{1}{2}$
Tinnevelly -	8·4	8·25	8·	8·	8·	8·	9·	11·25	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	11·	11·47	10·75	$10\frac{3}{4}$	10·	$10\frac{1}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{2}$	10·85	11·	$10\frac{3}{4}$	11·	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Coimbatore -	7·62	7·4	7·35	7·33	6·51	6·82	9·14	8·41	8·32	8·22	8·22	7·75	9·55	8·89	8·79	8·63	8·63	8·79	10·61	8·61	8·27	8·61	9·07	9·09
Salem -	7·7	7·43	$7\frac{3}{16}$	$7\frac{1}{8}$	$6\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{1}{8}$	9·09	9·	$8\frac{13}{16}$	$8\frac{3}{8}$	$8\frac{5}{16}$	$7\frac{1}{2}$	9·26	8·81	$8\frac{13}{16}$	$8\frac{11}{16}$	$8\frac{1}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{4}$	8·93	8·12	$7\frac{15}{16}$	$7\frac{15}{16}$	$7\frac{9}{16}$	$6\frac{7}{8}$
South Arcot	—	8·75	$8\frac{1}{4}$	8·	8·	$7\frac{3}{8}$	—	11·	$10\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{2}$	—	11·5	$11\frac{1}{10}$	11·	$10\frac{3}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{8}$	—	11·75	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	$11\frac{1}{4}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$
Tanjore -	—	8·	$7\frac{3}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{7}{8}$	$7\frac{9}{16}$	—	10·	$9\frac{3}{4}$	$9\frac{5}{8}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$9\frac{7}{16}$	—	12·18	$10\frac{7}{16}$	$10\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$	$10\frac{7}{16}$	—	10·81	$11\frac{7}{16}$	11·	11·	11·

* Boiled.

† Jubbulpore.

No. 76.

Encl. in No. 103.

Dated Calcutta, 14th July 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The Committee of the Chamber of Commerce desire me to convey their respectful acknowledgment of the reply which his Excellency the Governor-General in Council was pleased to transmit by telegraph on the 6th instant to their representation of 29th of last month, and to state that the full information therein communicated will serve in a very great measure to guide the operations of merchants who may be interested in supplying the wants of the famine districts of Madras.

The Committee also desire me to thank you for your letter No. 585, of 7th instant. They are quite sensible of the difficulties in the way of officers in those districts, and would not desire to burden them with superadded laborious service; and probably the enterprise and industry of merchants will enable them to ascertain for themselves the information which the district officers would, no doubt, have cheerfully obtained had their present duties been less pressing.

The Committee further desire me to say that, with the view to the largest publicity being given to the reply with which they have been honoured, they have requested the daily papers to publish the correspondence.

No. 77.

Telegram, dated 15th July 1877.

From the VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Your telegram of 13th. Prospects of season continue unfavourable. Situation undoubtedly critical in Madras. No rain last week, except slight showers in parts Bellary and some southern districts. Recently sown crops withering in many quarters. Prices Madras still rising, principally of rice, but pound of grain still procurable for 1 anna in almost all distressed districts, and there are few parts where rice is the only grain to be got, moreover nowhere yet so high as in Kaladgi, Dharwar, Belgaum, of Bombay.

No. 78.

Telegram, dated 15th July 1877.

From the VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

To-morrow's Despatch covers more papers by Cornish and Lyon. Condition: Mysore still critical; rainfall trifling. Rice selling at $11\frac{2}{3}$ lbs. per rupee at Bangalore, and higher in districts. Distress increasing. Standing crops suffering; unless rain soon, season will be lost. Of Bombay, Temple telegraphs as follows on 13th:— "Monsoon break continues, causing anxiety in districts, chiefly Kaladgi, where previous "rainfall insufficient. No harm yet where previous rainfall sufficient, but everywhere "more wanted. Sowing and agriculture proceeding in tract where rain was best. In "south, quick growing crops and vegetables sown with early rain coming to market. "Prices rising, especially Kaladgi and south districts, where imports impeded by em- "ployment of cattle in fields. People, eastern districts, conveying grain by head loads "from markets to remoter parts. Movement is healthy and facilitates imports, and "gives profitable occupation to many. Imports by coast trifling; by rail full. Con- "dition of cattle improving, except extreme east. General improvement continues, "and will be greatly accelerated by good rainfall, now probably near. Last four weeks "labourers reduced 124,002." Message ends. At request of Bengal Chamber of Commerce, we have requested Madras Government to publish regularly all information procurable regarding stocks, exports and imports, consumption of food grain, and condition of standing crops; also their weekly reports. Numbers relieved are as follows:— In Madras, 866,000 on works; 581,000 charitably. In Mysore, 50,000 on works; 120,000 charitably. In Bombay, 275,000 on works; 169,000 charitably. Prices and condition of Madras reported in separate telegram.

No. 79.

No. 29 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 16th July 1877.

Nos. 21, 28. We enclose for your Lordship's information two reports by Dr. Cornish, and a demi-official letter from Dr. Lyon, on the vexed subject of famine wages. In the first of his reports Dr. Cornish dwells on the difficulty of testing the effects of the reduced wage which is occasioned by the constant changes in the *personnel* of the gangs and the slowness of the process of destruction of life through chronic insufficiency of food. In his second report Dr. Cornish combats the views of Dr. Lyon set forth in the memorandum which we submitted to your Lordship with our Despatch No 24, dated the 17th May last, and adds that the data of Dr. Lyon's paper do not justify the conclusion which the Bombay Government have founded on it, that a ration based on 1 lb. of grain is sufficient for persons not performing severe labour. Dr. Lyon's demi-official letter Nos. 29, 48. brings to notice a letter of Dr. Dymock regarding the experiences of the French on a bare subsistence ration during the siege of Paris.

2. Your Lordship will have learned, from paragraph 2 of our Despatch No. 26, of the 11th ultimo, that the large preponderance of the charitably relieved in the Province of Mysore, which is alluded to in paragraph 3 of your Lordship's Despatch No. 46 of June 7th, had already attracted our attention. We now enclose the reply of the Chief Nos. 61, 73, 74. Commissioner to the reference we had made to him and a call for further explanations which we have found it necessary to make, as also a communication regarding the practice of paying the relief labourers only fortnightly, which has come to light. We regret to say that the condition of the Province continues critical, as shown by the following telegram from the Chief Commissioner, dated the 12th instant :—

"Rainfall at Bangalore 35 cents, Coorg 1·78 inches. Ordinary rice selling at Bangalore at 11½ lbs. per rupee. Prices unprecedentedly high in the districts, and distress greatly on the increase. Standing crops have already suffered, and unless rain falls, of which there are no signs, the cultivating season will be lost."

No. 45. 3. With reference to paragraph 7 of our Despatch No. 24, of May 17th, we beg to enclose a copy of the reply of the Madras Government to our letter on the subject of reducing the numbers in the relief camps. The question is one which must be left to the discretion of the Madras Government, but we observe that in the present week the Collector of Salem reports that the number in the relief camps there has risen 15 per cent. through the revised scale of diet and the consequent popularity of the camps, and we cannot but think that the system of discouraging the receipt of relief by any except those absolutely in need which is being carried out in Bombay, as shown in a Resolution Nos. 1, 47. of which a copy is enclosed, combines sufficient relief with necessary economy.

No. 58. 4. We submit for your Lordship's information a letter from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, which has been elicited by the publication of the correspondence with the Government of Madras which was reported in our Despatch No. 28 of the 2nd instant. In consequence of this letter we requested the Madras Government to publish in the Nos. 63 to 65, 70, 75. "Fort Saint George Gazette" as much of the information desired by the Chamber as appeared practicable, and are glad to learn that there will be no difficulty in doing so. We have also requested that Government to publish their weekly relief reports, so that the grain trade in Bengal and elsewhere may receive information earlier than is possible No. 75a. through the "Gazette of India." In connexion with this subject we append statement of the prices of the four principal food grains in Madras at various dates from March 31st up to last week. The continued rise is serious, but a pound of grain can still be obtained for 1 anna in almost all the distressed districts, and there are probably but few parts where rice, which is the most expensive grain, is alone procurable. Prices in Madras, moreover, are nowhere yet so high as in the most distressed districts of Bombay, where they stood as per margin by the last accounts, and the Bombay Government had, in consequence, added payment for Sundays to the previous wage.

Belgaum	- -	5½ to 6 seers
Dharwar	- -	5⅝ „
Kaladgi	- -	4¾ to 5 „

No. 67.

5. We regret to state that the prospects of the season continue very unfavourable. The condition of Mysore has been already referred to. In Madras there has been no rain during the week, except slight showers in parts of Bellary and some of the southern

districts, and the recently sown crops are withering in many quarters. Of Bombay Sir Richard Temple telegraphs on the 13th as follows :—

"Monsoon break continues, causing anxiety in districts, chiefly Kaladgi, where previous rainfall insufficient. No harm yet where previous rainfall sufficient, but everywhere more wanted; sowing and agriculture proceeding in tracts where rain was best. In south quick-growing crops and vegetables sown with early rain coming to market. Prices rising, especially Kaladgi and south districts, where imports impeded by employment of cattle in fields. People eastern districts conveying grain by head-loads from markets to remoter parts; movement healthy, facilitates imports, gives profitable occupation to many; imports by coast trifling, by rail full; condition cattle improving, except extreme east. General improvement continues; will be greatly accelerated by good rainfall now probably near; last four weeks labourers reduced 124,002."

The numbers in receipt of relief were, by the latest accounts, as follows:—

In Madras - -	865,752	on relief works.
	581,633	charitably relieved.
In Mysore - -	49,794	on relief works.
	120,251	charitably relieved.
In Bombay - -	274,521	on relief works.
	169,482	charitably relieved.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
E. C. BAYLEY.
ALEX. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
WHITLEY STOKES.

No. 80.

Encl. in No. 103.

Telegram, dated 19th July 1877.

From Viceroy, Simla, to his Excellency Col. Anson, Singapore.

The drought which prevailed during the past season throughout large portions of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies and Mysore has caused great decrease in stocks of food grains throughout India, and consequent rise of prices. The prospects of the season now commencing are doubtful, the S. W. monsoon so far having been unfavourable, and there is every probability of continuance of high prices and demand for at least next three or four months. It is important to encourage immediate imports of rice from the Straits, Cochin China, and Siam. Please communicate this to your Chamber of Commerce, and also to French and Siamese Consuls, with request that they will inform Governor-General and King.

No. 81.

Telegram, dated 20th July 1877.

From Secretary of State to Governor of Madras.

What news of monsoon? We are very anxious.

No. 82.

Telegram, dated 20th July 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to Secretary of State.

Some improvement since last telegram.

Good rain Concan, Guzerat, Kattywar, Khandesh, extending to Berar. Partial rain in Deccan. Monsoon not properly restored. Numbers on relief slightly decreased. Prices high in consequence of bad news from Madras, Mysore, and Nizam's country.

Timely rain, if vouchsafed, would re-establish everything in Bombay Presidency.

Quantities of grains ready for despatch to distressed districts.

Encl. in No. 164.

No. 83.

No. 620, dated Simla, 20th July 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras.

With reference to the proceedings of the Madras Government quoted in the margin, I am directed to state that his Excellency the Governor-General in Council considers that the system of a daily money dole is certain to lead to very extensive abuses, not merely on the grounds so forcibly set forth by the Collector of Nellore, but because the most recent of the orders quoted appear to leave the rates to be paid entirely at the discretion of the local officers.

No. 1,820, dated May 25th.
„ 1,830, „ „ 28th.
„ 1,979, „ June 13th.

2. I am accordingly directed to request that the orders sanctioning this mode of payment may be re-considered.

Encl. in No. 271.

No. 84.

Extract from Letter from W. H. Glenny, Esq., Sub-Collector of Bellary, to J. H. Master, Esq., Collector of Bellary, No. 273, dated 20th July 1877.

In continuation of my letter No. 171, dated 10th May 1877, and with reference to Board's proceedings, No. 3,244, dated 21st December 1876, I have the honour to submit report on the famine relief operations under my charge during March 1877, accompanied as usual by a statement received from the Range Officer exhibiting the estimated value of the work turned out, with marginal notes by me showing the cost thereof.

2. There is not much to say in this report. Relief operations in Adoni taluk were placed in charge of Mr. Oldham, B.C.S., on 7th. The great reductions in numbers and the concentration of our labour on one or two works in each of the other taluks (Tadpatry, Gooty, and Alur) rendered it possible for us to take systematic and stringent measures against fraud. Tadpatry taluk lagged behind in this respect. I found on the 20th March the old system, of allowing Revenue Inspectors to draw round sums of money on undetailed indents when they chose, going on in this taluk, accompanied by general laxness. I repeated my orders and an improvement ensued. Alur taluk was administered better than Tadpatry. In Gooty taluk Lieutenant Wilson, by great personal care and activity, brought about a crisis. The Revenue Inspectors, the rest of the paying establishment, and the maistries (*alias* Mustseddies) found that if they obeyed orders the fount of dishonest gain was sealed. A regular combination was formed to evade obedience. Declarations of sickness, of want of time, of inability to understand orders, were all tried. I need not go over the history of this dead-lock again. Of two circumstances one availed to tide us over it, and the other to keep our hands strong against the enemy. The first was an arrangement made for sweeping away the whole native paying establishment at a day's notice, and taking the duty of paying upon ourselves and the European Superintendents, in the event of a single member of the native establishment continuing to be contumacious. The second circumstance (which, however, did not occur within the month under report) was the Government's dismissal of Revenue Inspector Ongole Sreenevassa Row, which most judicious step probably astonished him as much as it did myself. Previously to our getting the upper hand of the conspirators, one of them, Akkarally Venkataramayya, a revenue settlement Gumastah, had starved some gangs by withholding pay from them, with fatal consequences in two cases. All this again is before Government.

3. On the 28th Sir Richard Temple paid Gooty a visit, and inspected some coolies. He also made inquiries into my arrangements for gratuitous relief of all kinds, viz., (1), permanent gratuitous relief at "selected" centres throughout the division; (2), casual or temporary relief at all villages other than "relief centres;" and (3), subsistence allowance at $\frac{1}{4}$ anna each to children of labourers. He was satisfied with the arrangements which had a short time before been thoroughly organised, and which are before the Board and Government.

4. Prices remained nearly stationary during the month. They were rather higher in Alur taluk than elsewhere. They ranged between about $8\frac{1}{2}$ and 10 local (2 lbs.) measures of inferior cholum for the rupee. The lower retail rates prevailed on market days at the larger villages. Markets continued well supplied.

5. The rates of wages to labourers continued to be these of Scale No. II. of Government Order No. 329, dated 31st January 1877, viz., 1½ annas and 1¼ annas and ¾ anna for man, woman, and child. No Sunday wage was given. The children of labouring coolies too young to work received ¼ anna gratuity per diem. No deterioration in the physique of the coolies was apparent. Except those of the two persons referred to in paragraph 2 *supra*, no deaths from starvation came to light. It is not likely that any occurred; on the other hand, there were abuses on the side of lavishness (especially in Tadpatry taluk) when the advances for casual relief were first made to the Reddies of all villages other than "relief centres." This was to be looked for; it was soon checked with a fair amount of success.

No. 85.

Telegram, dated 21st July 1877.

From Governor of Madras to Secretary of State.

Monsoon west coast scanty; failed elsewhere. General condition became worse last week.

Average prices highest yet reached. Eleven districts above 7;* four above 6; retail in places 4 or 3. Some places short supplied and stocks exhausted. Imports insufficient although large. Recently sown crops reported failing. Mysore wants very heavy rain, but Madras Railway transport good.

Supplies and prices cause great anxiety. Rain reported on Bombay side, but no flood in Godavery.

No. 86.

Telegram, dated 21st July 1877.

From Governor of Madras to Secretary of State.

Must again earnestly press for all civilians being immediately sent out whose health permits. Return of elder men will release younger ones for famine duties. We are seriously shorthanded, several valuable officers knocked up or knocking up. Season reports most unfavourable everywhere.

No. 87.

Telegram, dated 23rd July 1877.

From Secretary of State to Governor of Madras.

Yours 21st. Of 15 years' service men, Bliss and Wild gone. Pearse leaves Venice 3rd August; Rice Southampton 9th August; possibly three more. Rest reported unfit. Will report result of further measures. Shall Madras military officers be ordered out?

No. 88.

Telegram, dated 23rd July 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Prospects continue generally unfavourable in Madras, Mysore, and Eastern Bombay. Some apprehensions of short rainfall were entertained regarding Behar, but during last three days good rainfall is encouraging. In North-West Provinces and Oudh rainfall as yet quite inconsiderable and causes serious anxiety. In Burma, Assam, Central Provinces, Berar, and Guzerat, rainfall good and prospects encouraging. In Hyderabad territory rain has ceased for some time past, and young crops reported withered.

Regarding Bombay, Temple telegraphs that monsoon is not yet fully established; rain good in Gujerat, Nasik, Khandesh, deficient in Southern and Eastern districts, where, if general fall be much longer delayed, young crops will suffer, except over limited areas where heavy partial showers have fallen. Price of grain slightly higher, further rise checked by increased employment of human labour on grain transport, movement encouraged is increasing. Imports, on coast considerable, by rail active. General situation improved by northern rain, still hopeful in south and east, but more rain greatly wanted there. Message ends.

Mysore Commissioners telegraphs no rain at Bangalore, slight in Coorg, rice 10½ lbs. per rupee at Bangalore, crops fading fast, insects destroying them in two districts,

* Seers per rupee. Seer = lbs. 2.

want of rain in Coorg affecting transplanting paddy and coffee plants. In Madras very light falls in Bellary, South Arcot, Trichinopoly, Madura, Tanjore, Tinnevelly, Cuddapah, Mangalore, none elsewhere. Extensive failure inevitable unless good fall in few days. Prices have further advanced considerably throughout Madras districts, and in Calcutta rice risen 1 rupee 2 annas per maund in 10 days. In view of general reduction of stock of grain we have informed Governor Straits Settlements of high prices, probably continued large demand, and importance of encouraging immediate imports of rice, and have requested him to inform Cochin China, and Temple states that Great Indian Peninsula Railway can supply daily 800 tons grain through booking to Madras, and 400 more for Raichore, and that stocks are large. Numbers relieved:—In Bombay, 273,000 on works, 160,000 charitably; Mysore, 47,000 on works, 120,000 charitably; in Madras, 893,000 on works, 618,000 charitably.

No. 89.

Telegram, dated 24th July 1877.

From Governor of Madras to the Secretary of State.

Yours 23rd. Please expedite return of all military officers fit for duty.

Encl. in No. 103.

No. 90.

Telegram, dated July 23, 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Simla.

Madras Government deem it their duty to report that condition of distressed districts of this Presidency is now very critical. If more rain falls within 10 days some dry crops on the ground may be saved, but even then the harvest must be an indifferent one. If no rain falls before end of month the dry crops, other than those which may be irrigable from tanks or wells, will completely fail, and result will be most disastrous. Local stocks of grain appear to be failing in many places and entirely exhausted in some; actual inability to purchase any in several parts of the country has been reported; prices higher than they have yet been and still rising, causing largely increased numbers to fall on State aid; notwithstanding careful scrutiny greatly increased expenditure will be inevitable. Government are making arrangements on assumption that the monsoon proves a failure.

Encl. in No. 103.

No. 91.

Telegram, dated July 25, 1877.

From Revenue Additional Secretary, Simla, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Madras.

The Government of India are much concerned at the disastrous state of things with which the Madras Government have to deal, as intimated in your telegram of 23rd instant. Has the suggestion made in the 5th paragraph of my letter of June 29th been acted on? The Governor-General in Council would be glad to know what are the arrangements referred to at the close of your telegram.

No. 92.

Revenue, No. 53.

From the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General of India in Council.

India Office, London, July 26, 1877.

No. 37. Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 11th June, No. 26, of 1877, relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay and the Province of Mysore, has been considered by me in Council.

2. With respect to the reply of the Madras Government to certain Minutes by Sir Richard Temple, on the utilization of the Public Works Department and other subjects, I am of opinion that the questions involved must now be left to the discretion of the Local Government.

3. I approve of the instructions which have been issued to the Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

4. I will await a further report on the investigations of Dr. Lewis and Dr. D. D. Cunningham, relative to the nature of the fevers which have recently been prevalent in Bombay and Madras.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 93.

Telegram, dated July 27, 1877.

From GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Weekly report shows further decrease in numbers on relief. People still attending to agriculture, but rainfall scanty and partial throughout Deccan, except Sholapore. Monsoon after the first break in Guzerat and Kattywar has ceased. Good rains hardly expected till monsoon improves in Concan and coast. Everywhere prices rising, but trade active and supplies large. Situation aggravated by bad accounts from Madras, Hyderabad, and Mysore.

No. 94.

Encl. in No. 164.

Telegram, dated July 27, 1877.

From GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY to VICEROY, Simla.

Replying to your Lordship's telegram I have promised the Duke of Buckingham delivery of 900 tons daily at Raichore, as Madras Railway can carry that quantity away. I have also promised to increase daily delivery as soon as Madras Government can carry away more. I have further promised Resident, Hyderabad, to deliver 300 tons daily at Shahabad terminus of Nizam's railway. I hope arrangement will be satisfactory to your Lordship, as these quantities exceed those mentioned in your telegram. I have asked Sir Andrew Clarke for 100 additional engines to be ordered from England, and rails and sleepers for 150 miles for Dhond-Munmar Chord Railway. If these be granted, your Lordship may depend on our doing everything that can be required, not only for ourselves, but for our neighbours and for Supreme Government if crisis becomes further aggravated.

No. 95.

Encl. in No. 164.

Telegram, dated July 28, 1877.

From SIR A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Simla, to GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

Your telegram of yesterday to Viceroy. Clarke is in communication with your Government regarding your application for additional engines and for rails for the Dhond and Munmar Railway. We will do what we can, but I fear neither will be in time to do much good for present famine.

No. 96.

Telegram, dated July 28, 1877.

From VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Seriously apprehensive as to famine. I believe that unless immediate measures are taken in Madras and Mysore, a great catastrophe and enormous as well as fruitless expenditure of money are imminent. Now that another year of worse famine and still vaster expenditure are impending, it is our duty to introduce a better system, so that this immense amount of labour and money shall be devoted to great works of lasting value. An excellent example of good management has been given by Bombay.

I feel that to cope with the dangers and difficulties present and imminent in Madras and Mysore, the highest ability and experience to be found throughout India are urgently required; and it is the duty of the Supreme Government to see that such ability and experience are applied to help the Madras Government in organising the most complete system of relief that can be arranged. I anxiously desire to maintain to the utmost the authority of the Local Government, to exercise no unnecessary interference, to give that Government every possible assistance, and to act in complete accord with it. I feel that the means now at the disposal of the Madras Government for dealing with such a crisis are insufficient. Sir A. Arbuthnot, Member in charge of the Famine Department, would forthwith go to Madras for private conference with the Duke on these matters, and with a view to form on the spot the best possible judgment. I shall also myself go to Madras accompanied, if possible, by Sir John Strachey. It is still not impossible that immediate rain might greatly improve situation, but it would be unwise to allow this hope to cause any further delay.

Encl. in No. 164.

No. 97.

Telegram, dated July 29, 1877.

From GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY to SIR A. ARBUTHNOT, Simla.

Your telegram of 28th. We calculate that if rails and sleepers were available we could open Dhond-Munmar Railway for grain traffic only about 1st December, and that engines ordered now would begin to arrive in January and during February.

Encl. in No. 164.

No. 98.

Telegram, dated July 29, 1877.

From VICEROY, Simla, to his Excellency COLONEL ANSON, Singapore.

My telegram of 19th instant. Please inform me whether you have communicated its contents to the trade at Singapore and whether any action has been taken on it there or in Siam or Cochin-China.

Encl. in No. 164.

No. 99.

Telegram, dated July 29, 1877.

From GOVERNOR, Singapore, to VICEROY, Simla.

Have communicated with Governor Saigon, Consul-General Siam, French and Siamese Consuls here, Chambers Commerce here and Penang, and local newspapers; not yet received information of any action taken.

No. 100.

Telegram, dated 30th July 1877.

From VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Governor of Bombay indents for 100 additional engines for Great Indian Peninsula, 10 for ghat work, and 90 goods. We submit it by early mail, with a definite recommendation of our own; meanwhile invite tenders to supply within minimum time, but reserving power to decline acceptance, and inform us how soon delivery could be given and at what monthly rate continued.

Encl. in No. 164.

No. 101.

Telegram, dated 30th July 1877.

From VICEROY, Simla, to GOVERNOR, Straits Settlements.

Kindly ascertain and communicate probable quantity of food-grains available for exportation.

No. 102.

Encl. in No. 164.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Financial Department, No. 2,144, dated 30th July 1877.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor-General in Council deems it important, that in all accounts of expenditure on public works undertaken by the State for the relief of distress caused by famine, a clear distinction should be maintained between the cost of materials and skilled labour, and the outlay on unskilled labour.

2. It will often be impossible to avoid some expenditure on such works for materials (the purchase and carriage of which can seldom, if ever, contribute much to the relief of the distressed population, which is the first object of the works), or for skilled labour, the employment of which might not be required immediately for relief purposes; if it is so required, the wages paid should, as a rule, be at unskilled rates only.

3. But it is the paramount duty of all authorities responsible for the expenditure on such works to reduce to a minimum the expenditure which is thus accessory to the large outlay for direct relief which, at such times, strains the resources of the State. The accounts should be so constructed as to show plainly the proportion of the whole expenditure absorbed in such accessories.

4. His Excellency in Council is accordingly pleased to decide, that whenever any public work is undertaken for purpose of famine relief, the expenditure thereon shall be classified as follows:—

(1.) For materials.
(2.) For labour paid at the rates fixed by the Government for unskilled labour upon relief works.
(3.) For labour paid, for whatever reason, at any higher rates divided into (*a*) skilled labour, (*b*) supervision of labourers, skilled and unskilled.

5. Explanation will be expected by the Supreme Government whenever the proportion of the whole expenditure which falls under headings (1) and (3) bears any substantial proportion to the whole expenditure on the work.

6. These instructions should, as far as possible, be applied retrospectively in the case of the works undertaken since the beginning of the existing famine in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies and in Mysore; and all future estimates of works to be thus undertaken should be classified in the manner thus prescribed.

ORDERED.—That this Resolution be published in the "Gazette of India" and distributed for information and guidance as follows:—

1. To the Revenue and Public Works Departments of the Government of India.
2. To the several Local Governments and Administrations.
3. To the Comptroller-General and to the several Accountants-General and Deputy Accountants-General in independent charge.

No. 103.

No. 31 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, 30th July 1877.

Our telegram dated the 23rd instant will have made your Lordship aware that in view of the general decrease in the stocks of food-grains throughout India and the consequent rise of prices, we had informed the Governor of the Straits Settlements of the probability of a continued large demand for rice, and the importance of encouraging immediate importation, requesting him to communicate these facts to the Governor-General of Cochin-China and the King of Siam. A copy of our telegram to which we have not yet received a reply, is enclosed. No. 80.

2. We also now beg to report the result of inquiries which we have instituted regarding the stocks of grain available for exportation to the famine districts. In Burma the stocks are practically exhausted. The estimated stock of rice in Calcutta just now is 178,000 tons; what the stocks in the districts of Bengal may be we have not yet been informed. In the North-West Provinces and Oudh there are reported to be 220,000 tons of food-grain available for export, provided abundant rain fall soon and a good monsoon crop be produced. The estimate is, however, said to be conjectural, and it is

added that stocks are low, and prices rising owing to alarm caused by the absence of rain. At the same time we learn that grain from Northern India is still being delivered by the East Indian Railway at Jubbulpore at the rate of 500 tons per diem. The result of accounts received from Sir Richard Temple and the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces is, that 100,000 tons are available in the Central Provinces, 16,000 in the hands of the railway company, and 25,000 tons in Bombay, making a total of 141,000 tons. About 200 tons per diem are being delivered in Bombay by the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway. Regarding the Punjab, information has not yet been received. We are thus not in a position to state with any approach to accuracy what amount of grain will be available for the distressed districts, but it is evident that even in the event of a favourable monsoon in Northern India, regarding which some doubts may well be entertained, no amount of foreign grain which is likely to arrive will be otherwise than opportune.

No. 30. 3. The subject of the probable requirements of the famine districts of Madras, Mysore, and Bombay has also engaged our attention. We enclose some valuable proceedings of the Madras Board of Revenue regarding the additions to the food stocks of that Presidency during the period from May 1st, 1876, to April 30th, 1877. They consider that the quantity of food stocks received by their distressed districts, as far as it is possible to ascertain it, was 474,216 tons, that 1,000 persons consume, at 1½ lbs. per head, 20 tons per month, and that in the districts of Bellary, Cuddapah, and Kurnool about one-fifth of the population have been living on imported grain. The quantity of foreign grain required for these districts was some months ago estimated by Sir Richard Temple at 2,700 tons per day; recently other calculations placed the amount at 4,400 tons; and now the Madras Government have stated it to be 3,500 tons. The requirements of Mysore are given by the Chief Commissioner at 1,000 tons to be imported daily by railway alone. Those of Bombay are still uncertain owing to the holding off of the monsoon, but we trust they may prove less onerous than those of other districts. The Nizam's territory will need a considerable supply, of which the only gauge we possess at present is an arrangement, which the Bombay Government report, for the delivery of 300 tons daily at the Shahabad station of the Hyderabad Railway.

4. Whatever may, however, be eventually ascertained to be the actual requirements of the several distressed localities, it has become clear that the railway companies are, under existing arrangements, unable fully to meet them. As an illustration of this we may mention that Sir Richard Temple reports that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are prepared to deliver 1,200 tons of grain at Raichore daily, but the Madras Government state that their railway is unable to remove more than 900 tons daily therefrom. Under these circumstances we have under consideration in the Public Works Department a project for more united action, and effectual utilisation of stock, between the several companies, which will be reported to your Lordship heareafter when fully matured.

No. 90. 5. Regarding the condition of the Madras Presidency generally, we enclose an important telegram from the Local Government, dated the 23rd instant, and stating that if more rain falls within 10 days some of the dry crops may be saved, though even then the harvest must be an indifferent one, but that if rain should hold off all unirrigated crops must completely fail. With reference to their concluding intimation that they are
No. 91. making arrangements on the assumption that the monsoon will fail, we have requested them to state what these arrangements are.

No. 76. 6. With reference to paragraph 4 of our Despatch No. 29, dated the 16th instant, we enclose copy of a letter from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, expressing their acknowledgments for the arrangements made for giving information likely to be useful to those merchants who are interested in supplying the wants of the famine districts of
No. 53. Madras. We also enclose copy of a letter from the Government of Bombay accepting the decision regarding the appropriation of Local and Provincial Funds for famine expenditure which was reported to your Lordship in paragraph 8 of our Despatch No. 28, dated the 2nd instant.

7. The present condition of the famine districts of Bombay is described in the following telegram from Sir Richard Temple, dated the 26th instant:—

"Monsoon rain not yet resumed. Cloudy weather with general light showers still preserves young crops, reported to be withering in places but not yet lost. Cessation of rain in Guzerat causes some anxiety. * * * * * Prices grain still rising. Importation by human labour to rural districts increases; coast imports small, by rail active, 400 tons more than last week. General situation not materially worse, but good rain much needed to reduce prices, revive credit, and lessen pressure on people."

From a further telegram, dated the 27th instant, we learn that there has been a fall of 2 inches of rain in Sholapur, with fair local showers in parts of Ahmednagar and Satara.

8. We will now give a few particulars regarding the prospects of the season throughout British India. In British Burma the rain commenced on May 24th, three weeks later than usual, but the fall has been sufficient since, and agriculture is everywhere progressing satisfactorily. In Bengal, regarding Behar and other portions of which apprehensions were lately entertained, the rainfall has on the whole been sufficient to remove anxiety, but some individual districts have not yet received a proper supply. In Assam the rains began in March as usual, the early rice crops are nearly ready, and both food grains and tea are doing well. In the North-West Provinces and Oudh generally the drought continues, causing much anxiety and a perceptible rise in prices. The effect which a failure of crops here would have, not only on the province itself, but on the supplies for the distressed provinces to the south, would be serious in the extreme. There is, however, still time for rains to produce an average harvest. In the Punjab, little rain has fallen as yet, but the season has scarcely arrived when the fact need cause apprehension. Rajputana and Central India received at first a sufficient supply, but rain is now holding off, and much wanted in parts, though the general prospects cannot yet be termed unfavourable. The Central Provinces and Berar have received an abundant rainfall, and the crops are doing well. Regarding Bombay, Sir Richard Temple's report has been given above, to which we may add that the absence of rain in Guzerat is now attracting attention. Of the Nizam's territories the reports are most gloomy. The suspension of rainfall for a month, with high drying winds, has withered the young crops almost everywhere, and in the southern portion the population generally are said to be dependent on Government relief. The weather in Mysore and Coorg has changed somewhat for the better since the 22nd instant; showers have fallen pretty generally, and if the improvement should be maintained some portion of the newly sown ragi crop may, the Chief Commissioner believes, be saved. In Madras there has been slight rain in parts of all the distressed districts excepting apparently Nellore and Kurnool. On the whole, the season must be recognised as a most extraordinary one, in illustration of which we may mention that recent advices from Karwar describe the fishermen as still pursuing their avocation, as if it were the month of October.

The latest telegram from Madras, dated yesterday, gives the following particulars:—

Daily telegram noon July 27th:—

Madras Observatory.—·30 inches.

Salem.—Good showers over greater parts of Tripatore taluk on 24th.

Cuddapah.—Showers from 24th to 26th about 1 inch; weather cloudy; slight rain at Sidhout and Badroail.

Bellary.—Slight shower on 23rd, and seven-tenths inch at Gooty on 24th.

Trichinopoly.—Heavy showers at Perambular on 22nd; Godavery from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches on 26th; villages of Ramachendrapur taluk, on 20th, 21st, and 22nd.

Vizagapatam.—2 inches on 22nd.

Kistna.—22nd, 2 inches at Tiruvur and 1 at Krosur.

9. The number of persons relieved during the week has been as follows:—

In Madras - -	913,442	on works.
	731,267	charitably.
In Mysore - -	47,609	on works.
	137,560	charitably.
In Bombay - -	255,762	on works.
	149,072	charitably.

There have thus been very considerable increases in both Madras and Mysore, especially in the charitably relieved, but a decrease in Bombay. We take this opportunity of forwarding for your Lordship's information a revised statement of the numbers charitably relieved in the Madras Presidency since January 1st, it having been ascertained that, owing to the omission of relief camps and other items, the figures reported in the weekly telegrams from Madras were considerably under the mark. No. 31.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
A. J ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.

No. 104.

Telegram, dated 31st July 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

We strongly feel that, if your health enables you to do it, an immediate or very early visit by you to Madras, as you suggest, will be of great possible public service. It will settle many controversies, will dispose of all difficulties of jurisdiction, will enable you when you return to leave settled principles behind you, and will greatly tend to satisfy public mind.

No. 105.

Telegram, dated 31st July 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Yours 24th. Do you wish all military officers to return or only those in civil employ?

No. 106.

Telegram, dated 31st July 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY.

Please let me have full information as to fall of rain and monsoon.

No. 107.

Telegram, dated 31st July 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

A considerable quantity of rice has been offered to us by Mr. Samuels, of London. I do not know whether you will require assistance in obtaining supplies, but if you do Samuels supplied us sufficiently and at a fair price during Bengal famine.

No. 108.

Telegram, dated 31st July 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

To-day's Despatch reports progress of inquiries regarding grain supplies available for export to famine districts. In Central Provinces and Bombay, 141,000 tons. From North-West Provinces exportation depends on monsoon, but 500 tons daily still reaching Jubbulpore; from Guzerat 200 tons daily reach Bombay. Bengal stocks considerably reduced, but new rice coming into market, and trade from interior to Calcutta active at falling prices. In Burma, none. From Singapore, Anson telegraphs having informed all quarters of India's wants; probable action still unknown. Despatch also reports requirements of Madras at 3,500 tons daily; Mysore, 1,000 tons daily, and that we are arranging Public Works Department project for more effectually utilising stock of all railways for famine purposes.

Prospects of season throughout India as follows:—Burma, rain began May 24th, three weeks late, but fall sufficient; agriculture satisfactory. Bengal, some districts still want rain, but general apprehensions removed. North-West Provinces and Oudh, drought continues, causes anxiety and rise of prices, but still time for average harvest. Rajputana, Central India, rain wanted in parts; prospects fair. Assam, Central Provinces, Berar, quite satisfactory. Bombay, no rain in Gujerat, causes anxiety; heavy fall in Concan, and two inches and a half in Sholapur. Good showers in Eastern Bombay. Deccan keeps agriculture going, but prices very high. Rainfall on western coast at present very small for the season. Nizam's territory much distressed from no rain for one month, but two inches just fallen. Mysore and Coorg, rain generally not abundant; more needed to save part of young crop. Madras, fair showers in all distressed districts except Nellore and Kurnool. Cuddapah, Bellary, fall considerable, continuance may save portion of dry crops, but harvest at best indifferent.

Numbers relieved in Madras, 913,000 on works, 731,000 charitably relieved.

Mysore, 48,000 on works, 149,000 charitably relieved.

Bombay, 256,000 on works, 149,000 charitably relieved.

No. 109.

Encl. in No. 164.

No. 2,336, dated 31st July 1877.

From A. MACKENZIE, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

On receipt of a telegram from his Excellency the Viceroy to the address of the Lieutenant-Governor, which reached this office on the 25th instant, intimating that the Government of India had reason to fear that the Calcutta exports of food-grain to Madras had been really far below those stated in the "Gazette of India," and requesting that inquiry might be made as to the actual stock of grain and reserve for export in Calcutta, steps were at once taken to make the necessary investigations, and I am now to submit the result for the information of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council.

2. There seems to be no doubt that the returns of exports of food-grains to coast ports furnished by the Calcutta Custom House have been throughout seriously misleading. No preventive officer is posted on board of vessels clearing for coast ports with cargoes of grain, and the Customs returns have been made up from the shipping passes, which represent merely the amount of grain that the applicants for passes think it possible they may ship, and do not at all represent the quantity of grain actually shipped. In some instances the shipping passes are returned to the Custom House with a note of short shipments or re-lands endorsed thereon, but in the majority of cases the passes are not returned, and it is assumed in the returns that the whole amount passed was shipped, though possibly this is only true of a mere fraction of that quantity.

3. In the "Monthly Commercial Guide" published by the Collector of Customs, the figures prepared from the shipping passes, less known re-lands and short shipments, are shown in the body of the book. At the close are grain tables purporting to be prepared from the manifests of the vessels cleared. Although these figures frequently do not tally with those in the body of the Guide, they are still, it is found, but little more trustworthy; for it is alleged that the manifests in the case of coast vessels are filled up very often from the Collector's daily export lists, which, as above explained, are compiled from the shipping passes. The fact seems to be that no importance has been attached hitherto, and in ordinary times, either by the Customs authorities or the trade, to the correctness of the statistics of exports to free ports. This matter was referred to in paragraph 32 of the Board's letter, No. 61 B., of the 30th January last, forwarded with this office endorsement No. 334 of the 6th February.

4. An attempt has been made to arrive at a knowledge of the actual shipments during the last few months, by procuring correct figures from the agents of the vessels, but this information has not yet been completed. Probably, however, the extent of the error in the Calcutta export returns is to be measured by the figure of the Madras imports, and in that case it is very serious indeed, as will appear from the statement annexed.

5. Orders have been given that in future a preventive officer shall visit every vessel immediately before she clears, and take extracts from the cargo-books of the actual grain shipped. If this does not secure an accurate return, more stringent measures will have to be adopted to secure correct manifests, in anticipation of any provisions that may be made in the revised Customs Act. But it is undesirable to throw unnecessary obstacles in the way of the trade at present, or to make unpopular changes of system at a time of pressure.

6. Turning now to the question of the stocks of Calcutta, a local inquiry with regard to rice, which is the most important item, has been made by an intelligent native officer accustomed to statistical work, who visited all the markets and entrepôts in Calcutta and its neighbourhood, and arrived at the conclusion that the stock now in hand is about 50 lakhs of maunds, of which, however, only about 10 lakhs are in the hands of dealers likely to supply an export demand. The following extracts from his report are given, as showing that the general conclusion is based on inquiry as detailed as the circumstances admitted.

"The present stock of rice amounts in round numbers to 50 lakhs of maunds, distributed as follows:—

	Mds.
At Baliaghatta and Wooltadingee	9,20,000
„ Hatkhola and Coomertooly	6,50,000
„ other marts within Calcutta	9,25,000
„ Tallygunge	2,15,000
„ Chitlah	20,000
„ Kidderpore, Moonsheegunge, and other adjoining marts	5,00,000
„ Seebpore, Ramkrishtopore, Howrah, Sulkeah, Ghoosoory, Bally, &c., say	12,00,000
„ the Railway Jetties and at other outlying places, such as Gurreah, Kassipore, Baranagore, say	5,70,000
Total	50,00,000

Baliaghatta and Wooltadingée.—"The trade of these places consists of balam rice. At Baliaghatta the trade is mostly in the hands of a dozen aruthdars, three of whom—Bunsi Buddun Puddar, Ram Kanye Puddar, and Petambur Shah—do the largest trade. The whole of the rice, as seen by me on the 24th instant, was thus distributed:—

At Baliaghatta—	Mds.
In the hands of the aruthdars (10 in number)	1,20,000
In minor aruths	1,00,000
Quantity packed in bags and awaiting delivery at the several aruths	2,00,000
In the hands of phoreahs or retail vendors	1,00,000
Total	5,20,000

At Wooltadingee—	Mds.
In the hands of mahajuns	3,10,000
In minor aruths	90,000
Total	4,00,000

Hatkhola and Coomertooly.—"Moogy rice is the chief staple of traffic here. This rice is imported from Northern Bengal, chiefly from the Dinagepore district. There are about 51 wholesale dealers in these localities, who import rice direct from the producing tracts. Moogy rice is not consumed in Calcutta, but is shipped for exportation by sea. The stocks at these marts are shown as follow:—

At Hatkhola—	Mds.
In hands of aruthdars	50,000
In bags awaiting delivery	1,50,000
Total	2,00,000

At Coomertooly—	Mds.
In the hands of aruthdars	4,45,000
In minor aruths	5,000
Total	4,50,000

Other marts within Calcutta.—"The trade here is in innumerable hands, and is entirely of a local character. We visited 21 bazars, but there are about as many more which we could not visit. The estimated figures for these are as follow:—

	Mds.
At the 21 localities visited on the 25th instant	1,20,000
For other places, say	2,80,000
Total	4,00,000

Besides this stock, we have seen a large quantity in boats on the riverside. We counted about 1,219 boats of various capacity fully laden with rice, estimated the stock to be about $5\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs of maunds.

Tallygunge.—"The bulk of the trade in this bazar is in the inferior qualities of rice, namely, amun kujlah, boro kujlah, and aus kujlah—all produced in the eastern districts, as well as in the Soonderbun tracts of the 24-Pergunnahs and Jessore.

The demand upon this market for local consumption is inconsiderable, and almost the whole of the imports, which amount annually from 25 to 30 lakhs of maunds at this place, are carried away for shipment by sea. The estimated figures for this mart are—

	Mds.
In hands of aruthdars	45,000
In boats on the khal	20,000
Rice packed in bags and awaiting delivery	1,50,000
Total	2,15,000

Chitlah Hát.—"Here the trade is in atub or table rice, imported mostly from Joynuggur and other places in the southern part of the 24-Pergunnahs. The quantity available here may be set down at 20,000 maunds.

Kidderpore and Moonshigunge.—"The bulk of the rice at these places is consigned

from Midnapore, the 24-Pergunnahs, and Hooghly. The total stock may amount to 5 lakhs of maunds. In most of the books inspected the grand total of imports had not been struck, so that it was not possible to test their figures with those obtained by internal registration by the Government.

"The tradespeople are unanimous in the belief that the stock, whatever it may be, has been depleted to the extent of half the quantity of previous years. There was, however, one gentleman of the firm of Sumbhoonath Chowdhery, at Hatkhola, who stated that the ordinary annual stock might amount to a crore of maunds, which, no doubt, is a near approximation to the truth, and is corroborated by inquiries made some months ago.

"There are large consignments of moogy rice daily expected in Calcutta, and the fact of the aus crop already appearing in the market makes the people very hopeful of the future. The aus crop at this moment will not only help the peasantry, but will also be shipped for expertation by sea; and I was informed at Tallygunge that about 10 or 12 lakhs of maunds of aus rice are annually purchased from that market for export by sea.

"As regards the exports by sea, the demand is met from the reduced stocks in the hands of the aruthdars, as well as by daily importations; and it is a fact that new rice, as fast as it comes to Calcutta, is exported, without there being anything left to replenish the reduced stocks of Calcutta."

7. There is every reason to believe in the general accuracy of this report, but the Lieutenant-Governor has appointed a native officer to go round all the marts daily and report on the state of stocks and the briskness or otherwise of the trade. The traffic registration abstracts are also ordered to be submitted weekly instead of fortnightly, and district officers have been directed to report weekly the state of stocks in the district markets, as far as this can be ascertained, and to take note of any material fluctuations in the quantities despatched to Calcutta. This information will be duly communicated to the Government of India.

8. During April, May, and June, 39½ lakhs of maunds of rice were registered at the inland trade registration stations as *en route* to Calcutta. Besides this, a good deal comes in that is not registered; so that there can be no reasonable doubt as to the existence of a considerable stock in and about the city.

9. It is quite impossible to form any sort of accurate estimate of the amount of grain in the country. It is not collected in large warehouses and marts, but is scattered about in small quantities in every village, and nearly in every house. The brokers and boatmen, now that the rivers and creeks are open, go round and buy from house to house, and in due course the rice reaches the market. In Rungpore and Dinagepore there is a large stock, which has been awaiting the rise of the rivers, and which is now being moved into the market in Eastern Bengal. The aus crop is on the point of being reaped, and will add considerably to the stocks. There is reason to believe that in some places the people have sold too much rice for export, and have brought upon themselves an enormous rise of price of food-grain, but this is a temporary evil and applies chiefly to Chittagong and Orissa, two great places of export.

P.S.—The result of the orders to examine the cargo-books has been, in the case of the first vessel boarded, to show that in lieu of 50,020 bags entered in the Customs returns, and 48,960 bags in the manifest, only 23,663 bags were really shipped.

No. 110. Encl. in No. 164.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT showing the EXPORTS of RICE and PADDY from CALCUTTA BY SEA, as published by the COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, Calcutta, the MADRAS GOVERNMENT, and the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, from November 1876 to June 1877.

EXPORTS FROM CALCUTTA.

MONTHS.	AS PER CALCUTTA CUSTOM HOUSE RETURNS.				AS PER MANIFESTS PUBLISHED IN THE "CALCUTTA COMMERCIAL GUIDE."				AS PER STATEMENT OF IMPORTS PUBLISHED IN THE MADRAS MONTHLY CUSTOMS STATEMENTS.				AS PER STATEMENTS OF EXPORTS PUBLISHED IN THE "GAZETTE OF INDIA."			
	To Madras Ports.	To other Coast Ports.	To Foreign Ports.	TOTAL.	To Madras Ports.	To other Coast Ports.	To Foreign Ports.	TOTAL.	To Madras Ports.	To other Coast Ports.	To Foreign Ports.	TOTAL.	To Madras Ports.	To other Coast Ports.	To Foreign Ports.	TOTAL.
1876.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
November - - -	6,171	1,21,028	3,44,657	4,71,856	11,67,079	3,88,560	4,06,805	19,62,444	6,08,280	- -	- -	6,08,280	—	—	—	—
December - - -	27,08,725	2,08,939	5,86,932	35,04,596	15,81,466	3,47,506	4,62,428	23,91,400	6,67,219	- -	- -	6,67,219	—	—	—	—
1877.																
January - - -	24,38,476	3,48,992	12,91,916	40,79,384	24,69,144	3,11,848	8,66,346	36,47,338	15,86,796	- -	- -	15,86,796	—	—	—	—
February - - -	11,89,453	2,56,657	14,04,255	28,50,365	11,34,878	3,20,432	17,22,713	31,78,023	13,17,666	- -	- -	13,17,666	7,10,332	- -	- -	7,10,332
March - - -	15,03,075	2,20,404	7,25,801	24,49,280	10,69,168	4,04,171	13,17,278	27,90,617	7,52,573	- -	- -	7,52,573	13,04,719	- -	- -	13,04,719
April - - -	13,33,175	2,69,067	4,36,812	20,39,054	9,06,702	2,72,898	4,53,138	16,32,738	5,14,249	- -	- -	5,14,249	11,00,396	- -	- -	11,00,396
May - - - -	14,25,310	72,326	4,04,225	19,01,861	13,08,054	2,03,896	4,80,359	19,92,309	6,14,709	- -	- -	6,14,709	17,15,043	- -	- -	17,15,043
June - - -	18,71,815	2,35,601	4,26,113	25,33,529	4,18,186	99,883	4,26,423	9,44,492	4,34,209	- -	- -	4,34,209	18,52,583	- -	- -	18,52,583
Total - -	1,24,76,209	17,33,014	56,20,711	1,98,29,925	1,00,54,677	23,49,194	61,35,490	1,85,39,361	64,95,701	- -	- -	64,95,701	66,83,073	- -	- -	66,83,073
Add—Total exports of paddy during the foregoing period converted into rice at the rate of 25 seers of rice to a maund of paddy - -	78,654	51	23,028	1,01,733	52,561	5	17,923	70,489	22,669	- -	- -	22,669	61,370	- -	- -	61,370
Grand total in rice -	1,25,54,854	17,33,065	56,43,739	1,99,31,658	1,01,07,238	23,49,199	61,53,413	1,86,09,850	65,18,370	- -	- -	65,18,370	67,44,443	- -	- -	67,44,443

No. 111.

Telegram, dated 1st August 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to Secretary of State.

Your Lordship's telegram 31st. Monsoon not failed, but continues scanty in Bombay Presidency. Sholapur, rainfall sufficient; elsewhere in Deccan, showers more or less, sometimes heavy; crops kept alive; prospects of harvest uncertain.

Rainfall generally under seven inches since beginning of monsoon; winds high; rainfall in Guzerat, Kattywar, came late; continues slight, under four inches. Rainfall, Concan, greater, but continues slight relatively. Position on coast at Bombay, rainfall heavy, nearly 40 (sic) inches, but local only, with long intervals of sunshine. Rainfall on ridge of western Ghâts sufficient, flooding streams, seasonable. Downpour monsoon in Deccan not likely till better rainfall in Concan and Canara. No danger yet in Bombay Presidency.

People engaged in agriculture. Short harvests probable, though rain may come to save much. Fair accounts from Central Provinces, Berar, Malwa.

Though some rain recently in Hyderabad, Mysore, Ceded Districts, Madras, yet accounts still indifferent. Short harvests expected at best. Lateness of monsoon in northern India aggravates situation.

Prices in Deccan touching famine rates. Though stocks large and carriage active, distress widens. Anxiety about sufficiency of engines on railway. I have made recommendations thereon, if sanctioned we can manage, even though monsoon fails.

No. 112.

Telegram, dated 2nd August 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

As the earthworks of Dhond and Munmar line will probably be sufficiently advanced to admit of rails being laid temporarily by end of December, we are of opinion that this line should be completed as a permanent broad gauge railway in preference to any other sanctioned railway not yet commenced, except Western Rajputana line. This chord line avoids the Ghâts and cuts off 120 miles in through communication. Should famine continue into next year, and the most serious apprehensions are entertained by us and by the Local Governments on this head, the chord would be invaluable in augmenting the carrying capacity of the present rolling stock. Moreover, the chances of having to interfere with the export traffic would be diminished. Bombay Government urges that materials be got immediately. We recommend this course strongly, and that the chord shall be completed as a permanent line as soon as estimates have been prepared and sanctioned.

The following materials are required for length of railway, including sidings, of 150 miles:—Sixty-seven pound double-headed rails, same section as got out by Peninsula Railway, and now laid in Wardha Valley State Railway, with fastenings, steel rails preferred. Sleepers to be iron or wooden, or both, as most quickly obtainable; if of creosoted wood not less than 9 feet long, preferably 9 feet 6 inches long, 10 inches broad, 5 inches thick; if cast iron of same pattern as on Peninsula Railway; for same rails no objection to wrought-iron or steel sleepers, as on Oudh Railway, if obtainable quickly and suitable for double-headed rails. Arrange for only 135 miles of sleepers, as 15 miles may be got in this country. Shipments should begin to arrive in Bombay early in October, and be continued weekly so that all may reach by middle of December. Rails, fastenings, and sleepers should be shipped in due proportions for laying line on receipt at sight. Also send 12 water cranes and connexions, 20 hydrants, 100 sets of switches, 100 steel reversible crossings, of which 32 angle 5 degrees 45 minutes, 50 angle 7 degrees 45 minutes, 18 angle 10 degrees 45 minntes, 13 station signals, 25 distant signals, 3 traversers, 3 engine turntables, 3 weighbridges.

No. 113.

Telegram, dated 3rd August 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Supply of rails for Dhond Munmar line may possibly be facilitated by giving part at least of order to firm which supplied us with some 67 lb. rails for Wardha Valley Railway, of same section as Peninsula Company's rails. Section of rail should not be altered if steel be adopted. No objection to the additional weight. Fastenings should include chairs for wooden sleepers.

No. 114.

Telegram, dated 3rd August 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to Secretary of State.

Monsoon not established, but better rain in Concan. Showers Deccan. Rain Guzerat, Kattywar insufficient for growing crops. Distressed districts sustained. Number of persons on relief continues decreasing. Prices very high. Trade active. Hope arises from improved accounts from Madras and Mysore, and good accounts from Central Provinces, but Hyderabad rainfall scanty. Fear of drought in Northern India is raising prices there, and impeding influx of grain towards Western and Southern India.

No. 115.

Telegram, dated 4th August 1877.

From Secretary of State to Viceroy.

Yours 30th July not understood. Are the 100 locomotives Great Indian Peninsula in addition to 40 already ordered ?

No. 116.

Telegram, dated 6th August 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

The 100 locomotives are additional to 40 under supply. We reserve our recommendations, pending details from Bombay by post ; but meanwhile kindly ascertain possibilities of supply.

No. 117.

Telegram, dated 6th August 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Prospect of great distress among population of Baroda State, causing great anxiety to minister. We have, therefore, in anticipation of your approval, assented to his request for construction of railway from Ahmedabad to Pahlunpore, on same gauge as Baroda line, which would work this section, and also to immediate formation of embankments as relief works. We have assented the more readily in consideration of the fact that Baroda State has contributed largely to the recent loan.

No. 118.

Telegram, dated 6th August 1877.

From Governor of Madras to Secretary of State.

Wrote to Viceroy to-day, suggesting his sending somebody of experience, in whom he would place confidence, without formal gazette appointment or delegation, to confer with us on measures taken and proposed, saying we should welcome such a mission with pleasure.

My suggestion has entire approval of my colleagues here.

Scattered but good showers continue ; better reports from Malabar of weather prospects. Godavery river without freshes. Imports to Madras good ; at Raichore short.

No. 119.

Telegram, dated 6th August 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Your telegram of 31st, about offer of grain by Samuels, of London. We remain strongly of opinion that Government should not purchase grain at present. On 29th June, by our letter to Madras Government, to which every publicity was given, we notified to trade that we did not intend to purchase grain. The trade are acting on that assurance ; to adopt a different course now would destroy all confidence in the Government. Moreover, the railways are at present, and will for some time be, unable to dis-

tribute the grain offered by private trade. Any grain we buy would, therefore, take up waggons which are wanted for private grain consignments. If we have a second famine, our difficulty will be sufficient means of transport to certain remote localities, and we may have to indent on you for light rails for tramways.

No. 120.

Telegram, dated 6th August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Prospects of the season generally improved in Madras. More or less rain in all districts, heavy in Bellary and Kistna; considerable in Kurnool and Cuddapah, and parts Nellore; slight in Trichinopoly, Madura, Tinnevelly, and Salem; moderate in other districts. Standing crops saved in many parts and prospects of harvest improved, but distress still severe.

In Mysore, showers pretty general, have done some good, but prospects not materially improved.

In Coorg, moderate rain has fallen.

Regarding Bombay, Temple telegraphs as follows:—"Fair rain in eastern districts "has saved much young crops, but along western border famine area larger; monsoon "continues insufficient, better rain on Malabar coast last few days, may be considered "to indicate favourable return of monsoon; slight showers, Guzerat and Kattywar, but "anxiety regarding those parts still remain. Prices grain continue very high; imports "to rural districts by human labour continue; traffic from coast by carts active, coast "exports large, but rail increasing; general situation improved by weeks rain, but "pressure on people by high prices continues and will not be relieved till prospects of "season are reassured by better fall of monsoon rain." Message ends.

In North-West Provinces, rain has at length begun to fall in many districts and anxiety much relieved.

In Punjaub, some rain, more wanted, but condition of crops fair.

Numbers relieved in Madras, 957,000 on works, 839,000 charitably. In Mysore, 48,000 on works, 151,000 charitably. In Bombay, 248,000 on works, 149,000 charitably.

No. 121.

Telegram, dated 7th August 1877,

From GOVERNOR OF MADRAS to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Yours 21st July.

Send military officers in civil employ only.

No. 122.

Telegram, dated 7th August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

Pahlunpore Railway. Your telegram hardly gives us material for decision. Do you propose to construct railway as famine work at British cost? If so, why do you undertake famine charges for a Native State? I would prefer to devote our funds, which are restricted for the moment, to our own people, whom we shall with difficulty keep alive.

If Baroda and Pahlunpore propose to find money, the matters will assume a different aspect.

No. 123.

Telegram, dated 8th August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Baroda State having subscribed funds sufficient to construct the Ahmedabad Pahlunpore section of the Western Rajputana Railway on the understanding that the work had been sanctioned and would be early undertaken, has by this depleted its own treasury, and is now confronted by famine within its own territory. I have thought it but just that the money so subscribed should go towards the relief of this famine as proposed. This will have the immediate effect of retaining on their own soil the sufferers who would otherwise seek relief in British territory, and it will not interfere with Baroda's taking further steps for the relief of its subjects from its reserves or by loans from us.

No. 124.

Revenue, No. 61.

From the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General of India in Council.

India Office, London, 9th August 1877.

No. 51. Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 25th June, No. 27, of 1877, forwarding a complete collection of the correspondence with the Government of Madras, on the subject of supplying Sir R. Temple with certain records relative to the grant of remissions, has been considered by me in Council.

2. You have also forwarded copies of a Minute by Sir R. Temple, and two memoranda by his late secretary, Mr. Bernard, on the general subject of remissions of land revenue. These you have transmitted to the Government of Madras for consideration when the present pressure has passed away. They therefore do not demand any observation from me on the present occasion.

3. You have drawn my attention to the letter addressed to your Lordship in Council by the Government of Madras on the 10th April. A misunderstanding appears to have arisen on both sides, which gave a turn to the correspondence not wholly satisfactory. The Madras Government evidently were under an entire misapprehension as to the object with which the papers in question were asked for by Sir R. Temple, while they failed, I think, to convey to the minds of your Excellency's Government a clear conception of the nature of the scruples they entertained. As, however, your Excellency proposes to revert to the subject on a future occasion, it will not be necessary for me to enter more largely upon it now.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 125.

Revenue, No. 62.

From the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General of India in Council.

India Office, London, 9th August 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 2nd July, No. 28, of 1877, forwarding copy of a correspondence which has taken place with the Government of Madras on the subject of the rise in prices of food grains, the reduction of stocks, and the consequent pressure upon the population of the distressed districts in the Madras Presidency, has been considered by me in Council.

2. While the Despatch under reply was in transit telegrams have been received which show that the entire situation is altered for the worse in Madras, and render any detailed comment on the views stated by your Excellency in Council unnecessary.

3. I entirely concur with you in the necessity of observing the most complete publicity in making any necessary importation of supplies on Government account, but the far graver prospect which arises from the failure of the monsoon will doubtless induce your Excellency to watch with the utmost vigilance the operation of your orders restricting the purchase of grain. Due weight should be given in deciding upon the steps to be taken in this respect, to the views of the Local Government and their district officers. Your financial arrangements for meeting the charges of the famine have my concurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

Encl. in No. 164.

No. 126.

Telegram, dated 10th August 1877.

From Bengal Government, Calcutta, to Revenue Additional Secretary, Simla.

Memorandum on stocks sent by Bayley. Special inquiries completed to-day; find about thirty-two lakhs maunds in Calcutta for all purposes; importation slackened lately owing to bores on Megna, but now brisk. Exportation lively. Freight abundant.

No. 127.

Telegram, dated 10th August 1877.

From Governor of Madras to Secretary of State.

Imports from all sources large, but insufficient for daily wants. Have telegraphed to Government of India that if imports do not cover daily wants with margin to cover occasional interruption, great calamity by starvation appears inevitable, and asking them to state what they can do with trade. Monsoon may interrupt the traffic after eight weeks.

No. 128.

Telegram, dated 10th August 1877.

From Secretary of State to Viceroy.

Despatch leaves to-day, including following sentence:—

I entirely concur with you in the necessity of observing the most complete publicity in making any necessary importation of supplies on Government account; but the far graver prospect which arises from the failure of the monsoon will doubtless induce your Excellency to watch with the utmost vigilance the operation of your orders restricting the purchase of grain. Quotation ends.

Following in letter from merchant I mentioned:—Telegrams from Saigon and Bangkok inform me that our steamers are carrying about 1,000 tons of rice daily from those ports to China, and since 1st of January this year to 30th June more than 300,000 tons of rice have gone to China, and in another six weeks the whole of this year's crop will have been shipped to the north. End of quotation.

We feel considerable anxiety about this question of supply of grain, and understand Madras Government uneasy. Let me know what your calculations are.

No. 129.

Telegram, dated 10th August 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to Secretary of State.

Monsoon not materially improved since last telegram. Some rain Concan and South Mahratta country; showers in Deccan; hardly any rain Gujerat, Kattywar. Agriculture and crops kept going in distressed districts, but high prices telling on people.

Gradual decrease on relief continuing since beginning monsoon now arrested, and slight increase of numbers occurred, but showers falling, and hope decrease will be soon resumed.

No. 130.

Telegram, dated 11th August 1877.

From Governor of Madras to the Secretary of State for India.

Showers diminishing. Hot wind recurred. Food import does not increase. Supplies *viâ* Raichore less than half promised. Godavery river falling. No irrigation supply for Delta.

No. 131. Encl. in No. 64.

Minute by His Excellency the Viceroy, dated Simla, 12th August 1877.

1. The summer rains of June and July have now failed, more or less, over many of the districts in Southern India where the rainfall of 1876 was lamentably deficient. The severity of the situation is increased by the scantiness of the rainfall in Western and Northern India during the past six weeks. I desire to place on record my appreciation of the probable effect of these unanticipated circumstances on the condition of the people and the prospects of the Government. In so doing, I will endeavour to indicate my general views as to some of the measures required to prepare for a second year of famine, if unhappily so terrible a calamity should overtake any large tract of Southern India.

2. The time has not come for the Government of India to review the famine operations of the year 1876–77; for the famine is still almost at its worst. But a short notice of the failure of last year's harvests, of the misfortunes thereby caused, and of the relief operations undertaken, is necessary to a proper understanding of the extreme gravity of the present situation.

3. The summer rains (south-west monsoon) of 1876 were extremely scanty over tracts belonging to the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, to the State of Hyderabad, and to the Province of Mysore. Over these tracts, which contain a population of about 26 millions, the summer rains yield the main rainfall of the year; they fill the irrigation tanks, and on them depends the safety of the main food crops. In the above-mentioned districts, therefore, the chief food crops of 1876 failed by reason of the shortness of the summer rains. But in the rest of the Madras country the main rainfall comes with the October rains (north-east monsoon): these rains were also very deficient, and so the irrigation tanks of the Madras districts remained dry, and the chief food crops failed. The fate of the Madras crops was thus partially in doubt until the middle of November.

4. The failure of the crops of a single year might not have caused a famine, if it had been confined to only one province, or to a few districts; for inter-communication, by railway and by road, is easy and cheap all over Southern India, and the surplus of one province would have supplied the deficiency of another. But, last year the area of failure was so vast that famine prices were inevitable; and by the month of December 1876, food-grains in the markets of Southern India were three times as dear as in ordinary years. The calamity pressed with special weight on some of the stricken districts (notably Bellary, Sholapore, parts of the Carnatic, and of Mysore), because the crops of one, or even two, preceding years, had been short. In such districts food stocks were lower than usual, and the people had less money to buy food brought from a distance. In Bengal, Burmah, Central and Northern India, the crops were happily good; food stocks were large; and there was plenty of grain to supply the stricken districts, if it could be carried thither, and if the people could afford to pay for it.

5. The policy of the Government of India, as declared after previous famines, was to give all possible facilities for the transport of grain to distressed districts; to abstain from interference with the grain trade, so long as that trade was active; to give relief wages to the destitute who would labour on useful public works; to relieve gratuitously, under trustworthy supervision, the helpless poor, when the pressure of famine became extreme; and to avert death from starvation by the employment of all means practically open to the resources of the State and the exertions of its officers; but to discharge this duty at the lowest cost compatible with the preservation of human life from wholesale destruction. In the autumn of 1876, no general instructions were issued by the Government of India for the management of serious and widespread famine; nor until November was it certain, from the reports received by the Supreme Government, that positive famine was impending in the Madras districts.

6. From the month of September 1876 a large importation of grain from Northern India and Bengal into the distressed tracts began; and this traffic rapidly increased till, in the month of December, grain was landed by sea at Madras, and was also consigned by railway, from the west, through Raichore (the westernmost limit of the Madras Railway), in much larger quantities than the railways could distribute, to the districts of the Madras Presidency and of the Mysore Province. From December up to the present time of writing, private traders have kept consigning, month by month, into the interior of the famine districts more grain than the railways from Madras, Beypore, Negapatam, and Raichore, have been able to carry. This grain has come from Bengal, Burma, the Punjab, the North-Western Provinces, Central India, and Scinde. Government has done much to facilitate the traffic; and on one occasion only have Government operations interfered with private trade, namely, when 30,000 tons of grain were bought by the Madras Government at the beginning of the famine, and were carried into the interior of the country. To this extent the railway and cart power of the country was temporarily occupied by Government to the exclusion of private trade. These proceedings of the Madras Government were disapproved by the Government of India. Prices have been very dear; but from nowhere, until the 23rd of July, have we received reports that food cannot be had in the bazaars by those who can afford to pay for it. In some of the worst districts the imported food has sufficed for the needs of about one-third of the total population. The remaining two-thirds in such districts, and a much larger proportion in the less severely afflicted tracts, have subsisted on old stocks and on the yield of the petty crops that have been harvested even during this year of famine. The importation of grain by railway into the interior has not yet exceeded an average of about—

2,200 tons a day into the interior of Madras and Mysore;
1,000 tons a day into the interior of the Bombay Presidency.

These figures do not include the large quantities of grain distributed into the interior by road or canal, from the port of Madras, and from the lesser ports on the Coromandel,

Malabar, and Southern Mahratta coasts. There are in Central and Northern India and in Bengal large stocks of food, ready to go forward to the famine districts as soon as the railways can carry them.

7. At the outset of the famine operations there was general failure to employ the destitute poor on properly managed and useful public works. During November and December, hundreds of thousands of people sought, and obtained, relief wages on works which were not of the highest utility, and on which there was no adequate professional supervision. For this result I fear that the orders of the Government of India, enjoining the employment of the people on petty works near their homes, were in some degree responsible. In the Government Despatch, conveying instructions for Sir Richard Temple's mission to the famine country, it was mentioned that small and well-supervised local relief works might properly be opened at the beginning of a period of distress, so long as there was doubt regarding the extent of scarcity; but that, when measures of relief on a large scale became clearly necessary, great public works of a permanently useful type should be opened for the employment of relief labourers. The experience of the present famine—the friction, distress, and loss, caused by the transfer of labourers from small to large works, during February, in the Bombay Presidency—and the difficulty of moving to large useful works any considerable proportion of the relief labourers in Madras—has since convinced me of the impolicy of opening petty local relief works during the early stages of a scarcity. The orders directing the opening of small local works were modified in December, and it was subsequently laid down that relief labourers should be employed, to the utmost extent possible, on large useful works, under the direction of competent engineers. Meanwhile, before those orders had reached the local officers,

1,050,000 persons in the Madras districts,
266,000 „ „ Bombay „

were, in the beginning of January, receiving relief wages for labour that was generally inadequate, on works that were often of little value.

8. During the month of January the manner of employing relief labourers changed greatly for the better in the Bombay districts, where the Local Government utilised to the full its staff of engineers, and possessed a number of excellent irrigation schemes and other projects. During the same month Sir Richard Temple was deputed by the Government of India to visit the famine districts, and to confer with the Local Governments and their officers as to the best means of enforcing economy and system in relief operations. The admirable services rendered by Sir Richard Temple have already been acknowledged by the Government of India. It was found that vast numbers were in receipt of relief who, for a time at any rate, could support themselves. The relief wage rate was lowered, the number of petty relief works was reduced, and the supervision of relief labour was increased. In consequence of these measures the numbers of people on the relief works were, at the end of April,

In Madras districts - - - 716,000 persons.
In Mysore „ - - - 62,000 „

In Bombay, at the same time, the numbers had risen to 287,000. In Madras 11 per cent. of these labourers were employed on useful works under professional supervision. In Bombay 90 per cent. were so employed. In Mysore 47 per cent. were on useful public works; but in Mysore the numbers on relief works were, in a way that has not been explained, reduced as the pressure of the famine increased; and large sums are now being spent on infructuous alms, instead of being devoted to improving by relief labour the many irrigation works of the province.

9. It is not supposed that the relief works managed by revenue officers are absolutely useless, or are wholly unsupervised; but I fear that much of the roadwork done under revenue officers can be of no lasting value, while its cost is from twice to twenty times the ordinary rates; whereas, on the other hand, the irrigation and railway works executed under professional supervision, will be of permanent good in improving the country, and averting future famines; while some of these works (so far as imperfect information has reached the Government of India) are being executed at only from 20 to 50 per cent. above ordinary rates. At the present time of writing, the proportion of relief labourers employed under professional supervision on large works in Madras has risen, by the latest returns, to about 21 per cent. on the total number of workpeople.

10. Gratuitous relief on a large scale began early in the present famine. By the end of December there were in the receipt of gratuitous relief

110,000 persons in the Madras districts.
3,000 „ „ Bombay „
30,000 „ „ Mysore „

These numbers were somewhat reduced in January and February; but since the end of February they have increased enormously, and have risen by the end of July to

839,000 in the Madras districts.
160,000 ,, Bombay ,,
151,000 ,, Mysore ,,

In Mysore the number of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief is more than three times higher than the number of the relief labourers; and it appears that in this Province relief works have not been properly managed. The persons on gratuitous relief in Madras and Bombay belong to three categories, thus—

	Children of labourers on the relief works.	Persons fed at relief houses and relief camps.	Persons relieved at their homes through village agencies.
Madras (according to the latest detailed return for the beginning of July) - -	149,000	207,000	218,000
Bombay - - - - - -	83,000		
		66,000	

The Mysore returns do not distinguish the several classes of charitable relief. So long as relief wages are kept at subsistence rates, the small allowance of 3 pie ($\frac{3}{8}$ of a penny) per diem must be continued to the infant children of relief labourers. The inmates of relief camps and the daily recipients of food at relief houses are ordinarily fit subjects for charity, provided that able-bodied people are drafted to relief works as soon as they are strong enough to labour. Relief through village agencies may become unavoidable where famine presses severely; but its administration must be very carefully supervised, in order that the needy may be really relieved, and that there may be as little fraud as possible. In Bombay, the numbers so relieved in each district vary according to the pressure of distress and the numbers on the relief works. But the figures for Madras lead to a belief that different systems are pursued in different districts; for instance, in Kurnool, where severe distress afflicted the whole district, only 5,519 persons were receiving village relief at the beginning of July; whereas in Salem, a part only of which district was severely distressed, 88,020 persons were on village relief.

11. In regard to the main object of relief operations, viz., the saving of human life,—much, but not complete success has been attained. In some tracts relief operations began too late; at centres of population, like Madras and Bangalore, and on some of the roads leading to such centres, starvation deaths have occurred; the death rate from cholera, dysentery, and such like diseases, has greatly increased over large areas; but, on the whole, the worst evils of famine have, so far, been successfully averted over the vast tracts visited by failure of crops. According to the standard of mortality during the Orissa famine, from three to five millions of people (instead of only half a million) must have died of famine in Southern India during the year 1877, if the guaranteed railways had not existed, and if Government had incurred no outlay on relief operations. Nothing of this sort has occurred; and on this result the Governments, and the local officers, who have exerted themselves admirably, deserve the acknowledgments of the Government of India. I fear, however, it may hereafter be found that over large tracts relief operations were, for considerable periods, conducted without sufficient system, and without due regard to economy.

12. Regarding what is past, I have been obliged to say this much, because it is only after a consideration of the past that we can frame improved plans for the future. During the spring and early summer of 1877, it was hoped that the season might be favourable; that spring showers might bring forward some small extent of early food crop in June; that bountiful summer rains (south-west monsoon) would enable the people to secure a large food harvest during August and September; and that favourable October rains (north-east monsoon) would fill the irrigation tanks, and restore plenty to the districts of the Madras Presidency. The October rains are not yet due, but our spring and summer hopes have been disappointed. Had they been fulfilled, there would have been no present need for special aid from the Government of India; some millions sterling would have been spent, there would have been some waste, but in the main the great object of all this expenditure would have been obtained; the difficulty would have been over, and the Government of India would, at the proper time, have placed on record for future guidance the lessons taught by the famine of 1877.

13. But so far as the season has gone our hopes have not been fulfilled; the spring showers came not, the summer rains have, until the last week of July, been very scanty and irregular; the main food crops of part of the black soil country in the Deccan are still in great jeopardy; it is feared that the unirrigated food crops of Madras and Mysore

must be lost, unless the good rain of the past week continues during August; the local officers report that already an unascertained, but large, proportion of these crops are dried up; the irrigation tanks of the Mysore country are still dry, and no fresh food crops, can be reaped on any large scale in Southern India before December next. If there are favourable rains in August and September, and if the October rainfall (north-east monsoon) is full, then plenty may perhaps be restored by January 1878, though the people will feel the effects of the famine for some years to come. But, even under the most favourable circumstances the pressure of famine in many districts of Madras and Mysore cannot abate greatly before January 1878; at the best, the tension in Bombay may lessen in September, and may cease altogether in December. But unless the rainfall of August and September is unusually heavy, there must be another year of famine in parts of Bombay, of the Deccan, and over a great part of Mysore; for in none* of these tracts can a heavy downpour be expected in October. A great part of Bellary and Kurnool also, where the October rains are scanty, must suffer another famine, if the summer rains are not plentiful during August and September; while if the October rains, the main rainfall of the Madras littoral, should be scanty, there must be another year of famine over a great part of the Madras Presidency.

14. Thus the present situation in Southern India is that, at the end of the season of famine, one of the great food crops of the present season is everywhere in jeopardy, and in some parts is almost irretrievably lost. Prices of food over the famine country are higher than ever, four or five times the ordinary rate; 2,500,000 people are being directly supported by State charity, of whom barely 450,000 are performing work that will have useful results. The present pressure of famine, and the present rate of expenditure, (considerably above half a million sterling per month), cannot at the best be greatly lessened before December next; whereas, if the season turns out unfavourably in any part of the famine country, that tract with its stocks already depleted must suffer from a second year of famine, more severe and more difficult than the year through which it is now passing.

15. The position in Southern India, grievous as it is, becomes much aggravated by the fact that the summer rains have hitherto been extremely scanty in the North-western Provinces and the Punjab. Vast areas of these provinces are protected by irrigation; the surplus food in stock from the bounteous harvests of the last few years is said, in the Punjab at any rate, to be very great; the autumn crop in these provinces has not yet been lost; and the seed time of the main food crop has yet to come. There is no present ground for fearing actual famine in Northern India, although I fear there may be serious scarcity and suffering in some districts; but the surplus food available for export thence to the famine country will be greatly reduced. In Bengal, Burma, and Central India, there is, according to present prospects, no reason to anticipate that the winter crops will not be full ones. But the main crops of Bengal and Burma can hardly be estimated before October at earliest.

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* The rainfall statistics for parts of Southern India are not very complete. So far as they go the meteorological returns give:—

	Average rainfall in inches during the months of		
	June to September.	October to December.	The whole year.
Poona	22½	6	31
Belgaum	36½	5	47½
Secunderabad	20¾	3	30
Bellary	11½	3	17
Bangalore	19	7¾	34½
Mean of eight districts in Mysore	17	8	—
Madras city	15	29	48½
Salem	17	8¼	34¾
Coimbatore	6	8½	21
Negapatam	9	24¼	35¼
Trichinopoly	12½	11½	29½
Madura	15	14¼	26

It seems therefore that in the Deccan, and in the ceded districts of Madras, the summer rainfall (south-west monsoon) is the mainstay of the crops; that in Mysore the heavy rain which fills the tanks and saturates the soil comes with the summer monsoon, but that the October (north-east) monsoon also gives a considerable rainfall, especially in the south of the province; and that in the districts of the Madras littoral the October monsoon yields the main rainfall of the year.

Though the north-east monsoon may be merely the rebound of the rain clouds which travel up the Bay of Bengal with the south-west winds, still we need not fear that scanty summer rains in Madras must necessarily be followed by equally scanty October rains. For the cloud currents which have this year shed plentiful summer rains over Burma and Bengal may return with the north-east winds to water the Madras littoral.

16. The prospect in Southern India, more especially in Madras and Mysore, is therefore as serious as it could possibly be. If a second famine has to be encountered over this large portion of the Empire, the duty of saving the lives of the people, and of utilising to the utmost the vast expenditure which must be incurred, will impose on both the Supreme and Local Governments as arduous and gigantic a task as any Government could be called upon to undertake. Before entering on this task, it may be well to state shortly what are in my opinion the main principles which Government should follow on an occasion of this kind. Many of these principles were laid down by the Government of India in its instructions to Sir Richard Temple, but I think it desirable to repeat them.

17. In the first place, the Government of India, with the approval of Her Majesty's Government, and of the people of India and England, are resolved to avert death from starvation by the employment of all means practically open to the resources of the State, and to the exertions of its officers. Thus far there can be no room for doubt or difference of opinion.

18. When harvests fail in an Indian province, considerable old stocks of food are left in the hands of the landholding and mercantile classes; but these stocks are often held back from sale. Markets have therefore to be supplied with grain imported from a distance. I consider that, except under most peculiar and exceptional circumstances, the function of supplying the demand for imported grain can be best, and indeed alone discharged by private trade; and that private trade should be left to do its work in this respect with as little interference from Government as practicable. The Government and its officers should, however, give all possible information, and should give where necessary additional facilities to private trade. Early and correct information as to prices and means of carriage should be published. The carrying power of railways and canals leading into the famine tracts should be reinforced; tolls and other restraints on free intercommunication should be removed, roads into the interior should be improved and kept in order; rates of railway or other carriage might be reduced; and in cases of extreme necessity, temporary railways or tramways might be laid from main railway lines into populous tracts, whereto means of communication failed or where insufficient. These will indeed be the most useful of all works, if we have to meet another year of famine. Grain required by Government for alms to the helpless poor, or for labourers on relief works, or for any tract where supplies were deficient, should be obtained through the trade, at or near the local markets, and should not be imported from a distance by Government itself. Experience has shown that Government operations in the grain market disorganise and paralyse private trade to an extent out of all proportion to the operations themselves. Moreover where the carrying power of a country by rail, canal, or cart is limited, and is fully utilised, Government grain importations must necessarily displace a corresponding quantity of privately imported grain. My view, therefore, is that under no circumstances which are likely to occur ought the Government itself to engage in the business of importing grain. Free and abundant private trade cannot co-exist with Government importation. Absolute non-interference with the operations of private commercial enterprise must be the foundation of our present famine policy. Trade towards the famine country from Bengal and Northern and Central India is at present active; and there is every reason to believe that the Indian sources of supply are still considerable. But even if these should fail, the interference of the Government would be a ruinous error. It could only have the effect of decreasing the total amount of food available, and thus aggravating the catastrophe. I am confident that more food, whether from abroad or elsewhere, will reach Madras, if we leave private enterprise to itself, than if we paralyse it by Government competition. These remarks refer to the famine we are now dealing with. I do not of course intend to assert that famines cannot occur in which Government interference for the importation of food may not be absolutely necessary. Indeed, the Orissa famine was one of those cases.

19. Before scarcity of food deepens into famine, there is a large and increasing section of the population who are out of work, and have no means of buying food at dear rates. It is the policy of Government to employ such people on relief works; and my view is, that relief employment, at a subsistence rate of wage, should be provided on large fully supervised works, which will be of permanent benefit to the country. The advantage of large works of this kind over petty local works is twofold—firstly, the obligation to do a full day's work, at a low rate of wage, and to go some distance to work, keeps from seeking relief people who can support themselves otherwise; and, secondly, the money expended on such works bequeaths permanent benefits to the country.

20. On this point, the following passages from Sir Richard Temple's excellent report of his recent mission to the distressed tracts of Southern India are very valuable. When discussing the lessons to be deduced from Indian famine experience, he writes—

"It seems to me that from these events we forcibly and positively learn—

"To determine beforehand, as soon as any forecast of the coming distress can be made, the large public works upon which relief labour can be employed, and upon which task-work can be exacted, or piece-work established under professional supervision;

"To notify generally, and to intimate to all concerned, especially to the Civil officers, the particular public works to which the relief labourers in each distressed district are to be drafted;

"To organise an engineering staff in readiness for undertaking vigorously these particular public works when the time for active operation shall arrive, and to prepare for devoting to this purpose all the professional establishments which can be obtained;

"To prohibit absolutely, in the beginning of the distress, the opening of petty works under Civil officers, or non-professional establishments, among the villages close to the homes of the people;

"To refuse relief to strong able-bodied persons of both sexes in any form, save employment on the large public works;

"To allow petty village works to be opened only when severe and widespread distress has declared itself at a comparatively advanced stage in any district, or part of a district, and even then to reject all, save those who cannot reasonably be expected to proceed to the large public works,—in short to reserve these petty works for the weakly, the sickly, the advanced in life, and for those who have any just claim for indulgence;

"To keep the wages on relief works at the lowest rate compatible with the health of the labourers; this being necessary, not only in the interests of economy, but also to prevent demoralisation of the people."

I do not think it would be possible to define more clearly than is done in the foregoing extracts those principles which seem to me the right ones for the organisation of famine relief works.

21. At the beginning of a famine there are some, and before the end of a famine there will be many, people who, from physical infirmity, or from social custom, or from some other reason, are unable to earn wages on relief works, and who have no means of buying food. For persons of this class the State must, when the sources of private benevolence are dry, provide gratuitous relief, if it undertakes to provide for them at all; an undertaking which, if it assumes wide dimensions, must impose upon the State operations of peculiar difficulty and delicacy. For it is the inevitable tendency of all gratuitous relief afforded by the State, if it be not supervised and restricted with the most scrupulous exactitude, to intrude injuriously on the field of relief labour, and thus demoralise large masses of the population. Such relief may be given in the shape of grants-in-aid of private charity; in the shape of cooked or uncooked food, distributed at relief centres, at camps, or poor-houses, where the recipients of relief are housed and cared for; or (if complete means of supervision exist) in the shape of money alms distributed to paupers at their homes through village agencies. One or other, often more than one, of these forms of gratuitous relief must, sooner or later, be dispensed in every famine tract. At large centres of population relief camps are useful; for the inmates are prevented from wandering about the streets, and starving for want of miscellaneous alms. On great roads and lines of traffic out-door relief centres are more suitable. Where a good indigenous village agency exists, it is advisable to register and relieve, at an early stage of a famine, the helpless paupers in their villages; so that they may be prevented from starving at home, or from wandering forth in quest of charity. But, in whatever shape gratuitous relief be given, the ordinary district organisation must be greatly strengthened to secure its due and honest administration. No other form of famine relief is more open to abuse and malversation. Every rupee spent in providing effective, trustworthy supervision is saved over and over again, not only in preventing wasteful and unnecessary expenditure, but in securing that the relief given reaches the classes and persons for whom it is intended, without being turned aside into the pockets of people who can do without State aid.

22. The principles and the policy described in the four preceding paragraphs should, in my judgment, guide the operations of Government, not only at the beginning of a famine, but throughout its continuance. Disregard of these principles must, assuredly, and indefinitely, aggravate the serious financial difficulties in which even a well-conducted campaign against a great famine involves the Government. If we have departed from

these principles in parts of the famine-stricken country, then we should now strain every nerve to return to them as speedily as possible. Famine relief expenditure must, I fear, continue on a very large scale for some months to come. And it may be that we are on the threshhold of another, and much more terrible, year of famine. It behoves us, therefore, to lose no time in re-organising and strengthening the forces with which Government hopes to contend against famine.

23. The amount of grain carried daily into Southern India will have to be greatly increased. The present estimate, founded on the figures of the Local Governments, is that into the Madras, Mysore, and Hyderabad districts alone, from 4,500 to 5,000* tons of food may have to be carried daily; whereas 2,500 tons a day was the greatest quantity carried during the past season. I believe this full task, if it be required, can be accomplished. During the Bengal famine the railways, working from three directions, carried at times as much as 4,000 tons of food a day; and the railways into Madras and Mysore work from four different ports, besides the fifth line from the Bombay direction. No time should be lost in framing, in publishing to the trade generally, and in bringing into effect on the guaranteed railways, a scheme whereby 4,500 to 5,000 tons of food can, if consigned by the trade, be carried daily into the famine districts of Madras and Mysore. When the railway has brought the required supply of food into the country, the question will arise, whether the famine-stricken cattle can suffice for the task of distributing by cart the large quantities required in the interior of the districts. And the problem will have to be faced and decided at once, whether it will be best to lay down rough tramways for carriage of grain, or to bring the destitute poor to places near the railway lines, or to promote their emigration into other provinces.

24. Next, all the best engineering skill available in the many provinces of India should, I think, be lent to the Madras Government, so that a sufficient number of large public works may be opened in all parts of the Madras as well as of the Mysore famine country, at which the largest possible proportion of the two and half millions of people now supported by the State may be employed under proper supervision on works which will help to protect the country from future famines. The districts of Madras and Mysore are studded with irrigation tanks, and are traversed by rivers, many of which are already bridled and turned into irrigation channels. Much great work of this kind remains to be done. The projects and estimates for such works may not be everywhere ready in full detail; but it would be better for the people and for the country that the Government should accept a moderate proportion of failures in such works than not to attempt them at all. It would be wiser to lay out one million sterling on irrigation channels and reservoirs, which will store water for future needs, or on other works of lasting utility, than to spend half a million on petty works, which cannot be adequately supervised, and are of no permanent usefulness. Of the famine roads which in 1874 were undertaken in Bengal, about one-half had to be left unbridged and unfinished. These have since fallen into a condition of utter uselessness, owing to the inability of local funds to complete and maintain them. I believe that it would be highly desirable to sanction for Madras a special Chief Engineer for famine works, as was done for Bengal in 1874. Nothing is more essential to successful administration in such a crisis as the present, than the concentration of authority in the hands of a single man of energy and judgment, who shall be responsible to the head of the Local Government alone. I am satisfied that the great success which has attended the operations for the relief of the present famine in Bombay has been mainly due to the fact that this principle has been strictly acted on. The Chief Engineer, Major-General Kennedy, has been virtually responsible to no one but the Governor himself; and I believe that both the late and present Governors of Bombay have thus been able to carry out their orders with a vigour, promptitude, and success, which would otherwise have been impossible. Of course, however, this arrangement might have been as injurious as it has proved beneficial, had the officer on whom the result of it depended been deficient in experience, judgment, or energy.

25. When the employment of relief labourers shall have been thus made over to professional agency, the Civil officers will be able to give their time to organising and supervising gratuitous relief, and to saving the helpless poor from starvation.

26. The two main objects to which the best endeavours, and all the available power, of the Government of India and the Local Governments must now be directed, are,—firstly, the framing and working of a scheme whereby 4,500 to 5,000 tons of food may be carried daily into the famine country; and, secondly, the selection and commence-

* This quantity would give subsistence to about 10,000,000 people.

ment of large public works of lasting utility, on which all the able-bodied relief recipients of either sex and any age should at once be employed. If the rainy season, which has begun so badly, should happily end well, these special exertions on the part of the State, of the railways, and of public servants, may not be required beyond December next. If the season ends badly anywhere, then these exertions will have to be continued on behalf of such afflicted tracts until August 1878. In any case, the lives of millions, and the useful expenditure of large public funds, must depend, during the next five months, on the arrangements that may now be made. If matters are allowed to drift, there may be terrible loss of life, and there must be a wasteful expenditure of vast sums of public money, which might, under proper arrangements, bequeath great and useful works to the district wherein it is incurred.

27. The beneficial effect of money expended on well-considered and well-organised public works will be felt in the future. But for the immediate relief of the present distress, the creation and supervision of new means of transport are urgently needed. I have every reason to believe that our reserve of grain is amply sufficient to meet the increasing demand, and that, even if it runs short, we may reckon with confidence on the enterprise of private trade to supply the deficiency. But the arrangements which must now be made for distributing over large tracts of country, where no sufficient means of transport yet exist, that quantity of grain which their population requires, and the trade is able to supply, will be as difficult and delicate as they are necessary.

28. I have not included the Bombay districts in the tracts where special joint effort by the Supreme and Local Governments is at once required; because prospects in Bombay are not so bad as in the south-eastern districts, and because the management of relief works and relief operations in Bombay has, during the past season, been such as to warrant a confidence that famine there, if it comes, will be more easily met, and that relief labourers will be employed on well-organised works of permanent usefulness. I wish to take this opportunity of placing on record my opinion that the difficult task of administering famine relief in the Bombay Presidency has been at all times performed by the Local Government with a sagacity, judgment, and firmness that cannot be too highly commended. The Government of Bombay has been especially fortunate in having at its command, for the superintendence of this most arduous work, an officer of such rare intelligence and energy as Major-General Kennedy.

29. I am afraid that the situation in Mysore is, in proportion to its area and population, even more critical than in Madras. The Mysore demand for imported grain has, throughout the famine, been larger with reference to the distressed population than in the Madras Presidency. The fate of the crops now in the ground is more doubtful in parts of Mysore than anywhere else. The employment of the destitute poor on useful public works has, since April last, been quite inadequate to the occasion. At the present time the persons on gratuitous relief are three times as many as the relief labourers on public works. In Bombay the numbers on gratuitous relief are now little more than half the total of relief labourers. In Madras the total number on gratuitous relief is somewhat less than the total on works. Reports have been received from more than one Madras district that people in the last stage of distress flock over from Mysore to British relief houses for help. It would seem that Mysore relief arrangements are at present neither efficient nor sufficient. In this Province immediate steps must be taken for reorganising the relief administration.

30. As my colleagues are aware, it is my intention to visit Madras and Mysore immediately. Before starting on this journey, I have thought it desirable to place on record my reasons for undertaking it. These will be found in the foregoing general statement of the main facts of the present condition of the famine-stricken districts in Southern India. I cannot contemplate such a condition of things without the most serious anxiety, and the deepest sympathy with all those local authorities who, after prolonged and arduous exertion, are now confronted with new administrative difficulties.

31. It is unnecessary, and indeed undesirable, to discuss in the present Minute any of the particular measures which have been, or may have to be, adopted for meeting those difficulties. The teachings of experience would be as barren as they are bitter, were it impossible to derive from study, not only of the phenomena of the late famine in Bengal but also of the course of the present famine in Madras and Bombay, a clear apprehension of certain general principles of famine management. The soundness of these principles is, I think, established both by the beneficial results of their timely and intelligent application, and also by the disastrous consequences which have attended the disregard of them. I cannot doubt that they should everywhere guide our action. But it is obvious that the application of them must always be easier in some localities than in others. My object, therefore, in now proceeding to Madras is, not to urge upon the

administrative authorities of that presidency the adoption of any system of operations devised, *á priori*, without due reference to local peculiarities, but to endeavour by frank unprejudiced personal conference with his Grace the Governor, to ascertain how far it may be practically in my power to place unreservedly at his disposal, for the furtherance of measures approved by his judgment and experience, all those resources which are commanded only by the Government of India.

32. Two or three such measures are, indeed, already foreshadowed by the Duke of Buckingham in an important and suggestive Minute, which has only just reached me. In this Minute his Grace has practically overruled the opinion of those who wanted to give extraordinary diet and comforts, costing about several rupees a month per head, to all inmates of relief camps. He has also wisely decided that none who can work shall be relieved except on public works; and he has indicated some large public works, mainly of irrigation, which will supply labour for all applicants in six districts and parts of two others.

33. Should it be found possible to develop yet further the salutary principles on which these decisions are based, by bringing the whole of that portion of the relieved population capable of work under a well organised engineering supervision, one of the great dangers with which the Madras Presidency is now threatened will have been successfully averted. But, even to carry out with complete efficiency the wise measures already announced by his Grace, the local Public Works Department will, I should think, require some addition to the strength of its staff, and some relaxation of departmental rules. The Governor of Madras has, no doubt rightly, preferred schemes for storing surplus water to projects for carrying it away; and the Madras engineers are, perhaps, the best hydraulic engineers in all India. It will be my earnest endeavour to afford the Government of Madras every encouragement and assistance in my power, for the prompt and bold development of large local public works of every useful kind. In the circumstances we have now to deal with, it is not absolutely necessary that such works should be remunerative in the ordinary sense. Since relief labour must now be employed, and employed on an enormous scale, it is, in my opinion, a matter of primary importance that it should be employed on works of the greatest possible permanent utility, even though such works be wanting in the remunerative conditions requisite to justify our sanction of them in ordinary times.

34. So long as we might reasonably hope that the worst difficulties and dangers of the Madras famine would by this time be passing over, I have purposely refrained from visiting that Presidency, lest my presence there should, however unintentionally, prove embarrassing, rather than helpful, to the efforts of the local Government.

35. But, in face of the facts recorded and reviewed in the preceding paragraphs of this Minute, I can no longer question the urgency of my own duty, and that of all concerned, under the pressure of a natural calamity greater than any which, so far as I know, has in modern times afflicted India. It is now clear that the humane efforts of the Madras Government have proved insufficient to diminish the intensity, or reduce the area, of this calamity. The distress, which appears to be increasing with frightful rapidity, must, even under the most skilful, the most economical, and the most energetic management, strain to the utmost the administrative abilities of the local Government, and the financial resources of the Empire. Therefore I cannot doubt that the Governor of Madras is entitled to receive from the Viceroy the unreserved assistance of all the technical skill and special experience this Empire can furnish, for the relief of the people and the revenue by a vigorous prosecution of the wisest measures that can be devised. In short, we are now fairly engaged in a terrible conflict with nature: our line of battle has been broken at Madras and Mysore; and it is therefore at these points we should now concentrate all our reserved force.

36. Nothing could be further from my intention than to interfere unduly with the local authorities, and the devoted officers, who have so long and zealously been combating the growth of a gigantic catastrophe. Although, up to the present moment, the result has not equalled the assiduity of their untiring efforts, yet the energy and devotion of the district officers throughout Madras, during the protracted and increasing strain upon their physical and mental faculties, cannot, I think, be too highly or gratefully appreciated. It is not to inadequate energy or intelligence, but to inadequate numbers and inadequate executive powers, that I attribute the incompleteness of their success.

37. My journey, therefore, to the famine-stricken districts of Southern India, and more especially my journey to Madras, is prompted by the hope that it may enable me to strengthen and augment the means on which his Grace the Governor of that Presidency is now dependent for the satisfactory solution of a problem as serious as any which has ever occupied the mind, or taxed the abilities, of an Indian statesman.

38. I think that the highest expert talent procurable from any part of India should now, at once, be placed unreservedly at the disposal of the Duke of Buckingham. His Grace will be able to supplement and direct the special knowledge of experts by the large generalisations of a varied experience. Such a combination can scarcely fail to ensure ultimately to the Government of his Grace an administrative success commensurate with the magnitude of those difficulties which nothing short of the coolest judgment and most resolute firmness can now overcome.

(Signed) LYTTON.

No. 132.

Telegram, dated 13th August 1877.

From GOVERNOR OF MADRAS to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Please direct Medical Officers of Madras Army now on sick leave in Europe to return to duty, unless pronounced to be unfit for present service in the tropics.

No. 133.

Telegram, dated 14th August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

Ahmedabad Pahlunpore Railway. We authorise construction on broad gauge.

No. 134.

Telegram, dated 14th August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Please order immediate compliance with entire indent for Western Rajputana line, forwarded with Despatch 182 of 1876, shipping everything to Bombay till further advised. The essential materials first wanted are rails and fastenings, sleepers, points, and crossings, locomotives, break-vans, trollies, low sided and covered waggons, for at least 100 miles of line; the continued drought in parts and difficulties of distributing food may call for temporary lines of railway, and this material will be kept in Bombay till wanted. We have no spare material at present, and therefore no reduction should be made in this indent in consequence of our wish to carry out southern section of Western Rajputana Railway on broad gauge. Your approval of our proposal on this last head is also earnestly solicited, so that earthworks may be commenced.

No. 135.

Telegram, dated 14th August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

Yours July 30th. Locomotives Great Indian. If ordered immediately 12 can be delivered here December, remainder January, February, March.

I am willing to give authority if you agree. Telegraph reply.

No. 136.

Telegram, dated 14th August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

Dhond Railway. As your available resources are limited, we think it better that you should decide at Madras what lines you wish to pledge yourself to.

Let me know your views after inquiry at Madras.

No. 137.

Telegram, dated 15th August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Your telegram of the 10th. We do not fully understand the object of it. Our instructions about publicity refer only to local purchases from trade. We decided at outset that private trade would import grain more efficiently than Government, and we have lately reasserted publicly our determination not to interfere.

Do you intend to say that you think it probable that Government ought to make large import of grain? We can foresee no circumstances under which such Government interference with private trade would not be ruinous mistake. Trade towards famine country from Bengal, Central and Northern India is most active, and we see no reason to doubt that the necessary supplies will be furnished. We are convinced that far more food from abroad or elsewhere will reach Madras if we leave private enterprise to itself, and we should paralyse it by Government competition. Free trade cannot co-exist with Government importation.

Even if we anticipated failure in source of supply, we should still believe that Government interference would only decrease total amount of food available, and aggravate catastrophe. If Her Majesty's Government should think differently, we request we may receive distinct intimation of the fact. We cannot take upon ourselves any responsibility for a course which would be, in our opinion, fatal, nor can we usefully give calculations. Local estimates say from four to five thousand tons of grain must be imported daily. Grain actually ready for export on Great Indian Peninsula Railway reported to be 120,000 tons. Stocks in Bengal, Central India, Northern India, believed to be large.

No. 138.

Telegram, dated 15th August 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

General improvement in prospects of season in Madras, Mysore, Bombay, and North-West maintained during present week. In Madras, moderate rain in Chingleput, Salem, Trichinopoly, North Arcot, Kurnool, Bellary, Nellore, and Kistna, and also in parts of Cuddapah, Madura, Tinnevelly, but light in Tanjore, South Arcot, Coimbatore. In Mysore good showers, in Coorg abundant rain.

Rain still much wanted in Punjaub, Rajputana, and western part of North-West Provinces.

Of Bombay, Temple telegraphs: message begins,—rain good in Southern Collectorates, continues partial and uncertain in rest of famine area; Concan and western tracts light, but sufficient for cultivation. Some autumn crop lost, but much still preserved by frequent light showers. Anxiety still felt regarding Guzerat and Kattywar. Prices of grain slightly easier, still very high; coast and all imports increasing, improvement of situation retarded by want of general rain; people feeling still more continued pressure of high prices. Difficulty in Bombay aggravated by state of Madras Presidency and Nizam's dominions, and by inabilities of railway to bring forward grain sufficient for great demand. Message ends.

Prices of grain continue exceedingly high throughout famine districts, but in Madras are slightly easier than in week preceding, and still are lower in every part of that presidency than in worst parts of Bombay and Mysore. The question of grain stocks and supplies continues to cause anxiety. Regarding stocks in Calcutta, previous information confirmed. Eden reports, after full conference with Calcutta firms, that trade is most active; ninety thousand tons shipping engaged, monsoon not likely to interfere much.

Condition of Mysore continues critical. We have sanctioned as relief work earthwork of railway from station to town of Bangalore.

Numbers relieved generally increasing in Madras, further increase one hundred eighty-nine thousand, making three hundred eighty-five thousand increase in last fortnight. This appears partly owing to village money dole system, of which we have requested reconsideration. In Mysore labourers on works decreasing, and charitably relieved increasing. In Bombay reverse occurring, but slight general increase in totals relieved.

In Madras 983,000 on works, 1,001,600 charitably. In Mysore 45,000 on works, 164,000 charitably. In Bombay 265,000 on works, 119,000 charitably.

No. 139.

Telegram, dated 16th August 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Please order immediate completion of State Railway broad gauge engines for which we have indented, and let us know by what dates first deliveries can be made in England, and at what rate continued. Also, if more of same type be now ordered, when and at what rate can deliveries be made. On receipt of this information, which we would wish to have early, we shall be better able to make final recommendation on Peninsula Company's demand for 100 engines.

No. 140.

Telegram, dated August 16, 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

I start to-morrow for Madras and Mysore. No change in position of affairs. I consider the present state of things frightful, and future prospects most alarming. There is everywhere the greatest zeal and devotion, but want of unity in administrative authority. My desire is to introduce into Madras a system similar to that which has worked with admirable success in Bombay, to employ the people on great works of permanent value, and, while relieving as far as possible all real distress, to apply proper tests. We have in the excellent administration of the Bombay famine a model for imitation in Madras. My plan is to induce the Duke to take into his own hands the entire management of the Famine Department, with General Kennedy as his chief executive officer. I will place at his disposal the best ability and experience that India can furnish, to act in any way that he desires in co-operation with his own officers, and will then leave him entirely unfettered by interference of Supreme Government. The strong local officers are admirable, and I desire that the Duke should give his orders to them without intervention of Council or Revenue Board. He would be his own Famine Dictator, as Lord Northbrook virtually was in 1874.

No. 141.

Encl. in No. 215.

MR. A. C. LYALL to COLONEL BURNE.

MY DEAR COLONEL BURNE, 16th August 1877.

I AM very much afraid that the whole of Rajpootana, north and west of the Travellis, from near Deera in the extreme south-west to Ulnur in the north-west, is threatened with serious dearth. Up to this date, if rainfall of two or three inches in the middle of July be excepted, the south-west monsoon has failed altogether, and we have had much less rain than in the season of 1868, which was followed by the famine of 1868–69. The crops are already damaged widely, and what is almost more important in the great pastoral plains of the west the grass is withering up. Nevertheless, if rain falls before the end of August, and plentifully, we shall escape (the natives tell me) a famine; but if the drought continues, it will go hard with the country. Eastward and southward of the Travellis the condition of the country is not so precarious, but it is bad everywhere, though in the south-east there is less to be feared, because that part of Rajpootana usually gets some of the later rain from the Bay of Bengal.

I leave Aboo in a few days, as soon as my baggage has got ahead, and I go first to Jodhpur, then to Ajmere, where I shall take up my quarters. Unless matters mend, we shall be obliged to begin relief works soon; and it will probably be of great use to push on the Western Rajpootana Railway into Marwar. Perhaps the Public Works Department may be instructed to give very early consideration to any proposals of that nature which I may send from Ajmere.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) A. C. LYALL.

No. 142.

Encl. in No. 215.

MR. C. A. DANIELL to MR. C. ROBERTSON, Secretary to the Government, North-West Provinces and Oudh.

MY DEAR ROBERTSON, Jhansi, 16th August 1877.

I am afraid we are drifting into a condition which must very soon call for unsual measures.

Our last rain fell on the evening of the 6th, and up to last Saturday, 11th, we were just holding our own. Since then we have had nothing but sunshine, dry air, occasional high wind from the south and west, with no present appearance of any change for the better.

I have no doubt but that, if we get a reasonable fall of rain by the 25th, we may hope to pull through so far as to save a fair amount of crops sown in Jhansi, and a good amount in Lalitpur, and to admit of even some being sown during the last week of the month.

In the Jalaun district, however, the failure is more than in this district (Jhansi), and unless we get there in Jalaun good healthy rains within a week, I doubt if there will be any kharif crop at all.

In the whole division the difficulty which presents itself now is this. The poorer class of cultivators, the ploughmen and labourers, cannot get food except with great difficulty. The Banias close their advances to the cultivators, and the labourers have no work to do.

The Banias are in the habit of feeding the poorer class of cultivators on the strength of, and on the security of, the crops in the ground; whenever there is little or no crop sown, or when the sown crop is endangered by drought, the Banias close their money bags and refuse food or its equivalent. The people are then thrown on their own resources, which are *nil* in so many cases, and it is with regard to these people I now write.

We have at present fair stocks of grain, and prices at this moment are not very high, but the prices may rise at any time, and I expect a very rapid rise at the end of eight or nine days from now, unless we have good rain.

I have just had a long talk with Porter, and have to-day heard from White and Adams.

I shall, no doubt, I fear, in a few days have to recommend that works be thrown open for employment of those who are ready to come; and of necessity the question of funds must arise.

Lalitpur for the present can get on with the Saugor road, for which we have sanction.

In Jhansi Porter recommends the Mow and Jalaun road to begin with. This is a very desirable work, cutting the worst part of the district; plans and estimates have been prepared on the rough for some time, but have not been sent on; the work has been too much for the regular division funds.

White will in due course state his projects.

I write now to you to say that I fear I shall in all probability have to come up to you very soon for a demand for money.

May I now obtain demi-official sanction to make emergent advances within certain limits should our troubles come upon us too quickly to admit of regular sanction in time to save real distress.

The case will be reported officially directly I obtain from the Deputy Commissioners their official proposals.

I have to-day issued the circular for stock of food grains to the Deputy Commissioners.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) C. A. DANIELL.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 143.

No. 1425, telegram, dated 16th of August 1877.

TELEGRAM from DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF BARA BANKI, to the COMMISSIONER OF THE LUCKNOW DIVISON.

Subject.—Agricultural prospects of this district for week ending Thursday, the 16th August 1877.

Has the honour to submit a brief report on above.

2. Unless rain should fall very soon, what little now remains of kharif will be lost, and the intermediate crops of mash and moth will not be sown.

3. Cattle are reported to have died from eating joar which has dried up.

4. Very hot wind blowing. Thermometer in Court 96°.

No. 144.

No. 1540. From DEPUTY-COMMISSIONER, HARDOI, to the COMMISSIONER, SITAPUR DIVISION, 16th August 1877.

No rain except a slight shower at Hardoi. Kharif crops generally dried up. Cane much injured. Hot west wind. No prospect of rain.

No. 145.

Encl. in No. 215.

MEMORANDUM presented to the Viceroy by his Highness the MAHARAJA of JEYPORE, dated Agra, 17th August 1877.

THE Maharaja's object in asking the favour of this interview with his Excellency the Viceroy is to acquaint his Excellency of the signs which are now visible on all sides of the fearful famine which is fast developing itself, not only in the Jeypore territory, but throughout Rajpootana, and even beyond it. The calamity, which was not at all apprehended two months ago, is now assuming so serious an aspect that his Highness has felt it necessary to wait on his Excellency for the favour of his Excellency's valuable advice as to the precautionary measures the Durbar should adopt for saving its people from the impending danger.

The following measures are now under consideration, and the Durbar will carry them out as soon as it is assured of their efficacy, and submit to Government its official reports on the subject :—

1. As the cultivating classes are already under the necessity of borrowing money and corn to save themselves from starvation, the Durbar would offer every inducement to the Bowras, or money-lenders, to lend money and corn to the subjects without hesitation. The Durbar would promise to help such money-lenders to recover the loans they may give as soon as the times are changed for the better. Should any money-lender hereafter find cause to bring any civil suit against any Raj subject, for the recovery of any such loan, the usual court-fees will be wholly remitted.

2. The Durbar would issue orders to the effect that the greatest discretion and lenity be used in realising all arrears of revenue and the dues for the current year, so that the cultivating classes may not be put to any inconvenience or difficulty.

3. At places where there may not be any Bowras, or money-lenders, the Raj would offer to lend money to the subjects from the State treasury without charging interest.

4. The agricultural classes are now keenly feeling the want of provender for the live-stock in their possession; the Raj would, therefore, pass orders that the cultivating classes be allowed to raise green vegetables on land surrounding wells, tanks, and on the sides of canals without any land-tax or dues of any kind. All pasture lands which are usually reserved for the Raj be thrown open to the agricultural and pastoral classes for grazing cattle.

5. In order to provide for day-labourers the Raj would undertake extensive irrigation works within the State and other works of public utility, and would commence working the stone quarries on an increased scale. It would also take in hand the preparation of all marble pillars and cut-stones which may hereafter be required for the Albert Hall and other public buildings proposed to be erected.

6. Preliminaries are now being arranged for opening almshouses for the aged and infirm, as well as others unable to earn their livelihood.

7. As increased distress of this kind is likely to cause increase of crimes, the Raj would add to the police force located at every station and issue special instructions for the guidance of police officers towards effectual suppression of plunder and theft.

8. All feudatories, jaghirdars, and other tenure-holders should be strictly ordered to adopt the same measures within their respective jurisdictions for relieving their own people.

9. The Durbar would pass orders to the effect that arrears of tribute and other dues should not, for the present, be demanded from these tenure-holders, so that they may be better able to take care of their people. The Durbar would also offer to lend money to such of them on indulgent terms as may already be in pecuniary difficulties.

The Maharaja would beg to submit the above measures to his Excellency the Viceroy for the benefit of his Excellency's valuable opinion as to their efficacy, and would also beg of his Excellency to favour him with further instructions which will enable the Durbar to save its subjects at this crisis. Should the rains unfortunately still hold off, the calamity will certainly become very serious, and in such a case the Durbar's exertions will scarcely be sufficient to cope with it. The Maharaja feels it his duty to inform his Excellency of the present state of affairs, and of his apprehensions for the future, before things assume a serious aspect, so that his Excellency may have sufficient time to think over the question, and that his Excellency's Government may be prepared to lend its kind assistance whenever the Durbar stand in need of it.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 146.

MR. H. B. WEBSTER to MR. C. ROBERTSON, Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

MY DEAR ROBERTSON, Mainpuri, 17th August 1877.

I DARESAY Sir George would like to know something about the state of this division at once; so, without waiting for the detailed information which Collectors are gathering for me, I will give you a brief statement of the present condition and prospects of the country as far as I have knowledge, personal or acquired, from interrogation of Government officers, traders, and Zemindars.

The staple food of the common people for a portion of the year (say, roughly, from October to March) consists in this part of the country of bajra, juwar, and pulses (moong, mote, and oord). Of these grains juwar alone has been sown to any extent; it has germinated and at least 50 per cent. of the crop has escaped drying up and would now yield an average produce, *if rain should fall within* 12 *or* 15 *days*. Bajra has as yet been but little sown, but in the Agra Division (I am assured on all hands) it will not be too late to sow it with every prospect of an average yield if rain fall within a fortnight; this would not be the case in Meerut, for there the seed sown now would produce little as it would surely be nipped before the perfect formation of the ear by the early frosts; there is no such danger here. The pulses cannot be sown now.

To sum up, if rain fall within the next fortnight about half of what has been sown will produce a fair return, and the sowings, which will then become possible, will yield an average amount of produce.

All the prospects of the kharif harvest then depend upon the weather of the next fortnight; at present the sky is cloudless, the wind steadily in the west, and the heat intense.

Prices are on the rise, wheat is here at 16 to 16½ seers, and at Etawah 14½ seer per rupee.

On the other side of the Jumna, in Gwalior and Bhurtpoor, the pressure of the drought is beginning to be felt by the people who are immigrating in weekly increasing numbers with their cattle in search of food and forage. These immigrations have not yet reached important dimensions; I am carefully watching them, for they will (as they were in 1868) be a source of some embarrassment to us, and they certainly will, if they increase much, render it necessary for us to open relief works earlier than we should be compelled to do for the sake of our own people alone.

If we do not get rain in abundance in September to enable the ground to be prepared and sown for the rabbi, the day labourers and the smaller class of cultivators will be in distress, and it will be necessary to find employment for them on useful public works.

My experience in the famines of 1860 and 1868 has convinced me of the immense importance of affording assistance to the labouring classes in the shape of employment on public works *early*.

The thing is to get all such persons at work on ordinary rates *before they have had time to become enfeebled and emaciated by want.* You thus (setting aside the merely humane view of the question) secure a fair day's work for a fair day's wage from your labourers employed on relief works, and avoid the pitiable waste of money which is the invariable result of letting men, reduced and weakened by insufficient nutriment, to labour for wages, even if those be fixed at the minimum which will support life. There are two works which, I am informed by the Collectors, have received administrative sanction, and for which allotments have been made, which appear eminently suited to become relief works for Etawah and Mainpuri. These are—(1), the new canal cut starting from somewhere in the Mustafabad Tahsili in the Mainpuri District, and running through the Shekoobad Tahsili down through the Etawah District to a place called Bhognipoor in Cawnpore, (in fact I believe that the projected cut is known by the name of the Bhognipoor Branch); and (2), the extension of the Lower Ganges Canal which (already partially excavated) passes through the northern and eastern parts of the Mainpuri District. I think that in the present very doubtful state of the agricultural prospects of the neighbourhood it would be *most advisable* to call on the Canal Department to have matters so arranged that it should be possible to begin operations on these two works with large gangs immediately on the first appearance of distress.

I will, as soon as possible, in consultation with district officers, prepare other projects for immediate commencement in case of need in other districts.

The two works above mentioned will, I think, suffice for the possible needs of Etawah and Mainpuri, and their nature renders them most appropriate relief works.

I hope I have not made it appear that I am an alarmist, or that I take an unnecessarily gloomy view of affairs in thus asking that we may be prepared with relief works, matured and ready for the immediate commencement of work should the necessity arise. I do not take at all a gloomy view in reality, but I wish to be ready for the work; I fully share the hopeful frame of mind in which, I am glad to say, both land-owners and cultivators still are; they are a long way from the beginning of despair, and the predictions of the Pundits, that timely rain will fall are fortunately believed in by all classes of natives, with the result of keeping them in spirits and preventing them falling into that dull and apathetic state which was among the worst of the effects of the drought of 1868 in the cultivating classes; who (in the Saharanpore District at any rate) were so dispirited at the approach of misfortune that they would hardly make an attempt to help themselves; in many places they would not even attempt to dig kutcha wells, though the soil was in all respects suitable to them and I offered to pay the expense of the operation.

With regard to grain stocks, the detailed inquiries ordered by Government are going on, and I will report the result as soon as they are complete; but I can say that all classes of persons whom I have interrogated in the different parts of the division I have visited, are agreed that the grain stock now in the hands of the Zemindars and of the corn-dealers is very large, in spite of the heavy exportation which has been going on for some months past. *Apropos* to this subject I may mention that the dealers who had already sent grain for despatch to the railway stations are now (induced thereto by the rise of prices) removing such portions as the Company has been unable to carry up to date.

This retention of the stock of grain originally intended for exportation has caused a slight fall in prices.

The health of the people is generally good. I will write a detailed official account of matters when I return to Agra a week hence, by which time I shall have seen a very large proportion of the division and have received the reports of Collectors of the inspections they and their Assistants are now making under my orders.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) H. B. WEBSTER.

No. 147. Encl. in No. 215.

No. 3357, telegram, dated 17th August 1877.

TELEGRAM from the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF LUCKNOW to the COMMISSIONER OF LUCKNOW DIVISION.

Subject.—Agricultural report for the week ending the 16th of August 1877.

There were eight-tenths of rain in Mohanlalgunj on evening of the 12th, and one inch and two-tenths in Malliabad. No rain in Tehsil Lucknow except some slight showers which could not be measured.

Prospects of kharif crops unfavourable. Hot winds blowing.

No. 148. Encl. in No. 215.

TELEGRAM from the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, UNAO, to the COMMISSIONER OF LUCKNOW.

Hot winds. Unirrigated crops burnt up. Koari hopeless. Aghani daily more critical.

No. 149. Encl. in No. 215.

No. 1,602. From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, KHERI, to the COMMISSIONER, SITAPUR DIVISION. 17th August 1877.

I am unable to send you a more favourable report this week. Excepting two-tenths of an inch at the Sadar on Tuesday, about noon, and a drizzle on Tuesday night at Mohamdi, there has been no rain gauged at any of the three Tehsil rain gauges.

There was good rain on the other side of the Chauka, at Jankinagar, in the Bhow Taluk between the Singhai and Dhaurehra Parganahs, in Tehsil Nighasen, and the police at the Dhaurehra Thana give favourable accounts of the crops in the Terai Parganahs of Dhaurehra and Firozabad. The Singhai report is not so favourable.

Lightning was observed on Sunday evening a great distance off due south, but I have been unable to learn that it reached this district.

Speaking generally, excepting in the Terai portion of the district, the prospects are gloomy. The crops in the highlands are reported to be rapidly drying up, and those in lowlands even to be suffering much from want of rain. During yesterday and to-day hot winds from the west have commenced to blow.

One curious feature in the present drought is shown in the drying up of jowar this year, which has acquired in the process a poison which is fatal to any cattle eating it. The Tahsildar of Mohamdi reports the death of 60 head of cattle from this cause, and his account of the fatality to animals eating is confirmed by Messrs. Hearsey and Carnegy, landowners in that Zillah.

No. 150.

Telegram, dated 17th August 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to Secretary of State.

Have journeyed South Mahratta country; crops excellent there, August rains being favourable, but prices continue extremely high, though trade is active. Regret no good news of rain elsewhere, and monsoon still scanty everywhere, save in Concan, where rains somewhat better. Renewed tendency decrease numbers relief works, but pressure of prices augments numbers on gratuitous relief; no trouble in any district save Kaladgi, where deficient monsoon has reduced people generally, and caused numbers on relief to rise excessively. Great anxiety and difficulty in meeting demands for carriage of grain by rail for want of enough engines. Demands of famine supplied by suspending general traffic, but engines and drivers overworked.

No. 151.

Telegram, dated 17th August 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Dhond Railway. Our first object in indenting for rails and sleepers is to use this line, even temporarily, for facilitating carriage of grain to famine-stricken districts of Southern India, and to guard against a possible break on the Western Ghâts, a catastrophe which would be attended at this crisis with the most disastrous results. We would press for an immediate compliance with our indent, which, in any case, need not embarrass us in any subsequent decision with reference to other railways that may be projected.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 152.

Mr. R. M. Edwards to Mr. C. Robertson, Secretary to Government, North-western Provinces and Oudh.

My dear Robertson, Budaon, 18th August 1877.

The enclosed will show his Honour that matters are very bad here; far worse than in Bareilly. The whole way, 22 miles, from the Ramganga to this place there is scarcely a green field to be seen.

The area prepared for the kharif is sown in Tahsil Sahaswan, the same as in usual years, but in only two Tahsils and one Pargana; of a third has half the tilled area been sown; the remaining five parganas only exhibit one-ninth, one-eighth, or one-third. The unsown area is already for seed, and, if rain falls within the next eight or even ten days, an immense quantity of bajra will be put into the ground; if rain holds off beyond that period, then all becomes dark and gloomy. The scarcity, as yet, is mainly confined to the common labourers, for whom there is none of the usual field weeding. These men cannot last beyond 10 days without assistance, and neither Mahajans nor Zemindars will

give any. The latter have all the Assamees' grain, and refuse even a chittack, rejecting all Tumussooks, promises to pay, &c. There is, I believe, ample grain in the "Kathis," but the only thing likely to make the Mahajan open his store is the fear of his having it looted —a far from improbable contingency. The people are applying to the Collector to force the Zemindars to give them grain on their bonds, and I have heard of Assamees distinctly telling their Zemindars that the grain intended for the market town should not leave the village. A party of 29 men were sent in to-day for looting grain which was being despatched; the poor emaciated fellows one and all admitted it saying they got five seers each and took it to save their own lives and those of their families. The best disposed find that their strenuous efforts to irrigate are foiled by the dry west wind, which literally burns up the soil and everything in it. The heat is terrific, but the health of all good. What is wanted is labour. I have told Sandys to start all his road repairs at once. The dry weather is opposed to good and effective work, but we must not delay until the people get too weak to work or until they are forced to support life by theft and violence.

Authority should be sent to Sandys here to commence relief-works the very hour he finds it is absolutely necessary. I have arranged what they shall be, and they can be started at 12 hours' notice. I give a list further on. Should it be necessary to have more extensive ones, I would suggest that the earth-work of the Oudh and Rohilkhund Railway continuation from Moradabad towards Bijnour be commenced. Employment will fill bellies and keep the people out of mischief and prevent their sitting idly, brooding over their future. If this is not done within the next 10 days, so far as this district is concerned, there will be serious and general crime and an overflowing jail, unless, of course, rain falls in sufficient quantity. Hitherto the little that has fallen has been so partial that only a very general tour through the entire district will procure the necessary acquaintance with the actual facts. Sandys and Robinson go out in accordance with the last Government circular received to-day. The enclosed shows the crop probable three days ago; but the cane is losing an anna every day of this west wind. All yesterday it blew very strong; to-day is almost still. I find the Pillibhit sub-division to be far better off than was anticipated, and Major Parsons is straining his canals to the uttermost. The alarm here is very general with too good reason, but I still look hopefully for rain. None of the other district reports have reached me here, and I hope they have been sent direct. I go back to Bareilly to-night, and will send fuller details on Monday. I hurry this to save the Dâk, which goes inconveniently early. I have closely examined all the Tahsildars and have interviewed many natives. One and all have the same cry: "If we get good rain within eight or at most ten days, we shall "pull through; but any longer delay will here cause a vast deal of suffering," and we must be prepared for the sad contingency.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) R. M. EDWARDS.

Proposed works on which to employ the poorest—
Repairs to second-class roads.
Do. to third-class do.
Construction of road from Kulrala to Oosehut, 25 miles.
Consolidation of Budaon and Aounla road, 19 miles.
Increase width of this road by 10 feet (earth portions).
Construction of a bund to prevent the Ganges running up the Maharananuddi and flooding numerous villages. 10 feet at top, 80 at base. Probable cost 12,000 rupees.

These will employ a great many. Authorities at Narora have been asked if they can utilise labour.

Works will have to be simultaneously started in other districts or the poor and starving will flock into Budaon.

(Signed) R. M. EDWARDS.

For what Period.	Weather and Rain-fall.	Agricultural Operations and Prospects.	Prices.	Health.	General Conditions and Prospects of People.
		BUDAON.			
From 10th August to 18th inclusive.	Hot and strong wind from west blowing throughout district. Rain-fall— Budaon, 14th Aug. ·1 Bisauli - - ·3 No rain elsewhere.	The showers on 14th allowed of some sowing for kharif and ploughing for rabbi. All the young crops much injured by the hot wind and irrigation almost abandoned as useless. Almost all kharif area tilled, but less than one-half sown.	s. c. Wheat - 16 3 Barley - 21 9 Rice, first - 9 9½ Do., second 12 0 Gram - - 17 6 Urd - - 15 9½ Moong - 15 0 Urhur - 16 12½ Prices falling fast. Wheat, 13½ seers on 18th.	Good -	Prospects very gloomy. Agricultural labourers already in great straits as there is no field-weeding or other employment for them. Loads of wood or grass brought from the jungle, which usually fetch 2 annas per load, are sold for 2 pice. Zemindars and Mahajans storing their grain expecting higher prices, and will not assist Assamees. Extensive or wealthy Zemindars are scarcely known in district. Last rabbi was excellent and plenty of grain said to be in district. Crime increasing.
		MORADABAD.			
Up to 17th August, by telegram.	Very damaging west wind prevailed during week, injuring all crops, especially sugar and checking ploughing and spring crops.	Ploughing for rabbi partial. Prospects bad.	Prices rising fast -	Do. -	People said to be losing heart.
		BIJNOUR.			
Up to and including August 14th. No telegraph station.	No rain. Wind mostly westerly during week, strong and very hot, drying up the young crop and sugar-cane. Prospects more discouraging weekly.	Prospects very gloomy	Prices rising - - Wheat has risen to 17*s.* 7*c.* from 19 seers Government weight.	Do. -	The Collector is in the interior of the district making personal inquiries. Nothing good to report, but no direct intelligence from Collector of very late date.
		SHAHJEHANPUR.			
By letter and telegraph. Up to 18th August.	No rain: violent hot winds from west.	The general rain-fall throughout the district since 1st July has been 2·9. The average for the same period for the last five years has been 19·8. Save where irrigation is plentiful, sugar and cotton crops are in an almost hopeless state. Other crops scarcely exist, save in Tahsil Pamayan, which has had 3·6 of rain.	On 13th wheat fell to 15 seers, but has since been selling at 16*s.* 7*c.* s. c. Barley - 23 to 24 Gram - 20 to 21 Rice - - 8 to 12	Do. -	The area usually cultivated for the kharif is about 327,421 acres; area tilled this year, 222,789; area sown, 138,608; area in which the seed has germinated, 112,617. Prospects best in Tahsils Pamayan and Jelalabad; worst in Shahjehanpur and Tilhur.
		BAREILLY.			
Up to 19th August	No rain - - Strong westerly winds throughout week, burning up the sugar-cane and young crops.	The drying properties after continuous high west wind defeats all efforts at common irrigation.	Prices rising - - Wheat, 13 seers; Bareilly, weight 102.	Very good.	Collector says there is nothing new to report. Prospects are becoming worse daily.

(Signed) R. M. EDWARDS,
Commissioner.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 153.

MR. C. P. CARMICHAEL to MR. C. ROBERTSON, Secretary to North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

MY DEAR ROBERTSON, Benares, 18th August 1877.

LOOKING to the fact that we have had no rain here since Saturday week, and that for the last four days a hot and strong westerly wind has been blowing, I had hardly hoped to have been able to send to you anything like a cheerful report. But Basti excepted (for the western portion of which district I have great fears), we are

as yet safe. But I cannot say what may not happen if another week of this hot wind continues.

Benares.—Church writes:—"Notwithstanding that no rain has fallen since my last report, and that at the present moment a high westerly wind prevails, I see no reason at present to apprehend any serious failure of the kharif provided we have rain in the next few days. Travelling down the rail the other day to Phulpur (this is in the direction of Jaunpur), I was surprised at the fine condition of the crops, especially cane and flax. The rice also looked green and good, but it is of course likely to suffer unless timely rain should come."

Mirzapur.—Lumsden writes:—"Rain-fall from 7th to 13th August was as follows; Mirzapur nine notches, Chunar *nil*, at Robertsganj 11 notches, at Chakia 46 notches, at Kourh 10 notches. More rain required for the kharif crops, especially in the Chunar Tahsil. If it keeps off much longer, prospects will be as bad as before.

Azamgarh.—Gardener writes:—"The early kharif crops are suffering from want of rain. The planting out of rice is being effected wherever irrigation is practicable, but the full area will in no case be planted. Fear is entertained that the sugar cane will be deteriorated. Rain anxiously awaited."

Ghazipur.—Barstow gives a very full report. The pith of it is that prospects are good in those Tahsils which border on the Ganges, or more properly speaking, in the low lands of those Tahsils. Tahsils Balia, Kooruntadih, Saidapur, and Zamaniah are all good. Ghazipur not so, and Rasrah decidedly bad; the rice crop there as also the cane being seriously injured. Prices of grain, however, stationary; barley being 28 seers and wheat 18 seers for the rupee. Urd 21 seers, urhur 32, bajara 18, rice 14. The abundance of rain they have had in Patna adjoining evidently keeps down the prices. I fear the kharif in the Rasrah Tahsil is all but gone.

Gorakhpur.—Moens writes:—"After I had written my last report we had fair showers of rain on the 8th and 9th, since then to 15th great heat and bright sun which did much damage to the young crops. To-day (15th, date of his report) we are having a heavy shower. It is the first really heavy monsoon like rain we have had, and it will do much good. The crops to the east and north of the district looking very well on the whole. To the west and south, where there has been but little rain, the crops are poor and backward." He concludes by saying that "on the whole to-day's rain, if general, will make things look brighter than they did last week."

Basti.—In a demi-official dated yesterday (the 17th) from Markham, he writes:—"Nothing could possibly look worse than at present. Yesterday and to-day we have hot westerly winds. To-day it is like the *loo* of April. Half a tornado, and loaded with dust." In his official report simultaneously received, he writes:—"To the west the crops are in a very bad way, and in parts the people have begun to graze their cattle on the rice. Everywhere, except in Bansi, and in parts of Khalilabad, the general outlook is distinctly worse than at date of last report. In Bansi things are improved and to the north-east of Khalilabad a recent copious shower has revived the face of the country. The vitality of the crops is proverbial, and I have reason to think that if good rain were even now to set in, taking one tract with another, a good eight-anna crop would still be realised. Prices stationary, and health of district good."

The above will show you that in Benares we are as yet safe. In Mirzapur the same, the Chunar Tahsil excepted, where rain is much wanted. Ghazipur good, all excepted the Rusrah Tahsil. Azamgarh critical and shaking for want of rain. Gorakhpur a great improvement on last week's report; and Basti fairly good to north and east, bad to west. All will depend on the next ten days, or say fortnight at the outside. If rain comes by then, the kharif crop is saved, if not lost, and our thoughts must be turned then to wishing for late rains for the sowing of the rabbi. I go over to Mirzapur on Wednesday, and shall stay there for three or four days and confer with Lumsden and his Tahsildars. After my return here I shall leave for Ghazipur, Azamgarh, Gorakhpur, and Basti. I can hardly expect to get back here much before the 15th proximo unless rain sets in, when I shall terminate my travels abruptly. The heat is something fearful.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) C. P. CARMICHAEL.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 154.

Telegram, dated 18th August 1877.

TELEGRAM from the COMMISSIONER, LUCKNOW, to the SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, North-western Provinces.

No rain of consequence except in some Lucknow villages where about one inch fell. Hot winds. Prospects daily worse.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 155.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SITAPUR, to the COMMISSIONER, SITAPUR DIVISION 18th August 1877.

No rain. For the last four days a strong west wind drying up everything.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 156.

No. 2597, dated Naini Tal, the 18th August 1877.

COMMISSIONER, SITAPUR DIVISION, to the SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Report of agricultural prospects in the Sitapur Division.

Submits for the information of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner, copies of the Deputy Commissioner's Reports detailed in the margin.

D. C. H.'s No. 1,540, dated 16th August 1877,
D. C. K.'s „ 1,602, „ 17th „ „
D. C. S.'s „ „ 18th „ „

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 157.

MR. A. FRASER to all COLLECTORS and DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Nos. 372—418 A.C., dated Naini Tal, the 18th August 1877.

Read the following:—

To all Collectors and Deputy Commissioners, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

DEAR SIR,

IT is within the bounds of possibility that the want of rain this year may result in at any rate a partial failure of the kharif crop, and the Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that, although there is no immediate danger of famine, or even of scarcity, yet it would be advisable to be prepared (in the event of the continued dry weather resulting in the destruction of the crops) with matured projects to meet the requirements of relief to a small or large extent.

2. I am, however, to impress upon you that the preparation of these projects is only a precautionary measure to meet a contingency that the Lieutenant-Governor trusts is only remotely possible, and as it would be inadvisable that a mistaken impression should get abroad that his Honour considers a condition of scarcity to be imminent, I am to request that you will consider this communication as confidential, and prepare, with the aid of your District Engineer, the necessary projects to meet all possible contingencies, without making public the views of Government.

3. I am to refer you to the annexed extracts* from Chapter XIIIA. of the Public Works Code, paragraphs 36 and 37, and to observe that the object of the Government is, in adopting the gradual scale of work therein enjoined, to start relief by executing works of use to the State at ordinary rates, with full task of labour.

4. Your project should take the form of separate lists of works under the following heads, and should be progressive, being graduated to meet the requirements of your district in stages of less or greater distress.

* 36. It is important that the means of obtaining work and food should be brought within the reach of the people of a distressed district as early as possible, and that the offer of relief should not be delayed so long as to lead to their strength being destroyed by continued want before they are provided with employment. All danger of creating any objectionable interference with the natural demand for labour on these occasions is at once rendered impossible by properly limiting the wages offered on relief-works. If the rate is fixed so low as merely to give a bare subsistence, it is certain that no one will seek employment on the relief-works who can do better for himself in any other occupation. When a real pressure begins, the real sufferers will be led to the works, and, as soon as that pressure is taken off, they will leave them.

37. The distinction between employment in time of famine on ordinary works, where a full rate of wages is given, and a full quantity of work is exacted in return,—and on relief-works, where a bare subsistence is given for whatever work the labourer can perform,—must be distinctly remembered. The two classes of works may, with perfect propriety, be going on at the same time, not only without interference, but with mutual advantage. The relief-house at which support is given without labour, the relief works at which a subsistence is given for a minimum of labour, and the ordinary works where ordinary wages can be earned for the full day's work, provide for the labouring population a gradation between the most complete pauperism and misery, and the healthy state of self-supporting labour.

5. The works that should first engage your attention should be those connected with repairs to communication, and might be enumerated under the heading:—

A. Repairs—

I.—Repairs to first-class roads.

These would comprise the collection of a supply of metal sufficient for the repair of the road for the next three or four years, and the thorough repairs to the patris or unmetalled portions.

II.—Raising and improving second-class roads, so as to place them in a condition to require but trifling repairs for some years to come.

III.—Improving third and fourth class roads.

IV.—Improving approaches to boat bridges, and ferries.

V.—Repairs to canals, tanks, bunds, &c.

VI.—Repairs to drainage works.

6. In the event, however, of these projects not affording sufficient work for the needy population, and of the necessity arising for instituting relief works at reduced rates, so as to meet the principles laid down in the paragraphs of the Code above quoted, it would be necessary to turn to original works as a source of relief, and I am therefore to request that you will supplement the repairs list with others, under the head of—

B. Original Works—which should comprise—

I.—Works for which projects, which have received the sanction of Government in either this Department or in the Irrigation branch, exist, and which have been postponed for want of funds.

II.—Works which have received the administrative sanction of Government in the General or in the Public Works Department, in either of its branches.

III.—Works that have not received the sanction of Government, but for which projects have been more or less considered and matured by you.

IV.—Works which have as yet been unconsidered, but which in your opinion would at once form an efficient mode of affording relief, and be subsequently of use to the district, and for which you could prepare projects without additional agency.

V.—Works, the preparation of projects for which would require your obtaining additional assistance from the department.

N.B.—The list for repairs and original works should be separate under each head in the Buildings and Roads, and Irrigation branches, and the list of projects under head V. might be submitted hereafter should the necessity of greater relief become obvious.

7. Looking forward even to the worst contingency, viz., the absence of rain in September, resulting in the loss of the rabi crops. It may be presumed, considering the excellence of the cold weather crops of 1876-77, that there are large stocks of grain in the country; and that consequently the increase of distress in your district could only be very gradual; and it is with a view to meeting the possible gradually increasing demands for relief, without incurring unnecessary expenditure to the State, that you have been requested to arrange your proposals on a progressive system, so that the requirements of the district, so far as relief works are concerned, may be met at every possible stage.

8. The form that accompanies this letter will enable you to fill up a statement that will furnish all the necessary information to enable Government, in the event of the initiation of relief works becoming necessary, to instruct you as to the way in which relief can be afforded with the greatest advantage to the inhabitants of your district, combined with a minimum of direct loss to the State; and in view to this desirable end, I am directed to impress upon you the necessity for giving the preparation of this return your most serious attention.

9. Having completed your return, you will submit it to the Commissioner of your division, who will be instructed to forward it (with such remarks as his experience and knowledge of your district may dictate) to Government; and it is hoped that armed with ample data, such as will be furnished by these reports (if carefully prepared), his Honour will be in a position to meet most satisfactorily the requirements of your district, should scarcity or even famine render the direct intervention of Government necessary for its relief.

10. I am directed to reiterate the assurance that Sir George Cooper sees no immediate cause for alarm, and to impress upon you the necessity for avoiding any action that might lead to the impression that scarcity in any of the districts of the North-

Western Provinces and Oudh was in any way anticipated by the Government; but, I am finally to request that you will carefully bear in mind the principles for relief in time of famine laid down in Chapter XIIIA. of the Public Works Code.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) ALEX. FRASER.

No. 158.

Telegram, dated 18th August 1877.

From GOVERNOR OF MADRAS to SECRETARY OF STATE.

After fullest consideration of railway famine requirements, possible aid from India, and consultation with railway officials, we have decided that 20 locomotives, 600 high-sided waggons, and 80 break-vans are urgently and immediately required for Madras Railway. Railway officers' estimate much greater. Locomotives should be Trevethick's design, not similar to new Kitson's; waggons carrying 12 tons each, break-vans weighing 10 tons. Please sanction and communicate to Directors for immediate execution and despatch.

No. 159.

Telegram, dated 19th August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

(Replying to telegram from Viceroy, dated 15th August 1877, p. 117.)

I do not understand your objection to making calculations. Situation is one requiring extreme vigilance, and Government should possess all attainable information which can enable it to forecast probable necessities of people and available sources of supply. The importation of grain into any district will only become incumbent on Government where it appears probable that trade will fail to provide food necessary for keeping population alive, and where Government is able to supply the deficiency. Except in this exigency, I admit that competition with private trade would discourage it, and therefore would be dangerous. Such exigency is not probable because obstacle which will hinder private trade will usually hinder Government also, but in an utterly abnormal calamity such exigency is not impossible, and should not be excluded from your consideration. It will be well to ascertain how far probable arrivals of grain correspond with estimated need.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 160.

MR. R. M. EDWARDS to MR. C. ROBERTSON, Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

MY DEAR ROBERTSON, Bareilly, 19th August 1877.

I ENCLOSE the District Weather and Agricultural Report. Alas! it is in every respect gloomy and unsatisfactory. I only got back from Budaon at midnight, and am off again to-morrow night to Shahjehanpur. Heat terrific, but wind back to east; sky as clear as ever, so it will probably be west again in an hour or two.

No Collectors have yet applied for relief works, so I trust the state of things I yesterday reported from Budaon is not universal, and the big Zemindars and Talukdars of the two western districts will, I expect, listen to advice and counsel, and enable the tenants to tide over the difficulties.

In haste, &c.
(Signed) R. M. EDWARDS.

PROSPECTS OF SEASON.

Tahsil.	Weeks ending 4th June 1877.	11th June 1877.	18th June 1877.	25th June 1877.	2nd July 1877.	9th July 1877.	16th July 1877.	23rd July 1877.	30th July 1877.	6th Aug. 1877.	13th Aug. 1877.	Total.	Area ploughed for Kharif compared with that usually ploughed.	Area sown.	State of Crops. Rice.	Maize.	Cane.	Cotton.	Indigo.	—
															As.	As.	As.	As.	As.	
Budaon -	—	·5	—	—	2·0	·2	—	·4	—	1·9	—	5·0	Budaon, all -	One-half	4	6	12	10	8	Bajra, Joar, Chari, Urd, Mung Mote, Lobia, Til, about one-fourth of area sown and still flourishing.
													Ujhani, all -	Do.						
Bisauli -	·8	1·5	—	—	6·1	—	2·4	·4	—	—	—	11·2	Islamnagar, all	Do.	8	—	12	10	10	Bajra, &c., one-half of area sown and uninjured as yet.
													Bisauli, all -	Do.						
													Satasi, all -	Do.						
Gunnaur -	·1	—	—	—	1·7	·1	·2	—	—	·2	—	2·3	Rajpura, all -	One-quarter	5	2	5	5	—	Bajra, &c., none sown; Chari, 5 As. crop.
													Asadpur, all -	Do.						
Sahaswan -	·3	·8	—	—	5·9	—	·3	·1	—	·2	—	7·6	Sahaswan, two-thirds.	One-third	8	8	8	12	8	Bajra, &c., about one-fourth of area sown and 14 As. crop.
													Kot, all - -	One-half						
Dataganj -	—	1·0	—	—	2·4	—	·4	·3	—	—	—	4·1	Salempur, all -	One-eighth	4	—	8	10	8	Bajra, &c., one-fourth area sown and crops flourishing.
													Uschat, all -	One-fourth						

(Signed) M. SANDYS, Collector.

No. 161.

Telegram, dated 20th August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to PRESIDENT, Simla.

Broad-gauge locomotives. 20 under Railway Letter 14 of 1877; delivery, one in November, one a week afterwards, possibly faster. 20 under letter 87 of 1877; three probably in January, three a week afterwards for remainder of indent and for any addition, if orders given immediately.

No. 162.

Telegram, dated Danowle, 20th August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

In the north-west no rain or prospect of rain. Throughout the whole of Rajpootana serious scarcity now imminent; crops widely damaged and grass withering. Famine impending in Gwalior. In Hyderabad, resources of State, after expenditure of over 12 lakhs, said to be nearly exhausted, and scarcity increasing, as also in Baroda. Native States beginning to stop their export trade; if dearth continues, as seems likely, the condition of the northern provinces may affect the whole of India more seriously even than the present severe famine in Madras, where, for this reason, it is more than ever necessary to prevent wasteful expenditure if possible.

No. 163.

Telegram, dated 20th August 1877.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE to the GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

The Viceroy has communicated to me proposals for administering famine business in Madras, which appear to me wise. The essential point of it is that the management shall be centred entirely in your hands, your staff being strengthened by Secretaries who have had famine experience elsewhere. It will relieve me of much anxiety if you can see your way to agree. We have complete confidence in you, but some of your administrative machinery is circuitous and cumbersome. Such a calamity should be dealt with by your undivided authority free from any impediments of customary routine.

No. 164.

No. 34 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, 20th August 1877.

No. 131.

Enclosures Nos. 83, 94–5, 97–9, 101–2, 109, 126.

We have the honour to report that in view of the renewed failure of the south-west monsoon in many quarters, and of the circumstances set forth in the accompanying Minute by his Excellency the Viceroy, it has been thought advisable that his Excellency, accompanied by Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, should visit Poona, Bangalore, and Madras for the purpose of conferring with the local Governments and the Chief Commissioner of Mysore on the condition and prospects of the three Provinces, and on the measures necessary to enable them to deal effectively with the situation. We trust that this determination will meet with your Lordship's approval.

We have, &c.

(Signed) E. C. BAYLEY.
F. P. HAINES.
A. CLARKE.
J. STRACHEY.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.

No. 165.

Telegram, dated 21st August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Your telegram 19th, grain calculations; will reply from Poona. Our great deficiency is not in grain, but the means of carrying and distributing it. At Jubbulpore, which I have just left, 24,000 tons of grain waiting to go south, and equal quantity ready to replace it, but railway can only carry 1,000 tons weekly.

Merchants are beginning to send their grain northwards to Agra, in consequence of increased scarcity in north-west and deficiency in crops.

Government is of course collecting information and making calculations, but my reasons for not sending them were, first, they cannot be implicitly relied on, second, they cannot influence principles of our policy. Government grain useless unless rapidly distributed, and in that case mischievous, because it would monopolise means of transport already of insufficient strength. Trade will import grain when necessary and know when and how to do this better than Government. Even therefore in event you refer to we should not import, but have authorised local authorities to purchase by public tender for supply of any places not reached by trade. I fear even this is liable to dangerous abuse.

Government of Madras has been considering supply of betel nut and tobacco for paupers, and has sanctioned indents for condensed Anglo-Swiss milk for infants, has also raised allowance to children under seven from 3 to 6 pice. On arrival at Poona I shall meet railway authorities to discuss remedy of alleged defects in railway affairs.

No. 166.

Telegram, dated 21st August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

A firm offer to ship to Bombay or Madras, in about eight weeks, 300 miles light tramway, four feet eight and a half gauge; 60 engines; 1,800 waggons, carrying each four tons; to lay tramway, erect engines and waggons, at cost inclusive of 1,350*l.* per mile.

Further undertake working of lines at price to be agreed for every ton carried, and to supply engineers and drivers. Would accept in payment Indian Exchequer bonds, carrying four per cent. interest. Government to supply sleepers, and pay carriage from Indian port to interior.

What reply shall I make?

No. 167.

Telegram, dated 21st August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

Suggested traction engines may be of service.

The steam sapper is said to be most approved of, owing to light weight, simplicity, and drawing power. Weight when working, 116 cwts. 3 qrs., width of track, 5 feet 9 inches; consumes 49 pounds of coal per hour on ordinary roads, and 35 to 48 gallons of water. It can draw on roads, with slopes not exceeding 1 in 11, 10 tons. Carriages for grain would weigh 2 tons each, and carry 3 tons. Speed on fair roads, 2½ to 3 miles an hour.

No. 168.

Telegram, dated Callian, 21st August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Yours of 19th. I thank your Lordship for supporting our view that, save under exigencies of which in our opinion there is not the slightest probability, Government should not engage in importing grain. In our telegram about Saigon offer, we stated that existing private importation occupied all available means of internal transport; this is still the case, our object is to increase these means for special local exigencies. Where supply is short, Collectors are authorised to obtain grain through trade in ports of three districts, this is already doing.

Our information and calculations of probable arrival of private grain are,—total demand for Madras and Mysore, 4,500 tons daily; average daily despatches of rice from Bengal to Madras ports during past two weeks, 3,050 tons per diem; steam freight from Bengal for additional 90,000 tons, reported by Eden to be taken up. Burmah despatches only 170 tons daily, 300 tons daily despatched inland from Beypore, where increase expected. Great Indian Peninsula delivers 800 tons a day at Raichore for Madras district, some part of 750 tons delivered daily at southern port reaches Western Mysore and Bellary; excluding this last, calculations give altogether 4,320 tons daily, by this week's discussion I hope to raise Raichore deliveries for Madras to 1,200 tons daily. Supply waiting despatch on Great Indian Peninsula enormous, as already explained. Madras Railway power to receive will increase when new and borrowed engines come into work.

No. 169.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 1754—A., dated Naini Tal, the 22nd August 1877.

See Nos. 142–4, 146–9, 152–7, 160.

From C. ROBERTSON, Esq., Officiating Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am directed to report, for the information of his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, that owing to the deficiency in the usual rain-fall there is every prospect of a most serious and extensive failure of the kharif crops in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

2. In the beginning of July it seemed as if the rains were commencing, and there was between the 1st and 3rd of that month a fall which was pretty general throughout the province. During the rest of the month very little rain fell except in the eastern districts of the Benares Division, and serious apprehensions were excited which were, however, for a time allayed by what seemed a recommencement of the regular rains in the first week of August. The fall during this week did not, however, extend to all districts in the Provinces, the Meerut and Agra Divisions, part of Rohilkhund, and the greater part of Oudh having received a very scant supply of rain. It was sufficient, however, to let agricultural operations be resumed everywhere, and had the fall continued all would have gone well. Unfortunately, the wind again went round to the west on the 6th, and a few days later it became a high scorching blast which raged for a week and did immense mischief, checking agricultural operations, drying up the crops which had germinated, and threatening to kill even those which were irrigated.

3. At present there is no prospect of improvement. The state of the crops is daily becoming worse, and, if rain do not fall in a few days, there can be no kharif, except perhaps in parts of the Benares Division, or where irrigation may avail to save the crop.

4. This serious failure affects the Meerut, Agra, Jhansi, and Rohilkhund Divisions, and the greater part of Oudh. As yet the prospects in Allahabad and Benares Divisions

are better, but there also, unless rain fall soon, the hope of a harvest, except on irrigated land, must be abandoned.

5. The measures taken under the Lieutenant-Governor's orders to ascertain the extent of the calamity that is impending, and the provision there is for meeting it, have been separately reported. But as illustrating generally how grave the situation and the prospects are, I am desired to forward copies of some of the latest reports from Commissioners.

6. With reference to matters mentioned in these reports, I am to state that the Commissioner of Jhansi has been directed to report at once the character of the emigration which is taking place from that division, what classes are leaving, and where they are going. Authority has also been given to all Commissioners to begin at once to give employment on public works of Class A., described in the accompanying circular, to persons who, for want of it, may be in distress.

7. The Commissioner of Rohilkhund has also been directed to impress on the Collector of Budaun the importance of urging on the Zemindars of his district the duty of aiding their tenants in the present state of affairs.

8. Further details of the state of the Provinces will be communicated hereafter when the detailed reports, which have been called for, are received.

9. In conclusion, I am to say that, while every endeavour will be made to observe economy, his Honour trusts that he will be authorised to incur the expenditure which, judging from the present aspect of affairs, appears to be inevitable.

No. 170.

Telegram, dated Gunneshkhind, 22nd August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Your two messages of 21st.

Traction engines already tried in India and failed; unsuitable for famine work.

We decline offer of light tramways; we urge instead immediate despatch of materials indented for Rajputana Railway, metre gauge.

No. 171.

Telegram, dated Gunneshkhind, 22nd August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Good showers in parts of Kistna, Kurnool, South Arcot districts; light showers in parts of Bellary, Tinnevelly, Salem, and elsewhere. Prospects of autumn crop improved in part of Kurnool; worse in Madura and coast districts.

Numbers on works 1,077,682, on gratuitous relief 958,160. Prices not easier; supplies sufficient, save in a few small tracts.

Mysore crop prospects improved by continuance of light showers, and heavy rain in Coorg. Numbers on works 46,231; on gratuitous relief 187,175. Prices from twelve to eight pounds per rupee. Bombay, 6 inches rain in Carwar. Temple reported, on 17th, good rainfall, and autumn crops thriving in Dharwar, Belgaum, Sattara, and Sholapore; on western Ghâts and Concan rain sufficient; anxiety increasing in Kattywar and Guzerat, where rainfall withheld. Numbers on works 257,450, on gratuitous relief 121,072. Temple adds to-day good rain in Concan, elsewhere none worth mentioning. Strain on people in Deccan increasing; condition of crops in Khandesh and Guzerat critical. Kattywar agriculture suspended, failure apprehended. No sign of monsoon returning, but time yet for rain to come and restore everything.

Grain trade intensely active; total now supported by Government in all famine provinces 2,647,775.

Bengal and Burmah accounts good. Available rice surplus in Bengal estimated at 350,000 tons, if crop now in ground continues good. Central provinces crop prospects good; North-west and Oudh no rain, except at Benares; hot winds; autumn crops withering where sown without irrigation: much anxiety about condition of north-west, and effect of failure there. Prices dear, scarcity of fodder felt in Agra Division. Punjab crops suffering much from drought; in South Indore no rain. Gwalior threatened with famine. Malwa crops need early rain; Rajputana, no rain; crops damaged, position very critical; Baroda autumn crops part lost, rest in danger. Prices very dear. Hyderabad, Deccan, no rain.

STATEMENT regarding the Scarcity in the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country, together with a Summary of Government Orders issued during the week ending 30th August 1877.

Districts.	Area in Square Miles.	Affected Area in Square Miles.	Population of District.	Affected Population.	Collectors' Reports by Telegram, dated 24th to 30th August 1877.	Works in Progress.	Number of People employed. During the past Week.	Number of People employed. During the Week ending 25th Aug.	Number of People employed. Per-centage of labourers to population of District.	Grants, including the large works authorised in Government Resolution No. 6,152, of 27th Oct. 1876.	Expenditure up to latest known date.	Prices of Staple Grain in lbs. per Rupee. Ordinary Prices.	Prices of Staple Grain in lbs. per Rupee. During the past Week.	Prices of Staple Grain in lbs. per Rupee. During the present Week.	Average Rainfall, *i.e.*, the average of all the Talukas for five years.	Average Rainfall during the past season of all the Talukas.	Average Rain-fall during the present season, as ascertained from Collectors' weekly reports.‖
										Rs.	Rs.						
Khandesh -	10,162	5,500	1,028,642	646,944	The rainfall, which has extended over four days, has been plentiful and general, gauging at Dhulia 9 inches; crops reviving and prospects much improved. People leaving relief works. 138 deaths from cholera.	Roads - Tanks - Miscellaneous*	9,733	8,683	·84	3,76,787	2,07,336	Jowari - 56 Bajri - 54	17¼ 16	17⅜ 15⅞	24·94	14·4	9·30
Násik -	8,113	2,000	729,252	250,000	Rain general, 3 inches at Malegaon, an inch and a half in northern, and half an inch in other Talukas. Prospects much improved. 81 deaths from cholera.	Ditto -	3,631	5,591	·76	5,49,146	3,31,687	Jowari - 54 Bajri - 47	18 16	18 16	35·29	27·55	14·57
Ahmednagar	6,647	5,650	773,938	677,376	1 inch 55 cents of rain at Ahmednagar, 1 inch 60 cents at Shrigonda. 1 inch 90 cents at Karjat, 8 cents at Newasa, 20 cents at Kopurgaon. Good rain in parts of Rahuri, Parner, and Akola. Crops benefited in these Talukas. Grain supply sufficient. People emigrating from four Talukas. 14 deaths from cholera.	Ditto -	†27,023	†34,970	4·51	15,63,387	6,81,031	Jowari - 76 Bajri - 66	13½ 12	15 12¾	24·3	10·65	8·43
Poona -	5,099	2,500	907,235	318,601	48 cents of rain at Mawal, 40 cents at Indapur, 10 cents at Poona, and 1 cent at Khed. Rain wanted everywhere. Crops in eastern districts withering, some withered. A few cases of cholera.	Ditto -	25,093	24,369	2·68	15,59,768	10,92,351	Jowari - 65 Bajri - 51	12 12½	12 12	30·6	20·76	13·59
Sholápur -	4,496	4,496	718,034	718,034	1 inch 18 cents of rain at Pandharpur, 50 cents at Sangola, and 10 cents at Sholapur; more required for young crops. Green grass plentiful. High prices cause suffering. 21 deaths from cholera.	Ditto -	14,518	14,699	2·04	30,76,834	16,57,069	Jowari - 66 Bajri - 60	10½ —	9¾ —	25·21	8·11	12·83
Satara -	4,988	2,682	1,064,002	461,000	Showers in some Talukas. Crops in western Talukas generally good, but in eastern are in much need of rain. Grain supply sufficient. 14 deaths from cholera.	Ditto -	18,508	19,046	1·79	11,74,532	9,10,313	Jowari - 39 Bajri - 35	11⅝ 12¼	10⅝ 11	54·60	25·43	25·04
Kaládgi -	5,695	5,695	816,037	816,037	12 cents of rain at Badami; much kharif withering. Grain importation active. 31 deaths from cholera.	Ditto -	‡122,166	§122,166	14·97	27,69,243	17,14,028	Jowari - 56 Bajri - 76	9 9¼	9 9½	22·43	6·13	6·15
Belgaum -	4,591	2,660	938,750	501,000	Upwards of an inch of rain in Athni, and nearly an inch in Gokak; showers in other Talukas. Crops improved where not past recovery. Grain supply sufficient. No cholera.	Ditto -	22,781	26,059	2·77	9,00,981	8,11,677	Jowari - 43 Bajri - 54	10 —	10 —	30·48	21·34	18·65
Dharwar -	4,564	3,000	988,037	630,000	From 3 to 82 cents of rain in six Talukas. No rain in south since 18th, and crops there perishing. Elsewhere crops suffering, and sowing late crops retarded in consequence of want of rain. Migration to western Talukas continues, and immigrants are arriving from other districts	Ditto -	20,669	23,148	2·34	13,25,574	10,14,277	Jowari - 43	9	8¾	26·39	13·81	11·93
							2[illegible]4,1[illegible]2	2[illegible]78,731	3·5	1,32,96,252	84,19,769						

[illegible]s [illegible]th Dharwad Marmagoa Railway [illegible]ect[illegible]n i[illegible]ed under Ahmednagar
For details and notes see tabular appended

R 4

Good rain has fallen in Khandesh, Nasik, three talukas of Ahmednagar, one taluka of Sholapur, and two talukas of Belgaum. In the rest of the famine area more is much wanted, and the crops are suffering. The fall in Khandesh has been very heavy, and removes almost all anxiety regarding that collectorate.

2. The average price of jowari continues to be 12½ lbs. per rupee; the only noticeable rise is in Satara, from which district crop reports are now not quite so favourable as they have hitherto been.

3. The number of people upon relief works in the nine affected districts is 278,731 against 264,122 last week, and there are also 802 hill-men and immigrants employed in Ratnagiri. The increase is general, except in Khandesh and Poona, and is due chiefly to the continuance of high prices and the absence of general rain. The increase shown against Ahmednagar is, however, partially due to the recent introduction of piece-work upon the Dhond-Manmar Railway. This piece-work is paid for according to a scale founded upon the famine wage, but the introduction of the system enables an industrious labourer to earn rather more than a mere subsistence. The plan has been introduced with a view to completing the railway at the earliest possible date, in order to facilitate the transport of grain into the famine districts of this Presidency and of Southern India.

4. Cholera appears to be decreasing.

5. The table showing the rainfall and prices in each taluka is appended.

6. The following table gives the expenditure by Government, during the week ending 11th August, upon charity in the relief of the aged and infirm poor, and in payments made to the young children of labourers employed upon relief works. Comparing the results shown in the table below with those shown in the last summary, it will be seen that the number of persons in receipt of Government charitable relief has decreased from 51,166 to 45,572, while the number of children under 7 years of age has increased from 80,292 to 80,388. During the week referred to, there was again a slight increase in the number of people upon relief works.

The number of people charitably relieved was 17 per cent. of the number of labourers upon relief works during the same week.

Districts.	Collector's Discretionary Grant.			Expenditure incurred under the authority of Government Resolution No. 312 C. W.— 1,116, of 26th December 1876, on account of children under 7 years of age whose parents are upon Relief Works.		
	Average number of persons relieved during the week.	Expenditure during the week.	Total expenditure up to date.	Average number of children, and of women taking care of them.	Expenditure during the week.	Total expenditure up to date.
	No.	Rs.	Rs.	No.	Rs.	Rs.
Khandesh - -	*	*	1,785	896	98	2,152
Nasik - -	141	65	1,130	1,704	245	16,026
Ahmednagar - -	1,867	650	30,491	12,208	1,392	30,936
Poona - -	16,571	9,815	99,257	9,921	1,291	51,478
Sholapur - -	7,204	4,849	93,006	3,980	644	39,638
Satara - -	4,416	3,007	37,921	6,477	797	38,459
Kaladgi - -	9,529	6,238	1,00,081	32,998	6,235	54,403
Belgaum - -	5,832	4,371	73,511	6,065	832	16,946
Dharwar - -	†	†	41,546	6,043	695	24,293
Kanara - -	11	7	5,214	‡	‡	1,526
Ratnagiri - -	1	4	427	96	11	372
Total - -	45,572	29,006	4,84,369	80,388	12,240	2,76,229

* No expenditure has been incurred by the Collector. † Collector's return not received.
‡ No expenditure has been incurred by the Collector and the Executive Engineer.

7. The following table gives the distribution of the people among the relief works in the nine affected districts employing 1,000 labourers, or more, during the week ending 18th August. It will be seen that 223,719, or more than five-sixths of the labourers, were concentrated upon the works enumerated :—

District.	Works.	Number of Labourers.	Total.	Remarks.
Khandesh -	Dhulia-Pimpalnair Road - -	2,138	4,560	
	Songir-Nandoorbar Road - -	1,297		
	Jhorga-Bhorkand Road - -	1,125		

District.	Works.	Number of Labourers.	Total.	Remarks.
Nasik - -	Bawarbari-Satana Road - -	1,343	1,343	
Ahmednagar	Dhond-Manmad Railway - -	24,473	25,866	
	Barighat-Kolhar Road - - -	1,393		
Poona -	Nira Canal - - - -	11,851	22,439	
	Mutha Canal - - - -	4,385		
	Motoba Tank - - - -	4,187		
	Shirsophal Tank - - -	2,016		
Sholapur	Ashti Tank - - - -	3,711	9,356	
	Pangaon Lake - - - -	2,921		
	Bhend Tank - - - -	1,651		
	Sholapur-Takli Road - - -	1,073		
Satara -	Mhaswad Tank - - -	8,336	17,165	
	Nehr Tank - - - -	4,894		
	Pingli Tank - - - -	3,935		
Kaladgi -	Indi-Sirodon Road - - -	19,360	104,322	
	Sholapur-Bellary Road - - -	14,098		
	Panchgaon-Bagalkot Road - -	10,823		
	Muddibihal-Talicot Road - -	9,910		
	Bagewari-Mangoli Road - -	8,864		
	Hipergi-Talikot Road - - -	8,763		
	Shindgi-Kudni Road - - -	7,754		
	Sholapur-Hubli Road - - -	5,576		
	Hundgund-Nundwadgi Road - -	5,307		
	Bagalkot-Hungund Road - -	5,126		
	Bijapur-Hipergi Road - - -	3,521		
	Kaladgi-Badami Road - - -	2,854		
	Bijapur-Athni Road - - -	2,366		
Belgaum-	Gokak Canal - - - -	10,085	20,887	
	Belgaum-Panchgaon Road - -	3,650		
	Athni-Kanamadi Road - - -	3,490		
	Athni-Belanki Road - - -	1,484		
	Metalling Mail Road - - -	1,163		
	Kohlapur-Bijapur Road - -	1,015		
Dharwar	Karwar-Bellary Road (Two Sections) -	8,456	17,781	
	Poona-Hurryhur Road - - -	3,846		
	Ron-Nawalgund Road - - -	2,402		
	Hullial-Annigerry Road - -	1,751		
	Hubli-Kaladgi Road - - -	1,326		
	Grand total - - - -		223,719	

8. Tables (A.) and (B.) are appended as usual. It will be seen that during the week ending 18th August the number of people upon Civil works in the nine affected districts was 23,601, the number upon works under Public Works Department Agency being 239,423. The proportion of people upon the former continues, therefore, less than 10 per cent. of the total. It is to be noted that the figures given in these tables are taken from the progress returns of the works, and are brought up to the week ending 18th August, while the figures in the table prefixed to this summary are taken from the Collectors' telegrams, and refer to the week ending 25th August. It will be seen that the net decrease in the number of people on relief works during the 10 weeks subsequent to 9th June has amounted to 142,101.

9. Maps are not sent with this summary.

10. A table is appended, showing the condition of the affected Native States.

11. With regard to the movements of food-grains, 748 tons were exported from Bombay to the Southern Mahratta ports during the week ending 25th August, and

during the same period 5,038 tons were carried by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to stations upon the Poona-Sholapur and Nasik-Bhusawal lines, making a total of 5,786 tons for the week. The table below shows the quantities of grain sent by sea and rail from October till the 25th August to the Southern Mahratta ports and the railway stations in the distressed districts. It will be seen that the total amount delivered up to the 25th August was 384,161 tons:—

Food-grains sent to	In October, November, and December 1876.	In January, February, and March 1877.	In April 1877.	In May 1877.	In June 1877.	In July 1877.	In August (up to 25th).	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Southern Mahratta ports	44,215	46,332	21,399	28,657	4,491	857	13,048	158,999
South-Eastern line, from Poona to Sholapur.	67,195	41,708	12,856	12,594	20,348	20,484	15,958	191,143
North-Eastern line from Nasik to Bhusawal.	12,829	7,471	2,346	1,221	2,014	1,524	6,614	34,019
Total - -	124,239	95,511	36,601	42,472	26,853	22,865	35,620	384,161

12. During the week very good rain has fallen in Khandesh and parts of Nasik, fair rain has fallen in the rest of Nasik and in parts of Ahmednagar, Sholapur, and Belgaum, while in the remainder of the famine area the showers have been light where they have fallen at all. This has been chiefly eastern rain, the south-west monsoon on the coast still continuing to be very inadequate. There has also been very favourable rain in Surat, and the fall in Broach and Kattywar has not been unsatisfactory. More rain is required in Kaira and Ahmedabad, but, upon the whole, anxiety regarding Guzerat and Kattywar, Khandesh, and Nasik, is very materially lessened.

Prices of food-grains continue almost stationary.

Imports of grain on the coast show a very marked decrease, due probably to two causes, viz., the celebration of Cocoa-nut day by the seafaring population, and the diminution in the number of steamers engaged in the trade owing to the recent loss of two of their number. Imports by rail again show a slight decrease, due to the cause already more than once noticed.

There has been a net increase in the number of people upon works of 14,350 and an increase of 96 in the number of young children. On the other hand, there has been a decrease of 5,594 in the number of people upon charitable relief, but this result is due in some measure to the non-receipt of complete returns.

A distinct improvement in the general situation has taken place since last week. Anxiety is to a great extent removed regarding Kattywar, Guzerat, Khandesh, and Nasik, but the continuance of high prices, and absence of general rain, in the seven famine collectorates south of Nasik, retard improvement in the condition of the people of those districts.

Cholera appears to be decreasing.

(Signed) C. J. MERRIMAN,
for Major-General, R.E., Secretary
to Government.

STATEMENT regarding the condition of Native States.

Native States.	Area in Square Miles.	Affected Area in Square Miles.	Population of State	Affected Population.	Reports from Political Agents for the week ending	Works in progress.	Number of People employed: During the past Week.	Number of People employed: During the present Week.	Number of People employed: Per-centage of Labourers to Population of District.	Allotments granted.	Expenditure up to latest known date.	Prices of Staple Grain in lbs. per Rupee: Ordinary Prices.	Prices of Staple Grain in lbs. per Rupee: During the past Week.	Prices of Staple Grain in lbs. per Rupee: During the present Week.
										Rs.	Rs.			
Kolhapur and Southern Mahratta Country States.	5,408	2,999	1,373,938	620,482	19th August:—Good rain. Prices falling. Little cholera at Inchalkaranji; 8 cases, 7 deaths. In other States no case has been reported.	Roads - Tanks - Miscellaneous*	26,468†	22,566†	1·64	7,81,286	7,02,260	Jowari - 51 Bajri - 44	$10\frac{7}{8}$ 10	$11\frac{1}{8}$ $11\frac{1}{8}$
Akalkot - - -	498	373	78,222	58,000	15th August:—24 cents of rain at Akalkot. Prices rising.	Ditto -	434	623	·79	72,602	65,553	Jowari - 61	$11\frac{7}{8}$	$11\frac{1}{8}$
Jath - - -	884	879	64,000	63,628	Report not received - - - - - -	Ditto -	484	400	·62	86,949	43,667	Jowari - 63	$8\frac{19}{40}$	§
Phaltan - - -	397	397	59,124	59,124	18th August:—No rain. The state of the crops is the same as reported last week.	Ditto -	100	96	·15	23,500	19,531	Jowari - 54	$12\frac{1}{8}$	$12\frac{1}{8}$
Pant Pratinidhi - -	213	138	68,335	44,594	20th August:—Crops still in a good condition. Rain wanted everywhere.	Ditto -	271	252	·36	38,285	20,920	Jowari - $58\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$
Sawant Wari - -	904	—	190,814	—	Telegram dated 28th August:—Half an inch of rain below Ghauts. Crops good. Cholera decreasing.	Ditto -	183	183	·09	2,525	2,162	Nachani - 55	$17\frac{3}{4}$	$18\frac{15}{16}$
Savanur - - -	70	18	15,757	2,020	18th August:—1 cent of rain. Sufficient supply of grain, and importation continues. Jowari slightly dearer. Early crops still in good condition. More rain urgently wanted for rice crop.	Ditto -	‡	‡	‡	10,000	1,844	Jowari - $61\frac{1}{2}$	$10\frac{1}{4}$	$9\frac{3}{4}$
Total -	8,374	4,804	1,850,190	847,848						10,15,147	8,55,937			

* Such as digging and repairing wells, prickly-pear clearances, &c.

† Figures for 4th and 11th August given, complete returns for the week ending 18th August not having been received.

‡ The Savanur great tank work has been stopped owing to rainfall.

§ Report not received.

A.

TABLE contrasting the Number of Labourers upon Relief Works under Civil and Public Works Department Agencies.

(Accompaniment to Statement No. XLI.)

Districts.	For the week ending 12th May 1877.		For the week ending 19th May 1877.		For the week ending 26th May 1877.		For the week ending 2nd June 1877.		For the week ending 9th June 1877.		For the week ending 16th June 1877.		For the week ending 23rd June 1877.		For the week ending 30th June 1877.		For the week ending 7th July 1877.		For the week ending 14th July 1877.		For the week ending 21st July 1877.		For the week ending 28th July 1877.		For the week ending 4th August 1877.		For the week ending 11th August 1877.		For the week ending 18th August 1877.	
	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.	Civil Agency.	Public Works Agency.
Khandesh -	—	2,591	—	2,559	—	2,404	—	2,691	201	2,812	156	3,062	—	1,863	6	1,442	64	2,339	5	2,782	72	2,480	154	2,111	582	2,380	739	3,174	1,819	5,971
Násik - -	—	10,719	—	10,587	—	8,148	—	8,610	—	6,813	—	5,088	—	5,258	—	4,911	—	4,087	—	4,226	—	3,786	—	3,932	—	3,243	—	3,419	—	3,631
Ahmednagar -	2,335	29,211	2,478	26,736	2,949	25,851	2,874	28,780*	3,347	35,162	3,190	32,091	2,392	30,979	2,273	29,765	738	33,212	357	35,341	207	36,616	104	25,313	—	23,387	—	25,447	8	26,425
Poona - -	3,299	39,516	3,588	41,425	5,832	41,959	5,597	41,219	5,966	41,282	4,625	37,093	3,874	33,103	4,037	29,900	3,834	27,440	3,660	27,323	3,513	26,111	3,223	26,271	2,721	26,068	2,553	24,674	1,852	23,420
Sholápur - -	9,985	51,337	10,088	49,647	13,177	49,733	15,675	52,491	16,794	44,776	15,437	39,877	12,394	35,977	7 257	36,178	4,478	32,023	3,066	28,634	3,069	25,163	2,991	20,285	2,761	20,626	2,731	12,055	3,029	11,492
Satára - -	1,016	39,400	1,511	42,942	1,926	46,873	2,560	47,849	3,009	52,051	3,004	47,650	1,442	44,522	1,400	41,046	808	35,778	795	33,322	813	24,469	808	20,961	241	20,830	512	19,820	659	18,509
Kaládgi - -	8,171	57,079	7,192	63,380	6,725	72,615	6,956	77,647	6,821	79,582	7,373	72,401	6,534	66,272	8,119	68,802	10,000	73,653	9,308	68,620	9,044	72,063	11.311	82,871	12,510	100,832	13,731	109,546	14,050	108,116
Belgaum - -	4,063	41,838	3,569	41,709	2,154	40,456	2,137	40,234	2,332	36,686	2,018	26,738	1,380	23,231	823	20,616	541	23,760	599	20,977	8	22,019	11	22,422	640	24,749	—	25,208	—	22,782
Dharwar - -	1,865	50,111	4,514	51,560	986	52,670	2,005	56,165	2,037	62,869	4,133	60,277	4,749	53,915	2,910	38,343	3,188	24,080	2,886	21,800	3,059	19,341	1 193	20,309	867	21,113	1,210	22,237	2,184	19,077
Total - -	30,784	321,802	32,940	335,545	33,749	340,709	37,804	355,686	40,507	362,033	39,986	324,277	32,765	295,120	26,825	271,005	23,651	256,972	20,676	243,025	19,785	232,048	19,795	224,475	20,322	243,228	21,476	245,580	23,601	239,423
Grand total -	352,586		368,485		374,458		393,490		402,540		364,263		327,885		297,830		280,623		263,701		251,833		244,270		263,550		267,056		263,024	
Ratnagiri -	256	2,879	251	2,724	245	1,892	255	1,837	264	2,143	571	1,014	395	618	258	559	502	430	264	559	159	574	260	790	147	736	211	850	145	657
Kanara - -	1,512	4,147	1,549	5,084	1,264	3,652	1,112	1,657	286	694	120	165	102	124	60	37	7	11	23	8	8	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1,768	7,026	1,800	7,808	1,509	5,544	1,367	3,494	550	2,837	691	1,179	497	742	318	596	309	441	287	567	167	580	260	790	147	736	211	850	145	657
Total - -	8,794		9,608		7,053		4,861		3,387		1,870		1,239		914		750		854		747		1,050		883		1,061		802	
Grand total of the 11 districts	361,380		378,093		381,511		398,351		405,927		366,133		329,124		298,744		281,373		264,555		252,580		245,320		264,433		268,117		263,826	

* Alteration made in the Ahmednagar and the total figures from 2nd June in consequence of the receipt of supplementary returns from that date from a division on the Dhond and Manmad State Railway.

B.

TABLE showing the Weekly Expenditure and description of Persons employed on Relief Works under Civil and Public Works Department Agencies, respectively.

Week ending	Civil Agency.					Public Works Department Agency.					Grand total of				
	Expenditure up to date.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Expenditure up to date.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Expenditure up to date.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
	Rs.					Rs.					Rs.				
12th May -	13,20,783	10,573	14,529	5,632	30,734	35,63,739	123,743	146,829	51,230	321,802	48,84,522	134,316	161,358	56,862	352,536
19th May -	13,41,025	11,301	15,399	6,240	32,940	37,90,096	128,580	153,215	53,750	335,545	51,31,121	139,881	168,614	59,990	368,485
26th May -	13,64,962	11,330	15,862	6,557	33,749	40,26,856	130,188	155,457	55,064	340,709	53,91,818	141,518	171 319	61,621	374,458
2nd June -	13,89,409	12,629	17,449	7,726	37,804	43.00,145	135,901	162,450	57,335	355,686*	56,89,554	148,530	179,899	65,061	393,490
9th June -	14 19,132	12,442	19,283	8,782	40,507	45,64,624	136,668	166.202	59,163	362,033	59,83,756	149,110	185.485	67.945	402,540
16th June -	14,52,130	11,543	19,181	9,262	39,986	48,10,047	119,657	150,940	53,680	324,277	62,62,177	131,200	170,121	62,942	364,263
23rd June -	14,78,541	9,604	15,800	7.361	32,765	50.16.304	108,473	138,285	48,362	295,120	64,94,845	118,077	154,085	55,723	327,885
30th June -	15,01,358	7,851	13,084	5.890	26,825	52.26,855	98,679	127,928	44,398	271,005	67,28,213	106,530	141,012	50,288	297,830
7th July -	15,20,868	6,831	11,872	4,948	23,651	54 54.380	91,512	123,175	42.285	256,972	69,75,248	98,343	135,047	47,233	280,623
14th July -	15,48,131	6,031	10,195	4,450	20,676	56,46,717	88,189	115,322	39,514	243,025	71.94,848	94,220	125.517	43,964	263,701
21st July -	15,64,902	5,942	9,734	4,109	19,785	58,26,385	84,030	110,868	37,150	232,048	73,90,287	89,972	120,602	41,259	251,833
28th July -	15,81,894	5,769	9,914	4,112	19,795	60,50,032	80,905	106,991	36,579	224,475	76,31,926	86,674	116,905	40.691	244,270
4th August -	16,25,484	6,087	9,708	4,527	20,322	62 85,779	85,847	117,198	40,183	243,228	79,11,263	91,934	126,906	44,710	263,550
11th August -	16,51,055	6,242	10,376	4,858	21,476	65,25,445	86,031	118,619	40,930	245,580	81,76,500	92,273	128,995	45,788	267,056
18th August -	16,78,929	6,985	11,020	5,596	23,601	67,45,840	84,254	115,244	39,925	239,423	84,19,769	91,239	126,264	45,521	263,024

NOTE.—The totals are not invariably the sum of the men, women, and children, as in a few returns these particulars have not been given, the total number of labourers alone having been entered.
These figures are for the nine distressed Districts only. The people upon Relief Works in Ratnagiri and Kanara are shown in Table A.
* See first Note, Form A.

TABLE contrasting the RAINFALL as yet reported during the current season (*i.e.*, from 1st January 1877) with the RAINFALL of the past season, showing also the current prices (in pounds per rupee) of staple food-grain.

(According to the Collectors' Weekly written Reports.)

Collectorate.	Taluka.	Rainfall.						Staple Food-grains.	
		Average Annual Rainfall.	Total Rainfall during past year.	Rainfall prior to 19th June 1877.	Rainfall of and subsequent to 19th June 1877.	Total for current season.	Average for the Collectorate during current season.	Price of Jowari for week ending 18th August.	Price of Bajri for week ending 18th August.
		Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.		
KHANDESH.	Raver	—	—	0·46	9·15	9·61	9·30	18·25	18·25
	Sauda	—	13·40	2·66	3·98	6·64		18·00	18·62
	Pimpalner	26·78	16·81	4·76	5·31	10·07		24·00	18·75
	Chopra	—	11·97	3·05	7·39	10·44		16·00	16·75
	Jamner	—	13·26	1·56	8·38	9·94		18·50	17·75
	Nasirabad	—	12·31	1·16	3·18	4·34		17·25	16·88
	Sirpur	20·55	11·24	3·65	5·15	8·80		18·88	17·75
	Amalner	21·93	15·15	1·95	5·83	7·78		17·25	17·75
	Nizampur	—	—	3·30	8·88	12·18		18·88	18·75
	Parola Petha	—	—	4·52	4·54	9·06		16·25	16·00
	Erandol	30·40	14·79	1·64	4·53	6·17		15·50	15·50
	Nandurbar	24·74	16·57	3·58	6·92	10·50		18·00	18·25
	Pachora	28·31	12·96	4·63	7·34	11·97		15·50	15·00
	Virdel	18·57	7·85	3·83	2·65	6·48		18·00	17·75
	Bhadgaon Petha	—	—	4·71	4·59	9·30		15·50	14·25
	Chalisgaon	28·19	13·21	2·45	4·01	6·46		16·25	15·25
	Taloda	29·40	28·32	3·09	9·76	12·85		20·62	20·50
	Bhosawal	26·47	8·41	2·82	10·55	13·37		17·25	16·88
	Edalabad Petha	—	—	2·58	4·76	7·34		19·62	18·88
	Shahada	21·36	16·60	2·54	8·00	10·54		21·00	19·50
	Yowal	—	—	4·31	7·74	12·05		16·00	17·00
	Dhulia	23·83	12·73	2·36	6·47	8·83		17·25	16·00
NASIK.	Igatpuri	109·59	114·[illegible]		47·59	53·16	14·57	19·25	15·38
	Nasik	29·41	15·[illegible]		[illegible]5	8·37		19·63	15·50
	Dindori	25·57	1[illegible]		00	11·94		—	16·00
	Sinnar	22·49	[illegible]		5·04	8·16		17·25	15·88
	Niphar	17·94			5·22	8·17		—	14·00
	Chandor	32·55			3·83	9·15		18·00	16·50
	Yeola	26·62			2·35	8·67		16·50	14·00
	Nandgaon	26·15		[illegible]6	7·48	12·74		15·00	14·50
	Malligaum	24·60	10	96	4·74	8·70		18·00	17·50
	Baglan	38·60	14·32	[illegible]·88	2·68	9·56		20·12	18·38
	Kalwan		16·10	4·55	4·19	8·74		14·62	17·25
	Peint State	38·20	77·40	4·58	22·95	27·53		—	16·50

Up to 18th August 1877.

Up to 18th August 1877.

Up to 18th August 1877.

Collectorate.	Taluka.	Rainfall.						Staple Food-grains.	
		Average Annual Rainfall.	Total Rainfall during past year.	Rainfall prior to 19th June 1877.	Rainfall of and subsequent to 19th June 1877.	Total for current season.	Average for the Collectorate during current season.	Price of Jowari for week ending 18th August.	Price of Bajri for week ending 18th August.
		Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches,	Inches.		
Ahmednagar.	Jamkhed	28·76	8·77	4·32	6·04	10·36	8·43	9·00	9·00
	Karjat	21·38	6·70	5·55	6·57	12·12		12·00	11·00
	Shrigonda	28·12	15·29	3·65	1·75	5·40		12·00	12·00
	Kopargaon	23·57	10·50	5·89	2·52	8·41		15·00	15·00
	Nagar	27·99	8·64	8·47	3·59	12·06		13·00	13·00
	Rahuri	23·60	10·57	6·53	1·51	8·04		13·00	12·00
	Newasa	24·57	13·49	4·25	3·31	7·56		13·00	13·00
	Sheogaon	29·34	20·00	5·03	4·88	9·91		12·00	12·00
	Sangamner	20·16	6·45	3·81	2·99	6·80		16·00	14·00
	Akola	21·33	8·98	2·27	3·17	5·44		16·00	13·00
	Parner	23·30	8·28	3·05	3·61	6·66		12·00	12·00
					Up to 18th August 1877.	Up to 18th August 1877.			
Poona.	Junnar	22·34	17·90	4·91	4·70	9·61	13·59	*11·12	*11·25
	Khed	23·50	18·90	3·01	5·40	8·41		13·00	12·05
	Ambegaon Petha	—	—	8·17	5·22	13·39		10·25	10·25
	Mawal	—	76·79	4·44	35·91	40·35		14·25	12·75
	Haveli	33·10	14·90	3·31	7·92	11·23		10·20	10·30
	Petha Mulshi	—	—	5·12	20·42	25·54		—	12·12
	Purandhar	23·24	17·54	4·83	5·66	10·49		13·12	11·87
	Sirur	17·30	10·94	2·81	2·43	5·24		12·50	11·50
	Bhimthari	20·73	5·97	2·80	0·97	3·77		11·25	11·25
	Petha Baramati	—	—	5·84	2·90	8·74		11·80	11·60
	Indapur	21·76	4·82	8·10	4·59	12·69		10·15	10·10
					Up to 18th August 1877.	Up to 25th August 1877.			
Sholapur.	Sholapur	28·35	8·68	7·14	8·49	15·63	12·83	10·35	
	Barsi	29·40	11·14	7·69	4·11	11·80		11·25	
	Madha	25·32	6·45	9·40	5·40	14·80		10·80	
	Karmala	22·37	8·41	6·27	7·83	14·10		9·62	
	Pandharpur	24·64	6·80	6·09	4·88	10·97		11·88	
	Sangola	21·76	4·29	6·20	4·11	10·31		10·05	
	Malsiras	18·06	11·78	9·35	2·87	12·22		10·25	
					Up to 18th Aug. 1877.	Up to 18th Aug. 1877.			
Satara.	Satara	40·40	33·59	2·92	11·96	14·88	25·04	10·00	12·50
	Man	20·89	9·35	3·78	0·70	4·48		9·50	9·50
	Jauli	74·30	59·84	6·56	33·38	39·94		12·25	12·50
	Patan	61·71	48·82	4·22	29·62	33·84		13·25	14·25
	Malcolm Peth	273·22	243·18	7·23	115·96	123·19		—	12·50
	Tasgaon	25·77	9·79	12·31	3·97	16·28		10·50	12·00
	Khanapur	23·34	11·40	5·36	3·22	8·58		10·00	10·25
	Walwa	25·24	12·85	4·63	7·66	12·29		13·00	12·50
	Wai	32·88	25·34	4·77	8·69	13·46		12·50	12·50
	Khatao	22·38	11·51	7·21	1·33	8·54		11·75	12·00
	Karad	27·97	19·75	3·57	9·76	13·33		12·00	11·50
	Koregaon	27·77	20·19	4·60	7·10	11·70		12·50	12·25
					Up to 18th August 1877.	Up to 18th August 1877.			
Kaladgi.‡	Indi	27·32	3·98	2·76	1·33	4·09	6·15†	‡10·50	‡10·50
	Mudebihal	24·46	5·14	1·76	0·94	2·70		11·00	10·00
	Shindgi	20·83	6·53	2·96	1·20	4·16		10·50	10·50
	Bagewadi	23·98	6·18	4·59	1·37	5·96		9·25	9·25
	Bijapur	17·90	3·71	8·23	2·60	10·83		9·20	10·40
	Bagalkot	22·77	8·87	7·93	1·23	9·16		9·00	8·50
	Badami	22·00	7·17	4·55	1·97	6·52		9·00	—
	Hungund	20·22	7·49	2·85	2·64	5·49		9·50	8·00
	Kaladgi	—	—	5·80	0·60	6·40		8·20	8·10
					Up to 11th August 1877.	Up to 11th August 1877.			
Belgaum.	Belgaum	41·88	35·78	6·88	22·77	29·65	18·65	§9·00	§10·00
	Sampgaon	32·52	17·97	6·15	6·93	13·08		9·00	—
	Chikori	19·86	15·56	8·02	6·61	14·63		11·00	—
	Parasgad	21·38	15·77	9·64	0·92	10·56		9·00	—
	Gokak	19·72	6·94	5·12	3·40	8·52		10·00	10·00
	Athni	18·57	6·74	7·90	2·51	10·41		11·00	—
	Bidi	59·44	50·64	3·04	40·69	43·73		9·00	—
					Up to 11th Aug. 1877.	Up to 11th Aug. 1877.			

* For the week ending 25th August.
† This is chiefly eastern rain
‡ The figures for Kaladgi are for the week ending 11th August, later returns not being available.
§ For the week ending 11th August.

Collectorate.	Taluka.	Rainfall.						Staple Food-grains.	
		Average Annual Rainfall.	Total Rainfall during past year.	Rainfall prior to 19th June 1877.	Rainfall of and subsequent to 19th June 1877.	Total for current season.	Average for the Collectorate during current season.	Price of Jowari for week ending 18th August.	Price of Bajri for week ending 18th August.
		Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.		
Dharwar.	Mundargi Petha	—	—	6·59	2·31	8·90		10·12	
	Hubli	27·83	14·18	9·06	7·65	16·71		9·25	
	Navalgund	22.22	6·65	9·30	2·20	11·50		10·12	
	Nargund Petha	—	—	5·00	1·03	6·03		8·75	
	Ron	23·48	4·70	7·94	1·95	9·89		7·75	
	Gadag	25·67	11·10	6·85	3·75	10·60		10·12	
	Bankapur	21·83	15·23	8·90	6·40	15·30		9·25	
	Ranibennur	22·53	10·90	7·74	2·05	9·79	11·93	9·25	
	Hangal	34·83	22·39	7·59	8·30	15·89		9·25	
	Karajgi	25·23	13·33	8·89	2·90	11·79		8·25	
	Kalghatgi	33·09	20·23	3·30	6·66	9·96		9·25	
	Kod	21·26	15·46	3·95	4·24	8·19		8·25	
	Dharwar	32·34	20·71	5·78	9·04	14·82		8·00	
	Mugad Petha	—	—	3·03	14·71	17·74		9·25	

Up to 18th August 1877. Up to 8th August 1877.

Telegraphic returns of more recent rain have been received, but cannot yet be properly collated.
The monsoon set in on the 19th June above Ghauts.

No. 173.

Encl. in No. 15.

From Major-General M. K. Kennedy to Colonel O. T. Burne.

My dear Colonel Burne, 22nd August 1877.

I think that Jeypore Durbar should be advised not to be in too great a hurry to commence public works for relief purposes; the fact of the failure of rain does not mean that the people at once become helpless and without resource; they can subsist for some time on their means, and it is an error, calculated to lead to needless outlay, to assume they are without any means.

Even if favourable rain had fallen, or should fall, there is still an interval, *i.e.*, until the crops can mature, during which the people would have to subsist on the resources I assume them to have; later on, if the scarcity be clearly developed, and when the people begin to show signs of distress, the State might open well-selected public works; these should, if possible, be works of irrigation, particularly large tanks, such as are capable of holding at least two years' supply of water.

The earthen dams of such tanks must very generally be heavy works on which large bodies of unskilled labourers can be profitably employed and efficiently superintended. On these works the scale of wages and tests that we have found effectual should be introduced, and I shall be most happy to furnish the Governor-General's Agent with copies of all our orders bearing on the subject.

But if the dearth and the consequent distress be not very great, and very widely extended, I think Mr. Lyall's proposal for carrying through the Western Rajpootana Railway a very good one, and it would probably supply nearly all the relief work that may be needed, and of a very suitable kind.

The Durbar should very carefully avoid small scattered works near the homes of the people needing relief.

As to the specific measures proposed by the Durbar, No. 1 is good in so far as it may encourage the "Bowras" to grant credit; but the Durbar should enter into no engagement on this head, which they might hereafter find it difficult to fulfil. The remissions of court fees would imply no pledge; but if the Durbar were to encourage loans under a promise to the lenders that they would assist in their recovery, they would, to a great extent, become responsible for such recovery.

Should there be a drought it would be a fair and proper arrangement to use discretion and lenity in collecting arrears of revenue.

As regards the third proposal of granting loans, *i.e.*, Tuccavi, I doubt the wisdom or necessity of such an arrangement, except for purposes of land improvement, such as digging or deepening wells, at all events at so early a period of the distress. Such a

plan would only be needed when the time for the next sowing occurs, to enable the cultivators to procure seed or cattle; even then Tuccavi should be granted very cautiously, and only to those who may be small holders, and presumably without capital or credit.

All waste pasturage belonging to the State might be freely opened by grazing.

Alms or poor houses should not be opened too soon; at an early period of drought, the people are able to maintain their own poor.

From the above it will be seen that, on failure of a season's crops, I think that, for some time, the people should be left to their own resources, which they must possess, and that relief, either in the way of employment or charity, should only be given after a time when the people begin to feel distress, and have exhausted their own means.

That when relief is given it should, as regards charity, be very closely controlled, and, as regards works, be afforded on large undertakings, where labour can be properly concentrated and overlooked, and which, when completed, are likely to be of permanent use.

That Tuccavi, except for land improvement, should be sparingly given, and only at that period of the distress when preparations for renewed cultivation are being made; if this be not attended to, there is danger in "Tuccavi" being merely another name for alms.

No. 174.

Telegram, dated Gunneshkhind, 23rd August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Madras indent on you for locomotives and waggons not sent to us; irregularity causes inconvenience. In July we questioned sufficiency of Madras rolling stock; they did not fully explain plans, but asked for 16 engines and 200 waggons; we borrowed and have partly arranged for engines, but difficulty about waggons. Shall meet Duke in three days, and after inquiry will telegraph definitely. Additional supply of engines and waggons probably necessary; present information incomplete.

No. 175.

Telegram, dated Simla, 23rd August 1877.

From PRESIDENT to SECRETARY OF STATE.

We have decided, for reasons explained by letter and with Viceroy's approval, after consultation at Poona, to obtain 60 additional engines on behalf of the State, and not for exclusive use of Great India Railway, though specially to meet its wants should they continue. We therefore request that immediate orders be given for 60 additional broad-gauge engines of same type as the only engine now under construction. The contracts should provide for delivery as rapidly as is consistent with good work. The deliveries on previous order and of any new demand stated in your message of 20th compare very unfavourably with delivery of Great Indian engines stated in your message of 14th, and every effort should be made to expedite deliveries. Perhaps bonus might be offered for earlier deliveries.

No. 176.

Telegram, dated Gunneshkhind, 23rd August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

I earnestly beg immediate sanction to project for laying rails on Dhond and Munmar line, and to early despatch of material. See my telegrams of 2nd and 3rd and our Despatch of 6th August. This line will immensely shorten famine traffic and relieve transport difficulties. The Bombay Railway officers estimate that it will set free 36 Great Indian Peninsula engines.

No. 177.

Telegram, dated 23rd August 1877.

From Secretary of State to Viceroy.

Your telegrams Dhond and Munmar Railway.
Construction on broad gauge sanctioned. Materials will be sent out as soon as possible.

No. 178.

Encl. in No. 215.

Telegram, dated the 23rd August 1877.

From Resident, Hyderabad, to C. Bernard, Esq., Viceroy's Camp.

As affairs in Hyderabad territory are becoming critical, I beg to report as follows for Viceroy's information:—His Highness' Government has already expended 10 lakhs on famine relief, and a further sum of 15 lakhs is now under allotment. Revenue for past year short by 37 lakhs, owing to failure of crops. Present forecast contemplates necessary relief of minimum number of 120,000 persons in four worst districts, being 15 per cent. of their full population, for 18 months at 5 lakhs per mensem; the districts are Lingsagar, Raichore, Shorapore, and Goolburga. The above per-centage of persons is, in my opinion, an under estimate; on the other hand, if next season be of ordinary character, full relief will not be required for the whole of estimated term; should failure of rain continue during rest of year throughout the whole of the Hyderabad territory, the demand on Government will be little short of three crores, including loss of revenue; and to meet this, it is understood that no funds are now, or are likely to be, available. At present the number receiving relief in the four districts named above is 70,000, but this does not represent the real number of sufferers, many of whom will not leave their homes for relief. In these districts jowari and rice are about 8 lbs. the Government rupee; if fair rain falls generally throughout territory within a short time, there will, of course, be a great change in present prospects; but any such change in those of four named districts will depend on rainfall in the east monsoon, the effects of which can be felt till March next. At present weather hot, sky clear, and no signs of rain. 300 tons of grain daily coming from Bombay to capital, and it is believed that there are considerable stocks in the territory, except in the four districts, but holders keep their stores back, and prices continue at famine rates, rice being 8 lbs. per Government rupee.

No. 179.

Encl. in No. 215.

Telegram, dated the 23rd August 1877.

From Resident, Hyderabad, to C. Bernard, Esq., Commerce.

Referring to clear message of this day, I deem it right to report that Nizam's treasury is empty, and that efforts made by Minister to raise money locally have failed. Looking at present and future requirements, and probable difficulties from continuous failure of rain, I quite expect that his Highness' Government will be compelled to solicit a loan from British Government to enable famine expenditure.

No. 180.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 8-B., dated Hyderabad Residency, 23rd August 1877.

From the Second Assistant-Resident, Hyderabad, to C. Bernard, Esq., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

I am directed to report, for the information of the Government of India, that late reports from Berar betoken some uneasiness on account of want of rain, especially in the

Rainfall from 1st June up to 1st August, since which no returns yet received, but it may be stated that there has been no rain in Akola. A fall in Mulkapur, however, has been alluded to in a late report.

	inches.
Akola District - - -	9½
Mulkapur (Buldana District)	4½

Akola District and the Mulkapur taluka of the Buldana District, where the rainfall, as shown in the margin, has been unusually scanty. In the other districts, though rain is urgently required everywhere, there have been showers more or less copious, and generally speaking the prospects of the kharif crops, even in Akola, are not very bad. Indeed, except as regards crops on the high ground and poorer soils, they will, it is anticipated, be good, should the next fortnight bring timely rain. It is of course impossible to say what may be the consequence of an entire absence of rain during the next month.

2. But so far, though distress has set in, it would not appear to be caused by anything like a want of grain, as exportation of grain is still going on, but by high prices and want of work. The failure of forage and brushwood has thrown many people who used to cut and sell grass and wood out of employ; weeding operations are at a stand-still, and thus a number of persons have nothing to do; and cases are reported of several persons who have only one meal in two days. The class chiefly affected are the poorer Mahomedans; but of course when wheat and jowari are selling as at Akola, all persons of small means who depend mainly on these staples for food must suffer.

AKOLA DISTRICT.

Average Prices per Rupee.

	This year.	Former year.
Wheat -	8 seers.	23 seers.
Jowari -	10 „	40 „

3. Some time ago, in view of scarcity, certain works were selected for relief purposes in the event of an influx of persons from the Bombay famine districts rendering it necessary to find employment for them in Berar, and these and others will now be taken in hand as relief works as may be found most convenient.

To provide labour in the Akola district, Sir R. Meade has, on the urgent recommendation of the Commissioner of the assigned districts, sanctioned the commencement of earthwork on a project for water supply at Sheagaon, which is estimated to cost rather more than Rs. 40,000, and which will be duly submitted in the Public Works Department for the approval of the Government of India. The whole sum that has to be subscribed by the people for this work is Rs. 18,435, of which Rs. 10,441 have already been contributed, and the greater part of the balance can, it is believed, be realised without difficulty.

4. To alleviate distress in the Akola district very considerable liberality has been shown by private individuals, and the efforts of the local officers in organising relief measures are both diligent and judicious. At Akola many persons have subscribed to open a store of grain, to be sold at a fixed moderate rate to the poor—an excellent form of charity for all who are not absolutely destitute. To encourage the liberality manifested in this district, the Resident has, on the application of the Deputy Commissioner and Commissioner, sanctioned a grant of Rs. 5,000 from the general revenue of the Province, to be expended under the supervision of the Commissioner, if found absolutely necessary in such way as may be deemed most desirable.

5. The Resident hopes the action taken by him, as noted in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this letter, will be approved by the Government of India.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 181.

From COLONEL O. T. BURNE to MR. A. C. LYALL.

MY DEAR MR. LYALL, Gunesh Khind, 24th August 1877.

I HAVE laid before the Viceroy your letter of 16th August expressing your fears of severe distress being imminent in Rajpootana. The Maharaja of Jeypore, who was admitted to an interview with his Excellency on Sunday last, also expressed great apprehension on the subject, and laid before Lord Lytton a memorandum of the measures which he proposed to adopt.

It is with great concern that Lord Lytton hears of the probability of this severe distress, which is not only deplorable on its own account, but aggravates grievously the difficulties caused by scarcity in other parts of India. I am directed to forward the Maharaja's memorandum for your consideration, and to give you an outline of the views which Lord Lytton has arrived at on the main point of the memorandum, and which may be communicated to his Highness. You will find, in the accompanying copy of Lord Lytton's Minute of the 12th August, a distinct enunciation of the general principles which, in the Viceroy's opinion, should guide the authorities in dealing with

the various stages of famine. Applying these principles to the suggestions contained in the Maharaja's memorandum, Lord Lytton would deprecate any very early adoption of a " vigorous " policy. It is necessary to be prepared with schemes of works of permanent public utility, but it is not desirable to open them in the very early days of scarcity. It seems to Lord Lytton that the result of this season's failure ought not *primâ facie* to be felt in anything like an extreme shape for some months to come, in fact, till the kharif crop would in ordinary course have come into the market; and consequently it should not be readily assumed that the people's own resources have failed before that time, nor should the State be called upon to assist before the inability of the people to live on their own resources is apparent.

Then avoiding, as far as possible, the pernicious system of employing people on petty local works near their homes, and the still more pernicious system of giving relief at their homes to any save those who are absolutely helpless and infirm, the Maharaja should be advised to concentrate his efforts, in the first instance, in providing adequate large works of permanent utility to give employment to large numbers from whom a full, or nearly a full, day's work should be exacted, and these works should be placed under careful and strict professional control. If works of irrigation—such as large tanks, holding two years' supply of water—are possible, and are suited to the country, they have a great advantage, not only in offering profitable employment for unskilled labour, but in the facility with which they can be superintended. The question of going on with the railway through Western Rajpootana is one on which Lord Lytton can give no decisive answer till the papers come before him in due course; but if you find any large relief work really and urgently necessary, this line, which has been already sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and for which indeed the permanent way has, I understand, been ordered out, seems to be the sort of work which should be undertaken, though beyond the attraction of some surplus labour, it will not be of much direct use in the Maharaja of Jeypore's famine difficulties. I have sent a copy of your remarks on this head to the Public Works Department.

To come now to the specific proposals of the Maharaja: Lord Lytton rather deprecated the idea of the Durbar making itself in any way responsible for the recovery of loans granted by money-lenders. So far as the credit of the cultivator goes, the money-lender will tide him over the difficulty without any inducement from the State, and if the State creates an artificial credit, by inducing the money-lender to extend his operations, the State practically becomes security for the loan. Now, experience has shown us that, if a loan can at all be recovered from a cultivator, the money-lender is the person who has the greatest facilities for recovering it, and if he cannot do it the State will only be able to do it by ruining him. The same objection perhaps does not apply to the remission of court fees, which is a matter of detail on which the Durbar can best decide for themselves; but any interference with the business of the money-lenders—any State advances at this stage, however disguised—any interference with the usual process of recovering debts, and therefore with the whole fabric of credit—and, above all, any interference with the natural prices of grain, Lord Lytton emphatically condemns as a false and mischievous policy.

The Viceroy has no objection to the suggestion made in proposal No. 2 for exercising great leniency in the collection of revenue.

In regard to No. 3, for the reasons above given, Lord Lytton deprecates any competition by the State with the ordinary business of the money-lender. Where (if anywhere in the world) money-lenders are not, the State would do well to undertake the work only on such terms as to interest as may prevent too ready a resort to its coffers, and may protect the State from loss by bad debts. To the fourth proposal the Viceroy can have no objection in principle. It is a matter of detail which the Durbar can best decide about.

I have already explained his Excellency's views as to the undertaking of works generally, and need not recapitulate them in reference specially to the fifth proposal. The opening of almshouses may become a necessity, and it is as well that the preliminary arrangements should be made; but in Lord Lytton's opinion these should not be opened while the people can support their own poor; nor, when opened, should any be admitted to them, save under stringent tests and checks; it is a matter of extreme difficulty to move people, who have been once fed at an almshouse for nothing, to public works, where they are forced to give labour in return for subsistence.

On proposals 7 and 8 it is scarcely necessary for Lord Lytton to pass an opinion; nor on No. 9. In fact, his Excellency wishes to confine his advice to matters of principle,

not of detail; and I am to repeat that, in the long run, the Maharaja will find it the more humane and beneficent course to take stringent measures for testing and controlling the issue of alms and gratuitous relief generally; to concentrate all relief labour on large works under professional superintendence, to interfere as little as possible with the business of the money-lender, and give no advances except with an immediate view to the renewal of cultivation.

I am to request that you will convey to the Maharaja Lord Lytton's high appreciation of his humanity and far-sighted consideration of the responsibilities which the threatened distress have thrown upon him. I am to add, that if the Maharaja will communicate with General Kennedy, who has been directing most successfully the measures of relief in Bombay, he will find the rules and tests there introduced of the greatest assistance to him. I enclose copy of a letter addressed by General Kennedy to me on the subject raised in the Maharaja's memorandum.

Yours truly,
(Signed) O. T. BURNE.

No. 182.

Telegram, dated 24th August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

Yours to-day.

President's message yesterday asks for 60 additional engines for State railways, which we assume cancels Great Indian Peninsula indent for 100 engines, including 10 ghât engines.

May these 60 be of Great Indian Peninsula type if that construction will expedite delivery?

No. 183.

Telegram, dated Gunneshkhind, 24th August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Famine conference held with Temple and railway officials. Pressing need for additional engine power, Bombay. I urge earliest possible despatch of all five foot six gauge State Railway engines for loan to Peninsula line—extra payment probably necessary for quicker delivery and despatch of each engine when ready. Telegraph probable dates of arrival at Bombay; early receipt of engines important on famine, financial, and commercial grounds. Probably shall be obliged to suspend all general, in favour of famine, traffic, which cannot otherwise reach famine districts. Unless we can formally assure trade that general traffic will be renewed by beginning of next year at least, commercial crisis at Bombay is inevitable. To justify this assurance, engines must be delivered not later than 1st of January, in which case crisis can be averted. Can we reckon on delivery of whole by that period? Please tell me what is present condition of State engines already ordered.

No. 184.

Telegram, dated Gunneshkhind, 25th August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Yours yesterday. It must be distinctly understood that the 60 engines for State Railways are additional to the 40 engines previously ordered. This cancels indent for 100 engines, including 10 ghât engines for Great Indian Peninsula Railway, but has no

reference to 40 engines under construction for Great Indian Peninsula Company. Your sanction to Dhond-Munmar Railway renders 10 ghât engines unnecessary. All the 60 to be of State Railway type five foot six gauge.

No. 185.

Telegram, dated 27th August 1877.

From Secretary of State to President.

Dhond-Munmar Railway. Engine turntables and traverses in store at Kanoo Junction, East Indian. Will they do?

No. 186.

Telegram, dated 27th August 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to Secretary of State.

Since my telegram of the 17th there has been good rain in eastern part of Kattywar, in districts of Surat, Khandesh, and part of Nassik, also showers in parts of Poona, and Sholapur; light rain only in Concan; and one rainstorm in Dharwar. All this constitutes clear improvement in situation in Bombay Presidency, but monsoon still irregular, and distress considerable. Crops far from secure, but may yet be mainly saved if more rain comes.

No. 187.

Telegram, dated Simla, 27th August 1877.

From President to Secretary of State.

If wooden sleepers be sent for Dhond-Munmar Railway neither chairs nor keys will be required, but spikes wanted.

No. 188.

Telegram, dated 28th August 1877.

From Secretary of State to Viceroy.

Yours 25th.

Will order at once 60 engines, State Railway type, but wish you distinctly to understand that this will probably involve considerable delay, as engines of Great Indian Peninsula type could be delivered more rapidly.

No. 189.

Telegram, dated 28th August 1877.

From Secretary of State to Viceroy.

Yours 23rd.

If waggons wanted 500 can be delivered here in ten weeks from date of order; cost about 150*l.* per waggon in India.

No. 190.

Telegram, dated 28th August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to PRESIDENT, Simla.

Yours 27th.
Sleepers for Dhond-Munmar ordered. Firms at work.

Encl. in No. 289.

No. 191.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the BOARD OF REVENUE, Madras, No. 3,989, dated 28th August 1877.

READ again—

G. O., dated 3rd August 1877, No. 2,441, recorded in Board's proceedings, dated 13th August 1877, No. 3,778.

p. 153. The accompanying demand, collection, and balance statement of land revenue as compared with the average of the past three Faslis is submitted to Government, with reference to the requisition contained in the telegram of the Government of India embodied in the Government order read above. The particulars are given for the Fasli year ending 30th June 1877 as the demand is fixed for that period.

2. The demand shown in the statement for Fasli 1286 is only approximate, as the jamabundy has not yet been completed in all the districts.

No. 192.

Telegram, dated Madras, 29th August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Your telegram, 28th. Early arrival of engines most important. If four weeks saved in time of delivery by adoption of Peninsula type, please order 30 engines of that type for Company, and 30 of State Railway type for reserve. Please telegraph progress of 40 engines for State previously ordered, and probable date of arrival.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 193.

No. 755, dated Madras, 29th August 1877.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India, to the RESIDENT AT HYDERABAD.

Your letter, No. 8-B., dated the 23rd August, regarding anticipated distress in the Akola District of Berar, has been laid before his Excellency the Viceroy, who has (since the receipt of your letter) been glad to learn from yourself that good rain has fallen in Berar, and that the crops thus far promise well.

2. But, in the event of difficulties recurring, I am to explain his Excellency the Viceroy's views to the following effect. Though there may be some distress among the poor, yet it is to be hoped that general distress would not be felt in a rich province like Berar, so early in the season as August, after a good harvest last year, and at prices not dearer than 10 seers the rupee. Until real distress becomes felt among a considerable section of the population it is generally undesirable to open relief works or to begin relief measures. Paragraphs 19 and 20 of the enclosed Minute by the Viceroy express his Excellency's views as to the way in which relief employment ought to be prepared and given. If, or when, distress threatens in Berar, no time should be lost in preparing projects for large useful works; and when necessity arises, such works should be opened under strict professional supervision. If at centres of population, like Akola or Sheagaon, relief employment is required before general distress declares itself, such employment should be given under stringent professional supervision, and the wage-rate should be kept very low.

No. 194.

Encl. in No. 215.

No. 756, dated 29th August 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT, North-West Provinces.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 1,754, dated 22nd August, with enclosures, concerning the effects of the recent drought on the autumn crop of the North-Western Provinces. The present condition appears to be in brief that the unirrigated autumn crop has already been lost over a great part of the Meerut, Agra, Jhansi, and Rohilcund Divisions, as well as over the greater part of Oudh; that the autumn crops of the Benares and Allahabad Divisions are in a critical state; and that even the irrigated crops have suffered much from the hot dry winds. No. 169.

2. His Excellency the Viceroy is much concerned to learn that already the loss of crop in the North-Western Provinces should have been so great. Telegrams received from the Secretariat at Allahabad since the date of your letter (22nd August) show that rain still holds off everywhere, save in the Benares Division. It is satisfactory that the reports now received confirm the general impression that, notwithstanding the large exportation of the past season, the food stocks in the hands of landholders and dealers are unusually large.

3. His Excellency the Viceroy has been much interested in reading Colonel Fraser's letter, which conveys his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's views to the Commissioners and Collectors; and he thoroughly approves the warning against undue alarm. Your seventh paragraph mentions that authority has already been given to all Commissioners to begin at once giving relief employment on public works of Class A., that is to say, on repairs to main roads, on collecting metal, on improving cross-roads, on repairs to canals, tanks, and drainage works. If this authority does no more than permit Commissioners to begin earlier than usual the ordinary works of this class, for which funds are provided in the local or provincial budgets, then the Viceroy will not interfere with the discretion of the local Government; though his Excellency advises that the relief wage on such works be fixed at the lowest subsistence rate, and that full professional supervision be exercised over such works from the very first.

4. If, however, the authority spoken of in your seventh paragraph permits Commissioners to begin at discretion famine relief works of the type described under Class A. of Colonel Fraser's letter, and if the request for sanction, made in your ninth paragraph, imports that the cost of these works is to be charged as famine expenditure against the Government of India, then his Excellency the Viceroy must request that the matter may be reconsidered. His Excellency's most decided opinion—that opinion is confirmed by the experience of the past year—is that at the very beginning of a scarcity relief employment should be given on large, professionally supervised public works only, and that no relief policy can be financially more dangerous than to open all over the country scattered relief works on which adequate supervision must be practically impossible. Lord Lytton's views on this subject—views in which his Excellency's colleagues fully concur—will be found in the annexed extracts from a Minute recorded by him on the present condition of famine affairs in Southern India.

5. In accordance with the views expressed in the extracts in question the Government of India must request that, if relief employment is given at the cost of the general treasury in any part of the North-Western Provinces, such employment shall from the outset be given on large public works and under professional supervision only. His Excellency the Viceroy believes that the North-Western Provinces and Oudh Government already possesses many* great and useful projects, which, though hitherto postponed on financial grounds, would be of permanent benefit to the country, and might fitly be selected for execution either wholly or in part, in the event of a heavy expenditure, as famine relief becoming necessary. His Excellency therefore requests that some such work may be selected for each district or division, as the first relief work to be opened in each tract. All persons requiring relief employment would then be sent to, and employed on, large, adequately supervised undertakings of permanent utility.

* For instance—
The Ganges Canal improvement.
The Lower Ganges Canal (Rajunpore) Scheme.
The Sarda Canal Project.
The Rohilcund Canals.
Branch railways in Oudh, Rohilcund, and parts of North-Western Provinces.

No. 195.

Telegram, dated 30th August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

20th to 28th, Madras. Insufficient rain in Kistna, Northern Circars, Bellary, North Arcot, Kurnool, Cuddapah; light showers elsewhere. Rainfall not general. Situation not improved anywhere; distinctly worse in Madura, Salem, Coimbatore, Nellore; prices high; supplies from seaboard sufficient. Double line open. Arconum railway working from Madras improving; Raichore supplies short.

Numbers on works, 919,771; on gratuitous relief, 1,326,971. Many people left works for village relief.

In Mysore, crop prospects worse; showers less frequent; prices dear as before; 49,200 on works; 194,083 on gratuitous.

Bombay, plentiful rain in Khandesh, good general rain in Tanna, Kolaba, Broach, Surat, Nassik, in greater part Kattywar, parts Ahmednagar, Belgaum; showers in Dharwar, Sattara, Sholapore, part of Kaladgi, some places in Guzerat. Prices very dear. Deccan crop prospects on whole better; number on relief, as before. North-West autumn crop nearly lost in Agra, Mirut, Jhansi, Rohilkund Divisions; greater part Oudh crop on irrigated land suffering from hot wind, no rain. Telegram to-day says, good general rain in Meerut and Rohilcund will do much good. Crops in Allahabad, Benares Divisions critical.

Punjaub, condition of crops critical. In South Bengal, Burmah, Central Provinces, crop prospects good; also in Berar, where recent rain. Central India, good rain at Indore. Rutlam, much benefited. Gwalior, no rain, prospects bad. Rajputana, no appreciable rainfall, failure crops and pasturage expected. Hyderabad no rain, much failure and distress reported south of Nizam's dominions.

No. 196.

Telegram, dated Madras, 30th August 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Have inquired into Madras Railway requirements and recent indent on your Lordship. I consider that 20 locomotives, 600 waggons, and 40 break-vans should be despatched promptly. Locomotives should form part of State reserve, and should be of State Railway five feet six inch gauge type. Molesworth wishes additional quarter inch thickness of engine framing. We will accept engines of Madras Railway type, as designed by Madras Locomotive Superintendent, if these can arrive sooner, but we object to engines of type recently received in Madras. Waggons to be of State Railway type to carry 10 tons, break-vans of type indented by Madras.

No. 197.

Telegram, dated 31st August 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to PRESIDENT, Simla.

Yours, 14th. Western Rajputana Railway.

Railway materials and rolling stock for 100 miles will be provided at once as stock.

Encl. in No. 289.

No. 198.

No. 2,619, dated Fort St. George, 31st August 1877.

From ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS to ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

With reference to the telegram from the Honourable T. C. Hope, dated 31st July 1877, and in continuation of my letter No. 2,511 C., dated the 16th instant, I am directed to submit, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, a statement prepared by the Madras Board of Revenue showing the approximate demand, collection, and balance of land revenue for Fasli (revenue year) 1,286 compared with the average of the preceding three years.

STATEMENT showing the APPROXIMATE DEMAND, COLLECTION, and BALANCE of LAND REVENUE for FASLI 1286 compared with the average of the preceding THREE YEARS.

DISTRICTS.	DEMAND, COLLECTION, AND BALANCE ON THE AVERAGE OF THREE YEARS ENDING 30TH JUNE 1876.											
	LAND REVENUE DEMAND.			LAND REVENUE COLLECTIONS AND REMISSIONS.								
				COLLECTIONS.			REMISSIONS.			TOTAL.		
	Arrears.	Current.	Total.	Arrears.	Current.	Total.	Arrears.	Current.	Total.	Arrears.	Current.	Total.
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Ganjam - -	2,17,437	11,92,778	14,10,215	1,72,649	10,47,354	12,20,003	1,043	- - -	1,043	1,73,692	10,47,354	12,21,046
2. Vizagapatam - -	81,153	13,91,044	14,72,197	65,212	13,28,436	13,93,648	1,617	- - -	1,617	66,829	13,28,436	13,95,265
3. Godavery - -	4,70,952	42,07,153	46,78,105	2,14,714	39,83,987	41,98,701	12,412	- - -	12,412	2,27,126	39,83,987	42,11,113
4. Kistna - -	2,51,204	40,60,486	43,11,690	1,76,226	38,31,412	40,07,638	10,858	- - -	10,858	1,87,084	38,31,412	40,18,496
5. Nellore - -	6,00,001	22,41,078	28,41,079	4,37,103	16,89,430	21,26,533	14,668	- - -	14,668	4,51,771	16,89,430	21,41,201
6. Cuddapah - -	2,66,550	18,89,986	21,56,536	2,18,636	17,07,109	19,25,745	6,369	- - -	6,369	2,25,005	17,07,109	19,32,114
7. Bellary - -	1,02,023	24,82,798	25,84,821	67,244	23,87,382	24,54,626	11,876	- - -	11,876	79,120	23,87,382	24,66,502
8. Kurnool - -	35,744	14,97,668	15,33,412	26,922	14,66,373	14,93,295	1,339	- - -	1,339	28,261	14,66,373	14,94,634
9. Madras - -	42,386	78,375	1,20,761	19,307	67,643	86,950	5,413	35	5,448	24,720	67,678	92,398
10. Chingleput - -	5,78,070	14,38,176	20,16,246	3,83,642	11,71,728	15,55,370	15,512	- - -	15,512	3,99,154	11,71,728	15,70,882
11. North Arcot - -	5,04,127	24,02,118	29,06,245	3,32,681	21,14,143	24,46,824	17,644	3,000	20,644	3,50,325	21,17,143	24,67,468
12. South Arcot - -	2,62,006	31,41,104	34,03,110	2,01,505	27,81,922	29,83,427	19,219	- - -	19,219	2,20,724	27,81,922	30,02,646
13. Tanjore - -	1,71,374	41,94,530	43,65,904	1,38,350	40,40,644	41,78,904	1,710	- - -	1,710	1,40,060	40,40,644	41,80,704
14. Trichinopoly - -	1,12,277	15,09,111	16,21,388	86,616	14,25,789	15,12,405	1,849	- - -	1,849	88,465	14,25,789	15,14,254
15. Madura - -	13,23,765	24,09,095	37,32,860	10,27,719	16,44,579	26,72,298	3,044	275	3,319	10,30,763	16,44,864	26,75,617
16. Tinnevelly - -	3,81,238	28,20,474	32,01,712	3,54,270	24,28,929	27,83,199	9,133	- - -	9,133	3,63,403	24,28,929	27,92,332
17. Coimbatore - -	1,92,537	26,02,893	27,95,430	1,75,800	23,81,621	25,57,421	1,606	- - -	1,606	1,77,406	23,81,621	25,50,027
18. Nilgiris - -	1,942	45,165	47,107	423	41,849	42,272	1,109	- - -	1,109	1,532	41,849	43,381
19. Salem - -	3,56,459	22,35,189	25,91,641	2,28,837	19,58,426	21,87,263	28,305	- - -	28,305	2,57,142	19,58,426	22,15,568
20. South Canara - -	56,244	12,74,683	13,30,927	47,612	12,11,997	12,59,609	762	- - -	762	48,374	12,11,997	12,60,371
21. Malabar - -	1,11,678	18,43,000	19,54,678	49,947	17,74,630	18,24,577	4,791	- - -	4,791	54,738	17,74,630	18,29,368
Total - -	61,19,167	4,49,56,904	5,10,76,071	44,25,415	4,04,85,383	4,49,10,798	1,70,279	3,310	1,73,589	45,95,694	4,04,88,693	4,50,84,387

(continued.)

STATEMENT showing the APPROXIMATE DEMAND, COLLECTION, and BALANCE OF LAND REVENUE for FASLI 1286, &c.—(*continued*).

DISTRICTS.	DEMAND, COLLECTION, AND BALANCE ON THE AVERAGE OF THREE YEARS ENDING 30TH JUNE 1876—*continued*.				DEMAND, COLLECTION, AND BALANCE OF FASLI 1286 ENDING 30TH JUNE 1877.					
	LAND REVENUE BALANCE.			Per-centage of the Balance to the Demand.	LAND REVENUE DEMAND.			LAND REVENUE COLLECTIONS AND REMISSIONS.		
								Collections.		
	Arrears.	Current.	Total.		Arrears.	Current.	Total.	Arrears.	Current.	Total.
1.	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Ganjam	43,745	1,45,424	1,89,169	13·4	1,64,919	11,88,658	13,53,577	1,03,431	10,95,651	11,99,082
2. Vizagapatam	14,324	62,608	76,932	5·2	80,917	13,83,805	14,64,722	65,313	12,90,185	13,55,498
3. Godavery	2,43,826	2,23,166	4,66,992	10·0	4,52,159	41,71,301	46,23,460	1,77,746	40,36,723	42,14,469
4. Kistna	64,120	2,29,074	2,93,194	6·8	2,87,052	35,97,935	38,84,987	1,38,163	29,14,896	30,53,059
5. Nellore	1,48,230	5,51,648	6,99,878	24·6	7,46,482	9,98,879	17,45,361	4,41,943	4,21,529	8,63,472
6. Cuddapah	41,545	1,82,877	2,24,422	10·4	1,76,973	7,55,500	9,32,473	1,01,539	1,32,482	2,34,021
7. Bellary	22,903	95,416	1,18,319	4·6	1,45,354	8,00,000	9,45,354	79,278	2,18,393	2,97,671
8. Kurnool	7,483	31,295	38,778	2·5	34,428	7,06,167	7,40,595	19,814	78,506	98,320
9. Madras	17,666	10,697	28,363	23·5	24,013	78,014	1,02,027	8,250	64,103	72,353
10. Chingleput	1,78,916	2,66,448	4,45,364	22·1	3,64,942	6,13,000	9,77,942	1,69,774	1,83,446	3,53,220
11. North Arcot	1,53,802	2,84,975	4,38,777	15·1	4,32,028	15,61,000	19,93,028	1,73,961	5,41,777	7,15,738
12. South Arcot	41,282	3,59,182	4,00,464	11·8	5,52,476	26,00,000	31,52,476	5,00,836	15,11,505	20,12,341
13. Tanjore	31,314	1,53,886	1,85,200	4·2	2,08,144	40,19,068	42,27,212	1,66,678	36,77,421	38,44,099
14. Trichinopoly	23,812	83,322	1,07,134	6·6	77,823	14,67,592	15,45,415	52,155	13,21,171	13,73,326
15. Madura	2,93,002	7,64,241	10,57,243	28·3	5,57,147	18,09,198	23,66,345	4,93,647	2,74,383	7,68,030
16. Tinnevelly	17,835	3,91,545	4,09,380	12·8	4,39,671	24,25,884	28,65,555	4,15,743	18,54,771	22,70,514
17. Coimbatore	15,131	2,21,272	2,36,403	8·5	2,53,479	23,11,428	25,64,907	2,22,557	10,17,509	12,40,066
18. Nilgiris	410	3,316	3,726	7·9	9,025	56,527	65,552	8,151	45,380	53,531
19. Salem	99,317	2,76,763	3,76,080	14·5	4,15,327	18,20,709	22,36,036	2,42,504	4,46,738	6,89,242
20. South Canara	7,870	62,686	70,556	5·3	90,715	12,95,294	13,86,009	81,010	12,23,792	13,04,802
21. Malabar	56,940	68,370	1,25,310	6·4	1,44,182	18,24,732	19,68,914	63,700	17,69,521	18,33,221
Total	15,23,473	44,68,211	59,91,684	11·7	56,57,256	3,54,84,691	4,11,41,947	37,26,193	2,41,19,882	2,78,46,075

(*continued*.)

STATEMENT showing the APPROXIMATE DEMAND, COLLECTION, and BALANCE OF LAND REVENUE for FASLI 1286, &c.—(*concluded*).

DISTRICTS.	DEMAND, COLLECTION, AND BALANCE OF FASLI 1286 ENDING 30TH JUNE 1877—(*continued*).									Per-centage of the Balance to the Demand.
	LAND REVENUE COLLECTIONS AND REMISSIONS—(*continued*).						LAND REVENUE BALANCE.			
	Remissions.			Total.						
	Arrears.	Current.	Total.	Arrears.	Current.	Total.	Arrears.	Current.	Total.	
1.	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Ganjam	6,798	- - -	6,798	1,10,229	10,95,651	12,05,880	54,690	93,007	1,47,697	10·9
2. Vizagapatam	3,687	- - -	3,687	69,000	12,90,185	13,59,185	11,917	93,620	1,05,537	7·2
3. Godavery	59,402	- - -	59,402	2,37,148	40,36,723	42,73,871	2,15,011	1,34,578	3,49,589	7·5
4. Kistna	8,294	- - -	8,294	1,46,457	29,14,896	30,61,353	1,40,595	6,83,039	8,23,634	21·2
5. Nellore	72,064	- - -	72,064	5,14,007	4,21,529	9,35,536	2,32,475	5,77,350	8,09,825	46·4
6. Cuddapah	3,496	- - -	3,496	1,05,035	1,32,482	2,37,517	71,938	6,23,018	6,94,956	74·5
7. Bellary	8,035	- - -	8,035	87,313	2,18,393	3,05,706	58,041	5,81,607	6,39,648	67·7
8. Kurnool	3,778	- - -	3,778	23,592	78,506	1,02,098	10,836	6,27,661	6,38,497	86·2
9. Madras	2,609	- - -	2,609	10,859	64,103	74,962	13,154	13,911	27,065	26·5
10. Chingleput	43,664	- - -	43,664	2,13,438	1,83,446	3,96,884	1,51,504	4,29,554	5,81,058	59·5
11. North Arcot	18,063	- - -	18,063	1,92,024	5,41,777	7,33,801	2,40,004	10,19,223	12,59,227	63·2
12. South Arcot	7,144	- - -	7,144	5,07,980	15,11,505	20,19,485	44,496	10,88,495	11,32,991	35·9
13. Tanjore	1,380	- - -	1,380	1,68,058	36,77,421	38,45,479	40,086	3,41,647	3,81,733	9·0
14. Trichinopoly	5,992	- - -	5,992	58,147	13,21,171	13,79,318	19,676	1,46,421	1,66,097	10·7
15. Madura	1,158	- - -	1,158	4,94,805	2,74,383	7,69,188	62,342	15,34,815	15,97,157	60·7
16. Tinnevelly	1,975	- - -	1,975	4,17,718	18,54,771	22,72,489	21,953	5,71,113	5,93,066	20·7
17. Coimbatore	5,519	- - -	5,519	2,28,076	10,17,509	12,45,585	25,403	12,93,919	13,19,322	53·5
18. Nilgiris	- - -	- - -	- - -	8,151	45,380	53,531	874	11,147	12,021	18·3
19. Salem	17,310	- - -	17,310	2,59,814	4,46,738	7,06,552	1,55,513	13,73,971	15,29,484	68·4
20. South Canara	80	- - -	80	81,090	12,23,792	13,04,882	9,625	71,502	81,127	5·9
21. Malabar	11,742	- - -	11,742	75,442	17,69,521	18,44,963	68,740	55,211	1,23,951	6·3
Total	2,82,190	- - -	2,82,190	40,08,383	2,41,19,882	2,81,28,265	16,48,873	1,13,64,809	1,30,13,682	31·6

Encl. in Nos. 215, 253.

No. 199.

No. 772—(Famine).

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Governor-General's Camp, Madras,
the 31st August 1877.

The attention of his Excellency the Viceroy has been drawn to certain correspondence which has passed between the Lord Mayor of London and the General Committee, Madras Famine Relief Fund, in regard to a private meeting held in Calcutta for forming a Famine Relief Committee; and from this correspondence it appears that considerable misapprehension exists as to his Excellency's views on the subject of appeals to the public in aid of famine relief. I am, therefore, directed to communicate to you, in continuation of the Viceroy's telegram of the 12th August, the views of the Government of India on this important subject.

2. The Madras Government have undertaken to keep people alive by all available means within their power; they undertake to relieve the famine-stricken by giving work to those who can work; by giving food and attendance either in relief camps or kitchens to famine-stricken people who cannot work, and they distribute relief in the shape of a money-dole to nearly half a million of people at their villages; but in order to do this the whole available organisation of the country is strained to the very utmost, and it is impossible to place the organisation at the disposal of any irresponsible committee.

3. Before, therefore, the Government of India could properly ask for, or even accept, the charitable assistance of the public, it would be necessary to ascertain what measures of relief, other than those already adopted by Government, the Central Committee propose to adopt, and what organisation, other than the Government organisation, is at their disposal for carrying out those measures.

4. The Viceroy in his telegram of the 12th explained that he was unwilling "to "appeal for public subscriptions in aid of the efforts which Government was making to "keep people alive," that is to say, he was unwilling to ask for public subscriptions in order to supplement the Government expenditure on the same lines, for the same ends, and through the same channels of organisation as the Government had already occupied. To have done this would be merely asking for public subscriptions in aid of the Indian revenues, and it was unlikely on the one hand that the public would have cared to subscribe for this purpose, while on the other the assistance which such subscriptions could have given would have borne but an infinitesimal proportion to the expenditure of half a million sterling a month which the Government has already to defray on account of famine.

5. There was another consideration which, in his Excellency's opinion, rendered it specially inopportune to appeal to the Indian public for subscriptions in aid of Imperial expenditure on famine, so long especially as the objects and agency of such charity are not distinctly and definitely separated from the objects and agency of Government expenditure. It had become manifest that, in order to meet the heavy drain on the finances of India, which the Madras and Bombay famines were already causing, the Government would sooner or later be obliged to resort to increased taxation over the whole country, and it followed necessarily from the nature of the case that the very class from whom subscriptions might be expected would have to bear the burthen of taxation; the Viceroy was, therefore, unwilling to ask for public subscriptions from the same persons, who would hereafter have to bear a heavy burthen of taxation for precisely the same objects as those to which their subscriptions were to be devoted.

6. This last consideration of course applies only to subscriptions raised in India, and in no way to appeals made in England; but its importance is increased by the fact that, in addition to the destitution in Madras, the Government have to face anticipated scarcity also over a great portion of Northern India.

7. His Excellency in his telegram of the 12th instant added that "if any definite "objects can be specified which are beyond the scope of the operations of Government, "and to which the subscriptions of the public can be usefully applied, there can be no "objection." At that time the Government of India had received no communication

on the subject from the Government of Madras, and the newspaper reports of the public meetings left it quite uncertain whether the objects to which the Committee destined their funds were those already provided for by Government or not; in fact, the telegram ultimately sent home by the Committee to the Lord Mayor leaves the question still open to the utmost doubt, and points rather to the assistance being devoted to relief works and relief camps than to any fresh field of action. His Excellency has now, however, had an opportunity of conferring with the Government of Madras, and learns from his Grace the Duke of Buckingham that the Committee propose to devote the funds received by them to special objects not coming within the scope of Government relief, two of which objects are understood to be the relief of those who are not yet so reduced as to leave their villages or to apply for Government assistance, and the support of orphans and destitute children not reached by Government agency. His Excellency is now in correspondence with the Government of Madras with a view to formulating somewhat more precisely the objects to which private charity will be devoted and the agency through which it will be applied.

"Committee earnestly solicit your Lordship's powerful influence, support, appeal, assistance, for afflicted population Southern India * * * Property sold for food; villages largely deserted; poor wandering search sustenance; resources lower middle class exhausted owing famine prices; prompt liberal assistance sympathy may mitigate suffering."

8. While, therefore, it remains in the Viceroy's opinion undesirable for the Government itself to ask those who will hereafter have to bear the burden of taxation on account of famine expenditure to give their private subscriptions also towards the same object, his Excellency desires that every encouragement may be given to spontaneous efforts which may be made in this direction. Lord Lytton is very far from desiring to impede the flow of private charity, and is only anxious to secure that it should be devoted to useful purposes apart from those already taken up by the State, and that it should not be diverted into a simple contribution to the revenues of the State.

No. 200.

No. 773—(Famine).

Encl. in Nos. 215, 253.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Famine Department.

Governor-General's Camp, Madras,
31st August 1877.

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Governor of Madras in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter which, under the direction of his Excellency the Viceroy, I have this day addressed to the Government of Bengal, in regard to the question of applying to the public for subscriptions in aid of famine relief.

2. The immediate object of this letter was to explain to his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal somewhat more fully than had been done in the telegram of the 12th of August the views and wishes of the Government of India in regard to appeals by Government for public subscriptions, and it is desirable that his Grace should also be informed of the considerations which led his Excellency to adopt these views.

3. With reference to paragraph 7 of the enclosed letter, I am directed to state that his Excellency finds on the proceedings of the Committee* held on the 24th August, a resolution that the Fund should be devoted (1) to contributions in aid of local Committees for the relief of necessitous poor, not reached by the Government; (2) to contributions towards the care of destitute children; (3) to making allotment towards any other special objects which seem to come within the scope and ability of the Fund. The whole discussion tends to show that it was the desire of the Committee to adapt its work to objects and measures of relief other than those already covered by the action of Government, but in considering the terms by which the Committee define the objects to which their funds will be devoted the Viceroy fails to gather such complete and specific information on the point as he could desire. He has no objection whatever to the benefits of private charity being directed towards those necessitous poor whom the action of Government cannot reach, and accepts it as quite probable that among women of respectable classes, among persons on very small fixed incomes, and even among agriculturists who are struggling to remain at their homes, there may be cases which ought not to come within the scope of Government action, but which may very properly be relieved by private charity wherever private charity has the necessary agency at its disposal. Similarly, in regard to children, though Government is in one

* General Committee, Madras Famine Relief Fund.

way or another endeavouring to keep alive all destitute or orphan children that may be thrown on its hands, there may well be room for private charity in regard to children not within this category, and moreover the work of providing for and supporting such children hereafter, either by grants to orphanages or to those who will receive such children, is obviously a fit subject for private charity. His Excellency understands that it was not the object of the Committee to express, in a general resolution, specific rules or detailed instructions, but doubtless these will be drawn out hereafter. In the meantime, as Lord Lytton learns that the subject has been under the consideration of his Grace the Governor, he will be glad to receive information as to the conclusions which the Madras Government have come to, and to learn not only what are the specific objects in detail to which funds are to be devoted, but also what agency the Committee propose to employ, both in large towns and in the interior, for the attainment of those objects. In large towns there will, no doubt, be plenty of volunteer agency available, but in the villages his Excellency apprehends that outside the chain of relief organization subordinate to the Collector it will be difficult to find the requisite agency, and Lord Lytton deprecates the diversion of this organization to purposes other than those of Government relief. This objection is not based on imaginary grounds. Experience has shown that, when the Government relief organization has been placed under the orders of a Central Committee, it has led not only to the Collectors being burdened with additional work, having to submit double sets of returns, and to correspond with an additional master, but also to a considerable amount of friction and some unseemly discussions between Government officials and their superiors. His Excellency hopes, therefore, that the Government of Madras will be able to direct the operations of the Committee into some line where the agency to be employed will not be that of the overworked establishment already employed by Government.

Encl. in No. 216.

No. 201.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

No. 2,232, dated Fort St. George, 31st August 1877.

From the Honourable D. F. CARMICHAEL, Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, to C. BERNARD, ESQ., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

His Grace the Governor having had the advantage of a conference with his Excellency the Viceroy respecting the control of future famine operations in this Presidency, I am directed to report, for the information of the Government of India, the steps which the Madras Government has decided to take, and the respects in which his Grace the Governor in Council desires the assistance of his Excellency the Viceroy of India.

2. In the first place his Grace the Governor has resolved to frame a rule under section 28 of the "Indian Councils Act," providing that all famine questions coming before the Government of Madras shall be laid before his Grace the Governor, and disposed of by him. Orders issued under this rule will thus have the force of orders of the Governor in Council.

3. Next, it has been decided that to his Grace the Governor shall be attached a high officer, possessing the confidence of the Government of India, who shall be a personal assistant to the Governor in famine management.

4. The Chief Engineers in all departments, the Collectors of districts, and other controlling officers engaged in famine management, will be instructed to address, for the future, all their references and reports to Government on famine matters (including relief works) to the Additional Secretary in the Revenue Department direct, and not through the Board of Revenue. Such reports, and the orders passed by Government thereon, will be communicated in the ordinary course to the Board, in order that the Board may be kept fully informed of all that passes, and that its members may be competent to advise the Government whenever their aid may be asked. If the work thus thrown on the Secretariat should prove excessive, his Excellency the Viceroy will, the Governor understands, be willing to sanction an additional Under Secretary or other requisite staff in the Government Famine Department.

5. His Grace the Governor proposes that members of the Board should be deputed, as heretofore, to visit the distressed districts, inspect relief operations, and report to Government the manner in which orders are being carried out.

6. His Grace the Governor was glad to find that his Excellency the Viceroy is in accord with himself as to the main principles which ought to guide the famine policy of

Government; but it seems advisable that these principles should be briefly recapitulated here. They are,—

I. *Grain-Supply.*—That, as was decided by the Government of India at Delhi in January last, this Government should abstain from importing grain on its own account, and from any measure which might interfere with the activity of private trade. As the proposal to supply seed-grain to ryots might be held to traverse this general rule, it was noted at the conference that the Government of Madras would be free to buy a supply of such seed-grain if his Grace found such an arrangement better than advancing to ryots money for the purchase of seed.

II. *Public Works.*—A large scheme of useful public works under departmental supervision should be the backbone of the relief system; all other forms of relief being subsidiary to the main scheme, and all relief-works of any magnitude being directed and controlled by agency belonging to the Public Works Department.

Large works under professional agency should not be limited (as has under standing orders been hitherto the case) to works which are deemed directly remunerative, nor even to works which may probably be finished during the continuance of the famine. The Governments of India and Madras will be prepared to accept a proportion of unremunerative and unfinished public works at the end of the famine.

III. *Gratuitous Relief.*—All gratuitous relief should be, as far as possible, temporary, and subsidiary to the main object of getting the distressed people on to the works, or back to their homes and ordinary occupations. It will be necessary to maintain relief-camps in order to receive and support the starving, the helpless wanderers, and infirm persons, with a view of getting them into condition to labour. But the ultimate object of these relief-camps as receiving places only for people hereafter to be drafted to works, or to their homes, should ever be kept in view.

Secondly.—Village relief, other than casual relief to famine-stricken travellers, should be confined to resident villagers who are house-ridden, or otherwise unfitted for or incapable of labour.

7. In order to give effect to these principles, his Grace the Governor desires a very considerable temporary addition,

(*a.*) To the engineering staff of the Presidency;

(*b.*) To the European staff for the supervision of gratuitous relief.

His Grace the Governor would ask the Viceroy to lend him from other parts of India,

(*a.*) ten 1st or 2nd Grade Executive Engineers, ten 3rd or 4th Grade Executive Engineers, twenty Assistant Engineers of not less than one year's standing, twenty Upper Subordinates of the higher class;

(*b.*) one hundred active young European officers belonging to one or other of the following classes:—

Staff Corps, Artillery, or other Military Officers not more than 35 years of age.
Assistant, or Acting Assistant Superintendents of Police.
European Inspectors of Police of the better class.
Assistants in the Forest Department of not less than 18 months' service.
Assistants from the Engineering Department of the railways.

The extra allowances to be granted to these officers will be governed by the rules already in force regarding officers deputed for famine duty from other Presidencies.

8. For the due control and direction of relief-works, it will be necessary that the two Chief Engineers now serving under this Government should from time to time be deputed into the interior. And his Grace learns that the Government of India is willing to sanction a third (temporary) Chief Engineer, in the event of such an additional officer being wanted. If his Grace finds it necessary to establish temporarily additional district engineerships on the footing of Superintending Engineership in Bengal, he understands that such temporary appointments will, within moderate limits, be sanctioned.

Encl. in
No. 216.

No. 202.

No. 775, Governor-General's Camp, Madras, the 31st August 1877.

From C. BERNARD, Esq., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce Department, to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 2,232, of to-day's date, describing the measures which the Government of Madras, in pursuance of the conclusions arrived at in the conference held yesterday between the Viceroy and the Governor, proposes to adopt in order to secure promptitude of action and unity of control in famine administration, now that a second failure of the rains has greatly aggravated the pressure of distress throughout the Madras Presidency.

2. The Viceroy is greatly pleased to find that the Government of Madras has decided that the Famine Department shall be under the immediate guidance and control of the Governor; and that some shortening of the administrative chain has been found possible. The Viceroy believes that much benefit to the afflicted populations, in whose behalf his Grace has done so much, as well as great financial advantage to the public treasury, cannot fail to result from the increased efficiency of action and the improved unity of control which will be secured by the arrangements now made.

3. The Viceroy and Governor-General highly appreciates the motives which, in recognition of the great imperial interests concerned, have induced the Governor of Madras to associate with his personal administration, in the manner indicated in paragraph 3 of your letter, the services of an officer possessing the special confidence of the Government of India. I am, however, to point out that it is essential to the efficiency of this arrangement that all famine papers and questions submitted to the Government shall pass though the hands of the personal assistant, as was settled at the conference above referred to. It is, of course, by no means suggested, nor is it at all desirable, that any obstacle should be placed in the way of the personal relations of the Secretariat with and access to the Governor of Madras. But it is absolutely necessary that the personal assistant to the Governor, accredited as he is by the Government of India, should have full opportunity of stating his views to the Governor at the proper time.

4. The Viceroy and Governor-General, in accordance with the proposal formulated in your letter, and after due consultation with the Duke of Buckingham, is hereby pleased to attach temporarily to the Government of Madras, in the capacity of personal assistant to his Grace in famine matters, the Honourable Major-General Kennedy, R.E., who possesses the full confidence of the Government of India.

5. It is a source of much satisfaction to the Viceroy and Governor-General that the recent conference between himself and the Governor of Madras has established complete accordance in their views as regards the general principles of famine management, and the special measures best fitted for the application of those principles to the pressing difficulties, which now call for prompt and decisive action. I am to take this opportunity of forwarding a Minute (already communicated privately to his Grace) which was recorded by the Viceroy prior to his departure from Simla. This Minute will now be circulated to local Governments for their guidance in the administration of famine relief.

6. With reference to the clause in paragraph 6 of your letter, which touches on the possibility that seed-grain may have to be bought by Government for distribution to ryots, the Viceroy understands that, in those rare and special cases, where such purchases may be necessary, they will be made in the local markets, and that seed-grain will not be imported by Government from a distance.

7. His Excellency the Viceroy fully appreciates the importance of not detaining the people from their customary home avocations whenever the revival of agriculture shall have enabled them to resume those avocations without further dependence on State aid. But with reference to clause iii. of your sixth paragraph, I am instructed to point out, that until matters improve, and people can really support themselves by labour or from credit in their villages, it is most inexpedient that they should be sent back to their homes to live there on gratuitous relief;—when they might be earning wages on large works, which would permanently benefit their country, or when if incapable of labour they might be better kept in in relief camps. Village relief in the shape of a money dole, or in any other form, should be granted only to those who are both incapable of work and without other adequate means of support. The Viceroy would be glad that this point should be made quite clear in any orders which the Governor in Council may now issue to local officers.

8. The Viceroy presumes that the standing orders, cited as requiring that large public works should be remunerative, are the instructions issued regarding the selection of reproductive irrigation works in ordinary times. During the present famine this requirement, so absolutely necessary in ordinary years, has been relaxed in the Bombay Presidency, with the concurrence of the Supreme Government.

9. Steps are being taken to procure from other parts of India the additional engineering and other European assistance indicated in your seventh paragraph, as required by the Government of Madras. And it is hoped that the officers selected for Famine duty will shortly report themselves at Gooty or at Madras. The additional temporary appointments described in your fourth and eighth paragraphs can be made by his Grace the Governor, as soon as they are necessary, in anticipation of formal sanction, for which application, with full particulars of salary and allowances, should be made in each case.

10. In conclusion I am to express the hope of his Excellency the Viceroy that the arrangements now determined on will greatly facilitate the attainment of the objects with which his Excellency undertook his journey to Southern India. He trusts that they will strengthen the hands of the Madras Government; that they will secure full agreement on principles between the two Governments; and that they will combine, with the efficient relief of the afflicted population, that economy which is imperatively demanded by the financial interests of the empire.

No. 203.

Encl. in No. 216.

NOTIFICATION of the GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

In pursuance of the arrangement described in the foregoing correspondence, the Viceroy is pleased to appoint the Honourable Major-General M. K. Kennedy, R.E., to be Personal Assistant to his Grace the Governor of Madras in famine matters as a temporary arrangement.

By order of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

C. BERNARD,
Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 204.

Telegram, dated 1st September 1877.

From GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Since my telegram of 27th, rain in Malwa and Hyderabad, which further improves position in Bombay Presidency. Some rain Broach, Baroda, Ahmednagar, Belgaum, and Poona; more rain Surat and East Kattywar; condition of whole district Kaladgi bad. Situation critical in West Kattywar, Ahmedabad, Poona. Good rain in Concan, but monsoon irregular and defective. Drought north of India stopping influx of supplies by Jubbulpore; prices fallen in some places, but generally high, but stock large. Distress continues severe.

No. 205.

Encl. in No. 215.

PROVINCE OF MYSORE.—SPECIAL FAMINE REPORT.

(No. 29.)

For the week ending 25th August 1877.

(To avoid confusion, the tabular statement and letterpress refer only to returns closed at midnight on Saturday the 25th August. From that date to the despatch of this Return, any noteworthy incidents are briefly noted hereunder.)

Interim Report.

Bangalore, 1st September 1877.

The weather has given promise of rain during the last three days, but, with the exception of light showers, none has fallen, and high westerly winds have set in again.

Bangalore District.—Markets fairly supplied; prices rose in six taluks. Rain fell in the Bangalore, Hoskote, Devanhalli, and Closepet taluks, the quantity registered varying

from 20 cents to 2·10 inches. Crops in fair condition in some localities. Extended cultivation generally prevented from want of rain. Fevers, dysentery, &c. prevail.

Kolar District.—Markets continue supplied, except in the Gudibanda and Gumnayakanpalya taluks, where the supply was limited; prices fluctuating, and show a tendency to rise. Rain fell in five out of the 10 taluks in the district, the quantity gauged at their head-quarters ranging from 56 cents to 2·25 inches. The standing crops are suffering from want of sufficient rain, and ryots appear disinclined to risk more seed. Some of the crops irrigated by wells were harvested. Public health is bad, owing to the prevalence of fevers, cholera, and small-pox.

Tumkur District.—Markets pretty well supplied; prices unsteady. Rain fell in the Sira, Kadaba, and Maddagiri taluks, the maximum quantity registered at their head quarters being 1·20 inches. Irrigated crops are doing fairly well, but the dry crops are fast withering. Prospects are gloomy to a degree, and distress is on the increase Diarrhœa and dysentery are still prevalent.

Mysore District.—Markets sufficiently supplied, except in the Ashtagram, Gundlupet, and Malvalli taluks, where importation was rather slack; prices rising. Light showers of rain have fallen in all the taluks, the maximum quantity registered at the head-quarters of which amounted to 1·48 inches. The wet crops, especially those under river channels, are reported to be thriving, but the dry crops are withering. Javari is being harvested. Water-supply in wells is failing. Prospects remain unchanged. Cholera is abating.

Hassan District.—Markets fairly supplied, except in the Nagamangala, Harnhalli, and Narsipur taluks; prices fluctuating. Light showers of rain fell in all the taluks except Arkalgúd and Belur, and from 10 cents to 1·15 inches were registered at their head-quarters. Crops in Manjarabad and in parts of the Hassan taluk, as well those below channels in the Attikuppa and Narsipur taluks, are thriving; but elsewhere they are suffering from the drought and from the ravages of insects. Javari raised in the beds of tanks has been reaped in the Nagamangala taluk, and horse-gram was sown in Arkalgúd. Fever and dysentery prevail generally throughout the district, and cholera also in two taluks.

Shimoga District.—Markets continue fairly supplied, except in the Honnali and Nagar taluks; prices pretty steady. There was no rain during the week except at Nagar and Shimoga. The standing crops, except in the purely Malnad taluks, are withering for want of rain. Baragu (a kind of millet) was harvested in parts of the Honnali taluk. Cholera, fever, and dysentery are still prevalent.

Kadur District.—Markets fairly supplied, except in the Múdgere, Tarikere, and Lakvalli taluks; prices fluctuating. Light showers of rain fell in all the taluks except Tarikere and Lakvalli. Crops in the Malnad taluks and those under irrigation below tanks are doing well, but in other places are withering for want of rain. Public health is bad owing to the prevalence of fevers, small-pox, dysentery, and cholera.

Chitaldroog District.—Markets sufficiently supplied, except in Davangere and Budihal taluks, where importation was slack; prices fluctuating. Excepting a light drizzle at Davangere, there was no rain in any of the taluks, in consequence of which the crops in many places are fading, and will be destroyed if no fall of rain occurs shortly. The water supply in the tanks has diminished considerably. Dysentery and fever are still prevalent, and cholera in some places.

General Remarks.

The district reports for the week ending 25th August, of which an abstract accompanies this narrative, show that there has been no improvement in the prospects. The rainfall was scanty, and the young crops were to a great extent suffering from drought.

2. The crops in the Malnad are reported to be doing well, but even in the Shimoga District the wet crops in the maidan taluks are, it is said, failing. In low lands the dry crops are holding on, but would, it is feared, seriously suffer should no rain fall in the course of a week.

3. The mortality returns show that cholera is somewhat on the decline, though public health continues to be bad owing to the prevalence of other diseases. The number of deaths from cholera reported during the week was 71, or 66 less than in the previous week.

4. The number of works in progress under revenue officers was 1,719 as against 1,710 of the preceding week, and the daily average number of persons employed on them was 25,644, or 701 less than in the previous week. The decrease was chiefly in the Bangalore, Kolar, and Hassan Districts. The amount sanctioned for works under civil officers was Rs. 18,07,349, of which Rs. 12,22,973 were expended, leaving an available balance of Rs. 5,84,376. As has been remarked in a previous report, the returns of expenditure do

not appear to include all works actually in progress, and the attention of Commissioners and Deputy-Commissioners will again be drawn to the very large sums shown in the taluk accounts as remaining unutilized. The expenditure during the week under review was Rs. 18,486, or Rs. 1,176 less than in the previous week, as shown below :—

	Past Week.	Present Week.
Bangalore District -	6,386	6,186
Kolar „ -	3,383	2,902
Túmkúr „ -	962	1,865
Mysore „ -	1,105	535
Hassan „ -	1,501	1,362
Shimoga „ -	1,748	1,676
Kadur „ -	643	1,457
Chitaldroog „ -	2,894	1,739
Bangalore Municipality -	933	643
Mysore „ -	107	121
Total -	19,662	18,486

5. The average daily number of persons employed on works carried on by the Professional Department was 22,975, showing a small increase of 120 over that of the previous week; but, taking the figures by districts, it will be seen that the decrease was general in all the districts excepting Túmkúr, Hassan, and Chitaldroog. The decrease on irrigation works is attributed partly to the completion of some of the works and partly to the ryots being employed on agricultural operations. In No. II. Subdivision, Bangalore Range, there was a falling off in the number owing to the persons who were relegated from the Krishnarajpur kitchen last week not having been sent this week. The attention of the officer in charge of the kitchen will be drawn to this, with a view to such of the inmates as are able to do light work being regularly deputed to the works which are close by. In the Hemavati Division, it is said, there is a difficulty in procuring labour at present, as the ryots are employed in the cultivation of lands lately taken up. It is, however, anticipated that there will be a steady rise in the numbers on works, as transplanting operations have now ceased, and as failure of rains has thrown many of the ryots out of employment, and who as a class are too independent to willingly enter our kitchens. In the Roads and Buildings Branch the numbers are slowly increasing. On the Nelamangala road in the Bangalore Division the labour, it is said, was nearly double what it had been during the previous week, and the coolies were, it is reported, working fairly. In the Kolar range the assistant engineer reports that labour had to be reduced for want of water. Further explanation has been called for on this point. It would appear that on the Bangalore-Bellary road, *viâ* Devanhalli, many men and women coolies have offered to collect and break metal provided they were paid daily, and without a rigid task being exacted from them.

6. The total number employed daily on works, both under civil and departmental public works officers, was 48,619, or about one per cent. on the total population and 1·86 per cent. on the population of the affected area.

7. The number charitably relieved is still on the increase. The daily average number fed in kitchens and camps was 213,710, or 19,627 more than in the previous week, as shown under :—

	Increase over past Week.	Decrease.
Bangalore District -	4,054	—
Kolar „ -	1,726	—
Túmkúr „ -	7,510	—
Mysore „ -	—	1,444
Hassan „ -	1,223	—
Shimoga „ -	260	—
Kadur „ -	—	77
Chitaldroog „ -	2,345	—
Bangalore Municipality -	4,169	—
Mysore „ -	—	139
Total -	21,287	1,660
Deduct decrease -	1,660	
Net increase -	19,627	

8. There has been an enormous increase in the Bangalore District (including the town and cantonment); and as regards the large accession to the number in the Túmkúr District, which had risen from 35,868 to 43,378, the Deputy Commissioner writes as follows:—

"It is feared this figure will rise even higher, as the distress in the district is assuming an alarming aspect, and the house-to-house visitation is being strictly insisted on. The poor seem now to welcome the relief which not long ago they would on no terms have accepted. Works have been sanctioned throughout the district on all the district fund roads, a measure which will keep many from the kitchens; but once these roads are brought up to standard, it will be imperatively necessary for some large imperial work to be taken in hand, as, judging from the strides the famine is now taking, there will be thousands seeking work, which, if not at hand, will simply necessitate our feeding them at the kitchens. The road works now undertaken will probably suffice till the end of September."

9. In the Hassan District also distress is rapidly increasing, and arrangements are being made by the Commissioner to establish additional relief camps, and to carry on suitable relief works to afford employment to the distressed, and to prevent them from deserting their villages.

10. Of those relieved gratuitously 52,295 were men, 82,895 women, and 78,520 children. The proportion of the number in receipt of charitable relief to the total population and population of the affected area was 4·23 per cent. on the former and 8·206 on the latter. Excluding the Nundydroog Division, the number gratuitously relieved in the other districts was about 1·06 per cent. on the total population, and 2·06 on affected population. The attention of the Commissioner of Nundydroog Division is again drawn to the very large increase in the number charitably relieved in the three districts under his supervision, as compared with the numbers relieved in the other districts.

11. The total expenditure incurred up to date on account of gratuitous relief, is Rs. 15,20,539, of which Rs. 1,32,114 were spent during the week, as shown below:—

	Rs.		Rs.
Bangalore District -	36,441	Kadur District - -	1,420
Kolar „ - -	11,106	Chitaldroog District -	23,507
Túmkúr „ - -	30,422	Bangalore Municipality -	16,771
Mysore „ - -	1,780	Mysore „ - -	1,220
Hassan „ - -	7,521		
Shimoga „ - -	1,926	Total -	1,32,114

12. The physical condition of the persons who have been fed in the kitchens for some time is said to be improving, and the Commissioner of Ashtagram Division considers "that a portion of those receiving relief are either now, or will be soon, fitted for light "labour;" but it is said there is a great difficulty in providing these, owing to the large proportion of women and children as compared with men. The district officers have been called upon to furnish a return of the number of persons fed in kitchens and camps from whom work of any kind is exacted. In the Bangalore District many are, as already reported, relegated from the kitchens to the nearest works to do some light work according to their capacity.

13. The weight of grain imported by rail during the week, including consignments to the Kolar road station, was 3,787 tons, being 1,493 less than in the previous week, as shown below:—

	Past week.	Present week.
From Madras - - - - -	4,139	3,125
„ Beypore, Malabar, and Coimbatore Districts	521	174
„ Trichinopoly, Tanjore, and Negapatam -	582	473
„ other places - - - -	38	15
Total -	5,280	3,787

14. The quantity exported by road, from Bangalore to the interior of the province and the frontier taluks of the Madras Presidency, amounted to 2,438 tons, being 698 less than in the preceding week, as noted below:—

	Tons.		Tons.
Towards Túmkúr District - -	822	Towards Oossoor, in the Salem District - - - -	149
„ Bellary and Chitaldroog Districts - -	435	To taluks adjoining Bangalore -	640
„ Mysore District - -	392		
		Total -	2,438

15. The average prices of food grains were somewhat steady during the week, and the maximum and minimum rates which prevailed in the taluks were as shown in the following abstract:—

	Maximum in lbs. 2nd sort Rice.	per Rupee. Ragi.	Minimum in lbs. 2nd sort Rice.	per Rupee. Ragi.
Bangalore District -	10½	13	8½	10
Kolar „ -	11¼	13½	8½	11
Túmkúr „ -	9½	12	8	10
Mysore „ -	10	12	8	10
Hassan „ -	9	11	8	8
Shimoga „ -	10	9½	6½	8
Kadur „ -	9	10	7	9
Chitaldroog „ -	9½	12½	8	10

16. The Commissioner of Ashtagram Division having reported that occasional difficulties occur in the prompt supply of grain in the relief camps in the Mysore District, the Chief Commissioner has approved of tenders being invited for the supply, weekly, of the required quantity of ragi, till the end of November next, as it is apprehended that there will be an increased demand for the supply of grain to the kitchens for the next three months.

17. The Committee for the examination of grain brought by rail to Bangalore report that during the month of July out of about 280,000 bags received 541 suspected to contain damaged rice were examined, of which 402½ were passed, and the remainder, 138½ bags, condemned.

18. The Director of Public Instruction has recently reported that a considerable number of pupils in both taluk and hobli schools have in certain places gained admission to relief kitchens or camps, and that in other places admission is denied to boys attending schools. In the case of those admitted to relief it would seem they are apparently required to leave school altogether, and to do a certain amount of task work in return for the rations received. The Chief Commissioner has ruled that, if the parents of the boys in schools are not themselves in need of relief, the boys should not be relieved gratuitously, as they should look to their parents for support, exception being made only as regards orphans; and that the boys who are deserving of relief may be exempted from work on the production of a certificate from the head master of the school that they attend and prosecute their studies regularly.

19. As a measure of relief to the poorer classes of pensioners of the Mysore State, who were reduced to great straits owing to the prolonged drought and high prices of the necessaries of life, the Chief Commissioner has directed that the usual famine allowance of Rs. 1—8—0 per mensem be disbursed to them from 1st August till further orders. The concession is limited to those whose pensions do not exceed Rs. 8 per mensem.

20. In consequence of the great increase in crime caused by the present famine the work of the Deputy Commissioners in the three districts of the Nundydroog Division and of the sessions judge has considerably increased, and, on the urgent representation of the Judicial Commissioner, the Chief Commissioner has, in anticipation of the sanction of the Government of India, decided on appointing an additional sessions judge for the Nundydroog Division, under the provisions of Section 17 of Act X. of 1872, to relieve, temporarily, both the Commissioner and his deputies of a greater portion of their criminal work, and to enable them to devote more attention to famine operations.

PROVINCE OF MYSORE.

(No. 29.) CONDITION STATEMENT FOR THE WEEK ENDING 25TH AUGUST 1877.

DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS.	Area in square miles.	Affected area in square miles.	Population.	Population of the affected area.	No. and description of works in progress under Revenue Officers.					Daily average number of persons employed on works of all kinds under Revenue Officers.		Daily average number of persons employed on works carried on by the Professional Department.		Amount sanctioned up to date of report for works under Revenue Officers.	Expenditure from the above amount up to date.	Amount sanctioned up to date of report for works under Officers of the Professional Department.	Expenditure up to date from the above amount.	Particulars regarding gratuitous relief.					Total Expenditure up to date.	Prices of staple grains in lbs. per rupee.						Average Rainfall for five years in inches, calculated up to 31st March 1876.	Total Rainfall from 1st April 1876, up to 18th August 1877.	Rainfall during the present week.	REMARKS.
					Roads.	Tanks.	Miscellaneous works.	Total present week.	Total last week.	During last week.	During present week.	During last week.	During present week.					Daily average number of persons gratuitously relieved at kitchens and camps.		Grants for gratuitous relief.				Average in ordinary years.		During last week.		During present week.					
																			Amount of private subscriptions up to date.	Amount of Government grant.	Total.		2nd sort Rice.	Ragi.	2nd sort Rice.	Ragi.	2nd sort Rice.	Ragi.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
NUNDYDROOG. Bangalore	2,914	1,914	828,354	384,968	32	136	129	297	298	8,409	7,580	3,966	3,738	3,29,317	2,26,123	34,29,670	22,99,961	54,195	58,249	1,506	5,01,625	5,03,131	5,06,955	26	60	10	12	10	12	35·	28·62	·54	
NUNDYDROOG. Kolar	2,577	2,577	618,954	618,954	54	244	84	382	381	4,608	4,401	3,819	3,620	2,90,683	1,85,692			16,933	18,659	6,094	1,31,137	1,37,231	1,31,948	32	80	10	12	10	12	25·4	24·97	2·20	
NUNDYDROOG. Túmkúr	3,606	3,606	632,289	632,289	58	124	63	245	238	2,565	3,197	1,393	1,511	2,54,548	1,90,516			35,868	43,378	1,708	2,86,804	2,88,512	2,97,038	28	106	9	11	9	11	27·4	30·42	—	
ASHTAGRAM. Mysore	4,127	1,470	943,187	118,082	36	20	6	62	64	814	795	5,201	5,174	1,15,771	73,570			3,961	2,517	7,481	15,691	23,172	21,898	24	70	9	11	9	11	24·3	32·88	·03	
ASHTAGRAM. Hassan	3,291	2,154	668,417	190,873	41	33	22	96	102	1,802	1,432	2,289	2,315	1,32,664	1,06,813			8,428	9,651	2,758	83,611	86,369	84,994	32	76	9	9	9	9	34·4	29·72	·57	
NAGAR. Shimoga	3,797	388	498,976	47,431	23	71	41	135	126	1,216	1,322	1,400	1,387	2,35,060	1,42,528			2,273	2,533	5,599	14,723	20,322	18,639	30	76	8	8	8	8	38·4	34·09	·01	
NAGAR. Kadur	2,294	691	333,925	100,444	10	40	83	133	133	705	904	1,953	1,896	1,00,458	49,633			2,178	2,101	2,573	16,839	19,412	19,067	30	64	8	9	8	9	35·7	36·89	·08	
NAGAR. Chitaldroog	4,471	4,238	531,360	511,204	44	46	221	311	309	5,111	5,139	2,834	3,334	2,68,425	1,75,217			31,779	34,124	5,842	2,19,710	2,25,552	2,12,013	24	88	9	11	9	11	23·5	21·62	—	
Bangalore Municipality	—	—	—	—	—	1	55	56	57	1,062	803	—	—	30,702	31,237	—	—	35,409	39,578	23,182	1,64,135	1,87,317	1,88,198	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Mysore Municipality	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	53	71	—	—	49,721	41,344	—	—	3,059	2,920	12,395	30,983	43,378	39,789	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	27,077	17,038	5,055,412	2,604,145	300	715	704	1,719	1,710	26,345	25,644	22,855	22,975	18,07,349	12,22,973	34,29,670	22,99,961	1,94,083	2,13,710	69,138	14,65,258	15,34,396	15,20,539	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

NOTE.—1. The expenditure entered in column 24 includes the amount contributed by private subscriptions, as well as the Government grant-in-aid thereto.
2. The figures entered in columns 17 and 18 are based on the latest accounts received from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
3. The figures against the Shimoga District under columns 15 and 16 have been corrected according to a revised return recently submitted, and those in columns 19 to 24 include those of the Kavaledurga taluk, where a relief kitchen has been recently opened.

T. R. A. THUMBOO CHETTY, Assistant Secretary.

REGISTER OF RAINFALL RECORDED SCIENTIFICALLY AT THE GOVERNMENT OBSERVATORY AT BANGALORE FOR EACH WEEK IN THE YEAR, AS THE USUAL MONTHLY AVERAGES DO NOT GIVE SUFFICIENTLY RELIABLE INFORMATION IN A TROPICAL CLIMATE.

Week.	Month.	Rainfall—Inches and Cents.										Remarks for 1877.
		Average of 1871, 1872, and 1873.		1874.		1875.		1876.		1877.		
1st	January.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2nd		—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3rd		—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
4th		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5th	Feb.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
6th		—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
7th		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
8th		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
9th	March.	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10th		—	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11th		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	65	
12th		—	—	—	—	—	86	—	7	—	—	
13th	April.	—	—	—	—	1	56	—	47	—	—	
14th		—	41	—	—	—	31	—	—	2	20	
15th		—	20	—	14	—	—	—	47	—	—	
16th		—	40	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	
17th		—	2	—	45	—	15	—	—	—	1	
18th	May.	1	86	—	13	—	—	1	37	—	22	
19th		—	19	6	20	—	85	1	93	—	—	
20th		—	24	1	12	2	39	—	34	1	30	
21st		—	36	3	88	—	35	—	93	—	75	
22nd		1	9	4	28	—	48	—	3	1	15	
23rd	June.	—	39	—	20	1	69	—	1	—	97	
24th		—	10	—	83	1	43	1	42	1	77	
25th		—	88	—	28	—	7	—	21	—	26	
26th		1	15	—	30	—	14	—	67	—	—	
27th	July.	—	14	—	11	1	73	—	75	—	35	
28th		1	11	—	48	—	3	—	45	—	—	
29th		—	71	3	44	—	39	—	2	—	2	
30th		—	19	2	42	—	19	—	23	—	76	
31st		1	8	—	28	—	63	1	66	—	62	
32nd	Aug.	2	42	2	74	1	24	—	20	—	75	
33rd		1	98	1	51	—	59	1	60	1	31	
34th		1	97	1	96	—	86	—	58	—	54	Week ending 25th August 1877.
35th		—	54	1	45	1	59	—	50	—	—	
36th	Sept.	2	30	4	65	—	—	1	7	—	—	
37th		3	24	4	63	—	6	—	3	—	—	
38th		1	5	3	8	1	19	—	—	—	—	
39th		1	56	2	31	—	54	—	45	—	—	
40th		3	12	2	20	—	27	—	72	—	—	
41st	Oct.	1	11	—	59	—	—	—	—	—	—	
42nd		1	76	1	30	—	45	—	—	—	—	
43rd		—	48	2	56	1	39	—	—	—	—	
44th		—	5	1	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	
45th	Nov.	—	33	—	82	—	26	—	52	—	—	
46th		—	47	—	—	—	34	—	—	—	—	
47th		—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
48th		—	49	—	35	—	—	—	9	—	—	
49th	Dec.	—	42	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	
50th		—	8	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	
51st		—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
52nd		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
		34	66	56	54	22	6	17	34	—	—	

Mean Meteorological Results from the Bangalore Observatory Register.	For the week ending 11th August 1877.	For the week ending 18th August 1877.	For the week ending 25th August 1877.
Reduced atmospheric pressure -	26·982	26·978	27·011
Mean temperature of air -	76·5	75·0	79·7
Maximum solar heat in vacuo -	150·0	147·8	151·8
Maximum in shade - -	86·2	84·4	88·1
Minimum in shade - -	67·3	67·7	67·3
Depth of rain in inches - -	0·75	1·31	0·54

No. 206.

Telegram, dated 2nd September 1877.

From Governor of Madras to Secretary of State.

Famine matters fully discussed with Viceroy. No difference of opinion; all arrangements made perfectly satisfactory. Viceroy will leave me General Kennedy. Council leave famine matters to me. Viceroy will give us the needed staff in works and for inspection.

No. 207.

Telegram, dated Madras, 2nd September 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

I have sent the following telegram to President in Council. Message begins,—

Governor and myself are in full accord on the famine policy to be pursued in Madras in present emergency, and in personal conferences we have decided upon following action. Governor has addressed me a letter, dated 31st August, containing following headings:—

First. Governor, under section 29 of India Councils Act, purposes to take famine portfolio, and to dispose absolutely of famine questions; his orders to have force of orders issued by Governor in Council.

Second. An officer possessing the confidence of the Government of India to be attached to the Governor, in the position of personal assistant to Governor in famine management.

Third. All engineers and district authorities to address all references and reports on famine matters, including relief works, to the Famine Secretary direct, and not through Board of Revenue. Board will be kept fully informed of all orders passed, and their advice asked when necessary.

Fourth. Members of Board of Revenue to be deputed to visit the distressed districts, inspect relief operations, and report to Government on them.

Fifth. Grain supplies. As decided in January last, Government not to interfere with private trade, but Government of Madras has permission to buy seed-grain if such arrangements be found better than advances of money.

Sixth. Public works to be the backbone of relief system, all other forms of relief being subsidiary to main scheme; all relief works of magnitude to be directed and controlled by Public Works Department agency.

Seventh. Gratuitous relief to be temporary, and subsidiary to main object of getting distressed people on to works. Necessary to maintain relief camps to receive the starving, helpless, and infirm; ultimate object to keep relief camps as receiving places only for people to be drafted on to works or to their homes.

Eighth. Village relief to be generally confined to resident villagers who are bed-ridden or otherwise incapable of labour.

Ninth. To give effect to these principles, Government of Madras asks for a considerable temporary addition to the engineering and supervising staff of Presidency, consisting of 60 engineers and 100 active young European officers of army, police, or forest.

Tenth. The two chief engineers of the Presidency to be deputed from time to time into the interior. Government of India to sanction a third temporary chief engineer, if necessary.

In reply, dated 31st August, I have expressed satisfaction at results of our personal conferences, and at the measures adopted in the present crisis for promptitude of action and unity of control. I have appointed General Kennedy personal assistant to the Governor in famine matters, through whom all famine questions will be laid before his Grace. The object of this appointment is that the views of the Government of India may be permanently represented on the spot in the person of an officer possessing its full confidence. Viceroy and Duke are entirely agreed as to necessity of this arrangement, in order to unite and cover responsibility of both Governments without causing friction. I have signified pleasure of Government of India that the views of the Madras Government in questions of famine policy are now so entirely in accord with those of the Government of India. I have communicated to Madras Government officially my Famine Minute of 12th August, and urged general expedience of getting full proportion of relief recipients to employment on large public works of permanent usefulness to the country, and greater stringency in conferring gratuitous relief of all kinds to those who are unable to work. I have sanctioned purchase of seed grains

in those rare cases where it may be necessary, on condition that such purchase be made through trade. I have promised to furnish the required engineering and other European staff necessary for giving effect to our policy, and have agreed to sanction such extra temporary appointments, engineer and other, as the Madras Government may require.

This correspondence will be published in a Gazette to be issued on Monday. Message ends.

I trust you will approve the action above recorded. My relations with the Duke are most cordial, and I take this opportunity of expressing to you my grateful appreciation of the frank and efficient manner in which his Grace has met and seconded my efforts. The present arrangements, which have removed all cause of possible misunderstanding or divergent action between the two Governments, could not have been thus promptly and amicably concluded without this valuable co-operation to which I feel greatly indebted. I am confident that, under the personal direction of his Grace, the famine will be managed with a vigour and sound discretion not otherwise attainable, and that great advantage will accrue both to the permanent welfare of this Presidency and to the public treasury.

No. 208.

Encl. in No. 216.

No. 780, dated Madras, 2nd September 1877.

From Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

The Viceroy's telegram of yesterday's date asked that the services of Major-General Kennedy might be temporarily placed at the disposal of the Government of India for employment in connexion with the famine in the Madras Presidency. During the Governor-General's stay at Poona his Excellency Sir Richard Temple was good enough to agree to General Kennedy's accompanying the Viceroy on his present journey to the Madras Presidency. Formal notification of the arrangement therefore is now solicited.

2. The Viceroy and Governor-General desires to express his high sense of the public spirit and loyalty which have prompted the Government of Bombay thus to spare, for service in another part of India, an officer who has under their direction so well controlled the operations for mitigation of the famine which unhappily still afflicts the Bombay Presidency. His Excellency the Viceroy is confident that the Government of Bombay, under its far sighted and energetic Governor, will, with the help of the officers of the Bombay services, meet famine difficulties in the future as successfully as they have done in the past. Meanwhile General Kennedy's personal experience of the Bombay famine management will be of the greatest value to his Grace the Governor of Madras.

No. 209.

Telegram, dated September 3, 1877.

From Governor of Bombay.

Since telegram of 1st, further improvement situation Bombay Presidency, from rain—Baroda, Ahmedabad, Concan, and several parts Deccan.

No. 210.

Encl. in No. 253.

No. 2630 B, dated Fort St. George, September 3, 1877.

From J. H. Garstin, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government of Madras, to S. C. Bayley, Esq. C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, No. 776, and to state that the Madras Government have taken no part in the matter of applying to the public for subscriptions in aid of famine relief, although, at the request of the citizens of Madras, the head of the Government consented to preside at a public meeting convened by the Sheriff to consider the advisability of appealing to England for such aid.

2. I am to add that your letter will be communicated at once to the General Committee of the Madras Famine Relief Fund, with whom rests the duty of administering the funds raised, with an intimation that the officers of Government in their official

capacity will nowhere be allowed to be disbursers of any funds which may be placed at the Committee's disposal, although the Government have no reason to suppose that the Committee are relying on the agency of State establishments for the administration of their private funds.

Encl. in No. 216.

No. 211.

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA EXTRAORDINARY.

Governor-General's Camp, Madras, September 3, 1877.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

FAMINE.

The subjoined papers describing—

Nos. 201, 202. (i.) Administrative arrangements adopted after conference between the Viceroy and the Governor of the Madras, for meeting the increased pressure of famine in the Madras Presidency;

Nos. 199, 200. (ii.) The views of the Government of India regarding the collection of public subscriptions, and their expenditure by means of private organizations on the relief of distress outside the compass of Government operations,

together with a minute recorded by his Excellency the Viceroy on the 12th August, are published for general information.

By order of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

C. BERNARD,
Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 212.

Telegram, dated September 5, 1877.

From GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Though famine prospects are improving there is great want of revenue officers, as some are ill and some lent to Madras. The Bombay Government beg your Lordship will order the following officers to proceed to Bombay by the first mail in October:—J. E. Oliphant, R. Elphinston, J. R. Middleton, E. G. Sharkey, W. Ramsey, G. W. Vidal, G. B. Reid, W. G. Peddar, J. Macleod Campbell, G. Waddington, W. Forman.

No. 213.

Telegram, dated Madras, September 5, 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Season telegrams as follows:—Madras 1 to 1½ inches of rain in Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool, much benefit; good rain in Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Kistna. Thunderstorm and 1 inch rain in Madras on 4th, only ½ inch elsewhere, save occasional heavy showers. Crops improved by rain, except South Arcot, Coimbatore, Salem, Madura. Prices dearer.

On works 901,227: on gratuitous 1,430,875. Grain importations large. Railway transport improving.

Bombay, showers throughout week everywhere: 4 inches of rain all over Guzerat; continuous heavy rain all Concan districts; good rain throughout Khandesh, Nassik, Sattara, Belgaum, and greater part of Poona and Sholapur; partial rain in Dharwar, Kaladgi; prospects much improved; prices not yet cheaper.

Numbers on works 278,731; on gratuitous 125,960.

Mysore, bad week; occasional light showers; good rain in Bangalore in night of 2nd September, gauging 1½ inches. Dry crop, prospects worse in all districts. Gratuitous numbers 213,000; works, number 49,000.

Hyderabad, three days good rain, over 4 inches, much benefit; good rain in Berar, Rajputana; heavy rain in Aboo and south-west States; good rain in Jeypore; heavy showers in Ajmere, Meywar, and east States. Lyall telegraphs: general prospect very materially improved; more rain needed in Ulwar, Meywar, Central India. Good rain in Rutlam, Indore, and all Malwa; 2 inches rain in Neemuch, Gwalior, Bundelkund. Too late to save much autumn crop in Gwalior; still prospects everywhere improved.

North-western Provinces: moderate rain in Allahabad, Benares divisions, 4 inches in Jhansi division; ½ an inch in Agra; good rain, one day, in Meerut and Bareilly, rest slight partial showers. Autumn crop lost in many parts.

Punjab: dry hot weather up to 2nd, then heavy universal rain over Province, gauging 9½ inches at Loodhiana, too late to save autumn crops in parts. Lieutenant-Governor telegraphs, prospects immensely improved, spring crop sowings secured over the important grain producing districts.

Bengal, Central Provinces, Burmah, Assam; seasonable weather, good prospects.

No. 214.

Telegram, dated Madras, 5th September 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Have verified Madras railway requirements. I consider matters might be safer if we get 20 engines, besides Madras railway supply and indent for 20 sent by Madras Government and confirmed by me; but no good unless additional power available in short time. Please telegraph when the 20 locomotives asked for by my message of 30th will reach, and when the extra 20 now proposed could arrive. Make preliminary arrangements for extra 20. I will confirm order when I hear how quickly they can reach. Type to be State Railway, unless "Trevethicks" type comes much sooner. Also say how quickly State locomotives for Bombay can reach with half bonus.

No. 215.

No. 33 of 1877.

From the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce (Famine), to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Madras, September 5, 1877.

In a letter dated the 20th August your Lordship was informed that I was about to leave Simla, accompanied by Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, and the officers named in the margin, on a journey to Poona, Madras, and Bangalore for the purpose of conferring with the Local Governments and the Chief Commissioner of Mysore on the measures rendered necessary by the failure of the early rains (summer monsoon), and the alarming character of the prospects described in a minute by myself which accompanied that letter.

Mr. S. C. Bayley, C.S.I.
„ C. Bernard, C.S.I.
„ Guilford Molesworth, C.E.

2. I now desire to lay before your Lordship a short account of what I have heard and seen, and of some of the more important references in famine matters, which have come before the Government of India during the past fortnight. In a separate letter of to-day's date will be found an account of my conference with the Governor of Madras, upon the lines of famine policy laid down by the Government of India, and of certain special administrative arrangements adopted by his Excellency in Council, for giving to that policy the fullest and most prompt effect. The following remarks on the condition of the crops and the prospects of the season, as they have appeared to me in the course of my journey from Simla to Madras, must be taken subject to correction by the light of more recent information. Our latest intelligence on these points is embodied in a telegram despatched to your Lordship to-day; and a copy of that telegram will be found in the last paragraph of this letter. No. 216.

3. Leaving Simla on the 16th August I met at Amballa the Commissioner of that division of the Panjab; who gave a very bad account of the prospects of the autumn crop. Over great tracts of the dry loose soil of the Cis-Sutlej country there had been no appreciable rainfall since early in July; a great part (the proportion could not be exactly stated) of the land prepared for autumn crops had not been sown, and much of what had been sown had withered. But there were still some weeks to the time for sowing the spring crops which yield the great food harvests, and should rain fall within that period these crops would be sown over a larger area than usual. Water in the irrigation wells was not failing, though the hot dry winds scorched the crops and made irrigation less efficacious than in ordinary years. The appearance of the land round Amballa was for the season of year extremely dry and arid.

4. On the morning of the 18th I met the collectors of Agra and Allyghur in the North-West Provinces. Prospects in the Agra district were then as bad as in any part of the North-West Provinces; and they were said to be less hopeful than in the Amballa Division. In the Allyghur district there is more well irrigation and more canal irrigation, so that a considerable autumn food crop will be secured. In both districts there seemed to be already some fear about fodder for the cattle. In Allyghur, with its many canal channels, this difficulty will probably be not so great. But in the Agra district if rain holds off there must be great loss of cattle. The River Jumna there flows between high banks, unclad by verdure, and differs in this respect from the Ganges, which annually floods a broad belt of low ground beside its bed.

5. At the Agra junction station I was met by His Highness the Maharaja of Jeypore with some of his chief officials. The Maharaja is most laudably anxious about the prospects of his territory, and he placed in my hands a memorandum describing some of the measures he proposed to take for the prevention or relief of anticipated distress. The position in Jeypore was in brief, that crops had failed to a large extent, that the grass was withering, and that already dearth was beginning to be felt.

6. Simultaneously with this memorandum a letter was received from Mr. Lyall, the Governor-General's agent, stating that the whole of Rajputana, north-west of the Aravelli mountains, was threatened with serious scarcity; that the crops were widely damaged, grass withering, and pasturage already insufficient. In a subsequent letter Mr. Lyall stated that he had reason to believe there were large stocks of grain on hand, and that the people were hopeful. Opportunity was taken when answering these papers to explain at some length to the agent the famine policy which should be inculcated on the Maharaja of Jeypore, as well as on the Governments of other Native States similarly situated. As the Maharaja's memorandum, and my Secretary's reply to it, form Enclosure No. 1 to this letter, I need not here describe either the measures proposed by His Highness, or those which I have commended to his adoption.

Nos. 141, 145, 173, 181.

7. At Allahabad the local officers reported that though some of the autumn crops had suffered much from drought, yet prospects in the Allahabad and Benares divisions were not nearly so gloomy as in the northern commissionerships. It was said that in all parts of the Panjab and the North-West Provinces grain-stocks in the hands of dealers, zemindars, and substantial ryots, were unusually large, and that prices had not yet grown so dear as might have been expected.

8. On the 19th August I met at Jubbulpore the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, who was able to give a good account of the agricultural prospect throughout those provinces. He drew my attention to the very large and still increasing stocks of grain and seeds awaiting despatch from Nagpore, Jubbulpore, and other stations on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway; most of the grain, he explained, was consigned to the famine districts. He reported also that certain cases of corruption in the matter of allotting waggons had been brought home to station-masters on the two railways near Jubbulpore. The offenders had been or would be punished on conviction by the courts. Both those points—the grain block and the alleged misconduct of station-masters—were discussed with the proper authorities at Poona under circumstances which will be mentioned in a subsequent paragraph.

9. In the Khandesh and Nasik districts the country looked green, though the crops were backward. Much anxiety had been expressed about the condition of these two districts, and the local officials assured me that unless rain fell within ten days most of the crops then looking so well would wither. Happily from three to five inches of rain has since fallen in Khandesh; Nasik has also had good rain; and Sir Richard Temple's last report (30th August) says that "almost all anxiety regarding the Khandesh Collectorate" is removed.

10. I reached Poona on the night of the 19th August, and during five days stay there I had full opportunity of conferring with the Governor of Bombay, and with the chief Government and railway officials of that Presidency. Here I also met the collectors of Poona and Sholapore, as well as the Commissioner of the Southern Division. The prospects of the crops in the Bombay Presidency are now, save only in the Kaladgi District, much better than they were during the time of my stay at Poona; and therefore I need not trouble your Lordship with an account of the impressions I received in this respect. I visited a relief camp containing 3,000 inmates a few miles out of Poona. This camp had been recently opened, and several hundreds of its inmates were in process of transfer to relief works. The camp was well ordered; and the instructions under which it is managed will prevent its growing into an abuse. I have every reason to believe that, notwithstanding the very high prices now ruling in the Deccan and Canarese Districts, famine and distress are being met in the Bombay Presidency as successfully and econo

mically as the means and circumstances permit. Save in the Kaladgi District, the crops to be reaped during the next five weeks will give a sensible relief to the people, and must reduce prices. It is worthy of note that in the districts of Kaladgi, Dharwar, Belgaum, and Sholapore the price of the commonest food-grain rules dearer than in any district of the Madras Presidency. The latest weekly report received from the Bombay Government forms Enclosure No. 2 to this letter. It shows that, as yet, the improved prospects have not caused reduction in the numbers on relief. There was an increase in numbers during the week, and there were at the end of August 278,731 on relief work, and 125,960 on gratuitous relief. No. 172.

11. One very important subject which was much discussed at Poona, both with the Governor and at a conference of all his railway officials, was the carrying power of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, by which food-grain is sent, not only into the Bombay Deccan, but also into the Nizam's Dominions, and into the Ceded Districts of the Madras Presidency. Briefly stated the case stands thus. The sources of grain supply drawn from by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are the city of Bombay, in which Sir Richard Temple reports the stocks to be very large; the Nagpore and Berar country; the Nerbudda valley districts; and the East Indian Railway, which despatches grain waggons through the Jubbulpore junction. This grain is consigned to Khandesh and Nasik, the districts above the ghats; to Bombay city; to the Bombay Deccan stations for the supply of Poona, Sholapore, Kaladgi, Sattara, and the Southern Mahratta feudatories; to the Hyderabad country; and, lastly, to the Madras Railway for the Ceded Districts. The quantities of grain which the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ought to deliver daily are :—

To the Khandesh section - - -	300 tons.
To the Bombay Deccan Stations - -	800 to 1,000 tons.
To the Hyderabad branch line - - -	300 tons.
To the Madras Railway at Raichore - -	900 tons.

The Great Indian Peninsula Railway authorities have after much pressure delivered these quantities, on the average, at each section, except at the Raichore end, where they have recently delivered an average of barely 600 tons a day. Now the Madras Government absolutely require the 900 tons a day to be delivered at Raichore, otherwise they cannot arrange for throwing into the interior the quantity of grain actually needed. The Bombay Government and the railway officers agreed that by starving all other railway traffic, and by practically stopping the export* trade, it would be possible, with the present rolling stock, to maintain on an average the grain deliveries demanded. Suggestions were made for additional crossing stations, for longer sidings, and for other traffic facilities; but, in the end, it was quite clear that the carrying power of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was at present limited by its engine power, and that, adequately to meet the present emergency, additional engines were needed. Sir Richard Temple at the conference represented strongly that without additional engines the railway would be quite unable to serve the export trade, which would certainly demand accommodation in the cold season; and that, if produce could not be carried to the port of Bombay, shipping would go away empty, heavy mercantile losses must occur, the trade of Bombay would be injured, and the rate of exchange might suffer. If the engine power on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway could be largely increased by January next, then the railway could serve both the famine and the export trade. It seem clear that no sufficient relief could be given by borrowing engines from other lines. The Dhond and Munmar Railway, which, by shortening the railway route from Northern to Southern India, will relieve the pressure of famine traffic to the extent of thirty-six engine power, could hardly open soon enough to meet the urgency of the case. And, accordingly, I telegraphed to your Lordship for the earliest possible despatch to Bombay of 100 engines to work on the Bombay Peninsula line. The letter, No. 117, Railway, dated 25th August, sent by my honourable colleagues from Simla, explains at length the reasons on which we recommend that these engines shall be purchased on account of the State and treated as the State reserve; and that they be hired only to the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. The telegrams from Simla and from Poona ask that these engines may be sent out as they are ready, and that extra payment be made for early deliveries. The alleged corruption among station-masters was discussed at our conference; it appeared that the evil had not been so general as I had been led to suppose. The establishment of a syndicate of traders at every large station to watch and regulate the allotment of waggons is said to be acting as a safeguard against corruption. Such syndicates were recently formed in the Central and North-west Provinces under the orders of the Government of India, and their usefulness will doubtless increase.

* By the latest Custom House return about 400 tons of seed and grain were leaving Bombay daily by sea.

12. Since leaving Poona I have learned by telegraph that the deliveries of grain to the Madras Railway at Raichore are still below the stipulated 900 tons. The Bombay Government explain that the higher prices ruling in the Bombay Deccan induce dealers to consign grain thither rather than to Madras. Market quotations undoubtedly show that prices in the Deccan and Hyderabad country are dearer than in the Bellary district; and while this continues there is soundness in Sir Richard Temple's deduction that Bellary food-stocks must be larger than the Deccan stocks. The recent very favourable rain in Khandesh and Guzerat has been followed by a heavy fall in wheat quotations in Bombay; and the improvement in crop prospects caused by showers in parts of the Deccan may partially bring down prices there. But for the present all we can do is to give preference, up to a certain extent, at Nagpore and Jubbulpore stations, to grain consigned for the Madras Railway. This we have requested the Bombay Government to do. But meanwhile, until relief comes, either from fresh harvests or by the arrival of additional engine power, the working of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and its due delivery of the required quantities of grain in the famine country, cause anxiety, and require careful watching. The Government of India and your Lordship may confidently rely on Sir Richard Temple's efforts to secure a good result; and I may add that the officers of the Great Indian Peninsula Company are actively exerting themselves in co-operation with the Governor.

13. On the 25th August I was met, on my way to Bellary, by the Resident at Hyderabad, who confirmed personally what he had a few days previously reported by telegram and letter regarding the distressed condition of four districts in the south of the Nizam's Dominions. Copies of the Resident's communications, respecting the Hyderabad country and Berar, form Enclosure No. 3 to this letter. Those papers show that the autumn food crop has absolutely failed in the districts of Raichore, Lingsagur, Goolburga, and Shorapore with a population of 800,000; that the price of the commonest grain is 7 lbs. per rupee; that 70,000 people are now supported by the Nizam on relief works, or gratuitously; that the pressure must last till February; while if the October rains fail it may endure until August 1878; that the Nizam's expenditure on famine relief, and his loss of revenue, already amount to nearly 50 lakhs of rupees; that, if the worst comes, the total cost of the famine may reach three millions sterling; that the Nizam's treasury is empty; and that the Minister will probably apply to the British Government for a loan wherewith to defray his famine expenditure. The proposal for a loan will be considered by the Financial Department when it is actually made. If good rain comes during September and October the situation in Hyderabad will greatly improve; and until fuller information is received we may hesitate to accept the estimate that the famine can under any circumstances cost three millions sterling. But, even if the coming monsoon be more favourable than the past, still the distress in the Nizam's Dominions materially aggravates the difficulties of Kurnool, Bellary, and Sholapore.

Nos. 178–9.

14. The Resident had previously reported that distress was impending in the Akola District of Berar. Copy of his report and its enclosure, with the orders passed thereon, forms Enclosure No. 3 to this letter. Happily good rain has fallen in Berar since the Resident's report was written; and Sir Richard Meade was able to assure me, at our meeting on the 29th August, that fears of scarcity in Berar were for the present removed. The caution I have given against beginning relief works too early, and against opening scattered petty relief works at the commencement of a scarcity, will, I trust, be observed if threatenings of drought should again appear.

Nos. 180, 193.

15. I reached Bellary on the 25th August, and the next day visited the large relief camp in that district, which then contained about 4,000 inmates. Among them, especially in the hospital sheds, was a considerable proportion of children and old people, who had been much reduced by want and its attendant diseases. Among the small children were some in a very pitiable condition; they had manifestly suffered from hunger; and it was said that in some cases parents had intentionally abstracted the meal supplied to the children. Nearly half of the inmates were apparently in good condition, and ought to have been at work. The weekly death-rate was very high, over 500 per mille per annum; but then it is to be remembered that into these camps are collected the sickly, the very old, the very young, and in fact the people who in ordinary years furnished the mortality of the whole community. In immediate executive charge of the camp was a Bengali Assistant Surgeon, who seemed to be doing his part of the work admirably.

16. I was impressed by the fact that the Bellary District had in the ground a certain amount of early crop, which, if fertilized by rain during the fortnight following our visit, would yield a substantial addition to the food supply of the country. The reports show that the breadth of this early crop in the southern and western taluks of Bellary is large, and its condition more flourishing than in the parts we visited. Telegrams received since we left Bellary report that good rain has fallen there. Fortu-

nately the prospect of Bellary for next year does not depend on the crop now in the ground; the great food (millet) crop of Bellary, and also its cotton crop, are sown in September and October; the millet ripens in January and the cotton is plucked in March. If the rainfall of September and October is good, Bellary (and the rest of the Ceded Districts) will be again prosperous by the end of February.

17. Leaving Bellary on the 28th I reached Madras on the following day. That evening I visited the relief gangs on the short junction canal near Government House. The labourers were in very good physical condition. On this, as on other relief works in the Madras Presidency, task work is practically not exacted; the hutting and conservancy system was good, but the labourers were supplied with food considerably in excess of their customary diet in ordinary years. Before passing from the subject of the relief arrangement at Madras, it may be mentioned that, in company with the Governor, I inspected the Palaveram Relief Camp with its 8,000 inmates, the Monegar Choultry Relief Camp with 3,400, and the Red Hills Camp with 6,000 inmates. At each of these relief camps, and especially at the first two, the arrangements were good, the camps were clean, the people were orderly, the hospitals were well kept; but, at the very least, half the inmates were strong enough and well enough to have been employed on relief works, instead of living in almost enforced idleness on, what is to them, a high diet. In this respect the Madras relief camps appear to me to fall far short of what economically managed relief camps should be. The weekly mortality in the camps is high, as at Bellary; and this mortality is principally among new comers; persons who are found dead or dying outside the camps being reckoned into the death-rate of the camp. These deaths betoken insufficient relief in the tracts from which the people come wandering into Madras. From the South Arcot district wanderers have recently begun to flock into Madras in considerable numbers, and to that district the Madras Government is now despatching Mr. Puckle, a member of the Revenue Board, to inquire into the matter.

18. One subject which engaged my attention while at Madras was that of soliciting private subscriptions in aid of relief funds. A telegram had been sent to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on 12th August, in which the Government of India in brief terms deprecated any such appeal on the part of Government, and it appeared from some correspondence between the Lord Mayor of London and the Local Relief Committee at Madras that misunderstanding existed as to the real views of the Government on the subject.

19. A copy of the letter, which, in continuation of the telegram of 12th August I caused to be addressed to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in elucidation of these views, forms Enclosure No. 4 of this letter. It is briefly to the effect that while the Madras Government have undertaken to save life by all available means in their power, and while their own organization is strained to the very uttermost in the attempt to carry out this object, it is not desirable that any committee for the distribution of private charity should attempt to carry out the same objects on the same lines and through the same agency as the Government. In other words, it is undesirable that a relief committee should interfere with the ordinary relief organization of Government. Further, it is not proper or expedient that the Government should ask for private subscriptions to supplement its own expenditure on famine, especially as it is clear that such subscriptions can make no appreciable difference in an expenditure which exceeds half a million sterling a month; and because general taxation, falling chiefly on the very classes who might be expected to subscribe, must in the end be required to provide for this expenditure. No. 199.

20. It must here be observed that, although the meeting held at Madras for the purpose of appealing to private charity in aid of famine relief was presided over by the Governor of that presidency, and attended by all the members of the Local Government, yet this meeting took place without the knowledge of the Government of India, or any intimation by the Governor to the Viceroy of the motives and objects of it. These the Government of India was left to gather from the newspaper reports of the proceedings on that occasion; according to which it had been stated or implied by the majority of those who addressed the meeting that the Government of Madras could no longer hope to feed the increasing number of its famine-stricken population; that, in its efforts to do so, it was inadequately supported by the Government of India; and that, thus, necessity had arisen for appealing to private charity in aid of those efforts. It was impossible to know how far these views and statements were approved by the high authorities of the Madras Government in whose presence they had been forcibly expressed. But the Government of India was bound to repudiate all concurrence in them when called upon by other Local Governments to declare its own opinion on the subject of private charity in connexion with famine relief.

21. This was done by the Government of India in the telegram above referred to; but in that telegram the Government distinctly stated that, if private charity could be applied to other methods of relief, and could be made to reach other classes than those which came within the reach of State agency, and if this could be attained by a volunteer organization apart from that of Government, then there could be no objection to unofficial meetings for the furtherance of such objects. In our opinion, however, the interests of the public, no less than the duties of the State, required that these objects should be strictly defined, and intelligibly announced, in connexion with some previously ascertained and well considered means of securing their attainment before the authority of Government could be legitimately or conveniently associated with the collection of private charity for the relief of national distress. This view has now been reiterated; and it has been again explained that, while it is not desirable in the circumstances above mentioned for the Government itself to take any part in the collection or distribution of subscriptions, every encouragement should be given to the spontaneous flow of private charity. It has also been pointed out that our objection to inviting subscriptions from those who will hereafter have to be taxed for the same object does not apply to subscriptions from England; and finally, as the Madras Committee, of which the Duke of Buckingham is the chairman, has expressed its intention of directing the money subscribed to objects other than those which come within the scope of Government agency, his Grace has (Enclosure No. 5) been invited to formulate definitely and in detail what those objects are to be, and the agency through which they are to be attained.

No. 200.

22. Much discussion has taken place during the past week on the working and the requirements of the Madras Railway. Seventeen additional engines and one hundred waggons have during August been borrowed from other lines and sent to Madras; one hundred more waggons will shortly arrive from the Baroda line. The Madras Railway is receiving from England six to eight new powerful engines per month; 200 metre gauge waggons are on their way (some have actually arrived) from State lines for work on the South Indian Railway. The double line from Madras to Arconum has been opened for traffic. The despatches of grain from the Madras Terminus are reaching 1,800 tons a day, while the despatches inland from Negapatam and Beypore are keeping up to the mark. I anticipate that the several Madras railways will, if grain be consigned in sufficient quantities, despatch inland the full quantity required daily, namely:—

	Tons.
From Madras Terminus by the Madras Railway - - -	1,800
„ Beypore - - - - - - -	400
„ Raichore - - - - - - -	900
By the South Indian Railway - - - - -	800
„ canal and road from Madras - - - -	600
Total - - -	4,500

Under these circumstances the Government of India have for the present refrained from compelling other guaranteed lines, by forced Government requisition, to lend more rolling stock than they can willingly spare to the Madras Railway; and we are the more anxious not to make requisitions, if it can possibly be helped, because the other railways have loyally obeyed our request for loans of rolling stock as far as they possibly could; and because we do not know what urgent need may spring up for grain transport in other parts of the empire which are threatened with scarcity.

23. Though the Madras Railways, by working full power, can thus almost meet the necessities of the case, yet it is by no means certain that they can continue to do so, or that they will be prepared for new demands which may arise if the north-east monsoon fails. Some of their engine and waggon stock is very old, and may become unserviceable before the crisis is over; the northern railways may, if difficulty comes in Upper India, have to reclaim the engines they have lent. In order, therefore, to provide against possible difficulties we have telegraphed to your Lordship supporting the Madras Government in their indent of the 17th August for 20 more engines, 600 waggons and 40 break-vans; and we have asked for 20 more engines in addition to the Madras indent. You have informed us by telegraph that 500 of these waggons will reach India within ten weeks time. We hope that this additional stock, together with 30 new heavy engines now arriving, will enable the Madras Railways to meet all emergencies. We have asked that the 40 new engines should, for reasons explained in my colleague's railway letter, quoted in paragraph 10 of the present letter, form part of the State reserve of engines.

24. It has been mentioned that the railways will carry the required amount of grain, if only it is consigned by the trade. And upon the question whether private trade will

send into the famine country all the grain that is required, the safety of the people depends. It cannot be said that the trade sends all the country can take; for the dear prices ruling in so many districts would show that more grain would be readily bought, if sent. But this much is certain, private trade is still consigning to the famine country much more grain than the railways can carry into the interior. In previous letters we have reported that more than 100,000 tons of grain are awaiting despatch at or near the railway stations in the Central Provinces. The Bengal exportable surplus, if the crop now in the ground turns out well, will not fall short of 350,000 tons. Already 100,000 tons of freight, chiefly steamer freight, has been taken up for despatch of grain from Calcutta to Madras ports during the present month. The actual despatches of rice from Bengal to Madras were 53,225 tons, or an average of 3,800 tons daily, during the fortnight ending on the 29th August. The despatches from Burmah to Madras were only 400 tons during the same period; so that there would seem to be truth in the opinion generally expressed by merchants, that the Burmah rice ports have no more grain to send till next crop comes to market in December. From Saigon it was reported that 150,000 tons were ready for export, but that most of this would go to China, where also there is a large famine demand. But a telegram from the Governor of the Straits Settlements, dated the 1st September, has told us that the Siamese Government has prohibited the export of rice from Bankok until the 30th September, on account of the threatened dearth in those territories. At the same time the Persian Government has prohibited grain exportation from Bushire. It would seem, therefore, that for the present India cannot expect food supplies from further Asia, but must send the surplus of the north to supply the deficiency of the south. For the present, and so far as we can foresee, any grain imported by Government would occupy railway waggons to the exclusion of private despatches, and would paralyze trade to an indefinite extent.

25. On my way to Madras I received a report from the Lieutenant-Governor on the prospect of the autumn crops in the North-West Provinces and Oudh. His account was, in brief, that the early (July and August) rains had failed over large tracts of the North-west Provinces; that over the Agra, Meerut, and Jhansi Divisions, and over a great part of Rohilkund and Oudh, the unirrigated autumn crops either had not been sown, or had withered, and that the irrigated crops had been much scorched by the hot dry westerly winds. The redeeming features of the situation were, that the autumn crop in the Allahabad and Benares Divisions, though in jeopardy, would still be saved if rain came; that the food stocks in the country were very large, and that there was still ample time for the rain to come and secure good spring crops, which yield the larger food harvests of the year. It was explained that Sir George Couper had given direction to Commissioners to open relief works of certain classes as soon as they deemed such a course necessary. The Lieutenant-Governor's report will be found in Enclosure No. 6, No. 169. together with the orders passed by the Government of India on the subject. It will be No. 194. seen that, while commending the North-West Provinces Government for its foresight and the caution given against alarmist views, I have desired a reconsideration of the orders permitting the commencement of petty relief works in many parts of the country; and directed that, if relief employment is to be a charge against the general treasury, such employment should be given on fully supervised large works of permanent usefulness. It was mentioned that the Government of the North-West Provinces possessed ready to its hand complete projects for several such works, on which, if need be, relief employment could at once be given.

26. From the Resident at Baroda I learnt that a serious failure of the autumn food crop was impending, and that prices were already rising to famine rates (twelve pounds per rupee). An interesting and suggestive letter was received from Sir Madhava Rao, the Baroda Minister, on the same subject. The Minister's recommendations were, in effect, that relief works should be opened simultaneously, and a uniform famine policy adopted all over the Baroda country, over British Guzerat, and over the Kattywar Chiefships. It was urged that trade in grain should be everywhere exempted from transit dues, and that nowhere should grain exports be prohibited. The Minister went further, and recommended that Government should purchase and import grain from other parts of the world. In my Secretary's reply the Resident was furnished with a copy of the orders sent by Sir Richard Temple to the officers of British Guzerat, directing that projects for well-considered public works should be at once prepared, but forbidding the opening of relief works so long as the people could support themselves. The Resident was reminded that the ryots of Guzerat were exceptionally prosperous; that last season they had excellent harvests and high prices, and he was cautioned against opening petty relief works or beginning gratuitous relief at all for the present. The attention of political officers attached to the neighbouring States was called to the

desirability of all the Chiefs adopting the British principle of admitting free passage of grain from, as well as to, tracts threatened wth scarcity. At the same time the Minister was thanked for his suggestions; he was told of the steps taken by the Government of India to make known the state of prices in Southern India throughout adjoining provinces and countries; and it was explained that the Government would not engage in the business of importing grain. The advice given to Native Chiefs regarding free trade in grain has already borne some fruit; for Major-General Sir Henry Daly telegraphs from Indore that his Highness Maharaja Holka has agreed to withdraw the prohibition against grain exports from his territory, and that at least one other Chief of Central India has followed the Maharaja's example.

27. I propose to start to-night for Bangalore, in order to confer with the Chief Commissioner on the state of affairs in Mysore, the actual condition of which, as well as the future prospects of that State, are subjects of very grave anxiety to me. Since the date of the last weekly telegram the prospects have not improved; and day by day the burden of the telegrams has been that no rain has fallen. Last evening, however, brought better news, good rain being reported to have fallen on the 2nd instant. Prices of food-grains show no material alteration. The last report received from Mysore shows the number on relief works slightly diminished, and the number on gratuitous relief considerably increased. The following are the totals: on relief works 49,000 persons, on gratuitous relief 213,000. These figures, no less than the reports previously received, indicate very clearly that the famine organization in Mysore is unable efficiently to cope with the distress; and the radical error of the system may be gathered from the fact that, out of a total of 264,000 persons receiving relief less than 23,000 are on works professionally supervised. The latest Mysore weekly report forms Enclosure No. 7 to this despatch.

28. As a first step towards introducing improved organization, I have deputed two selected officers from the North-West Provinces—Mr. C. A. Elliott, Commissioner of Meerut, and Major Scott Moncrieff, R.E., to assist the Chief Commissioner, and I have also deputed five military officers to assist in controlling relief operations. A detailed scheme for providing public works, and for reorganizing gratuitous relief, will be framed after discussion with the local administrative officers at Bangalore.

29. The Chief Commissioner of Mysore has made an application to the Government of India for a loan of 50 lakhs to meet the famine expenditure. The expenses of the famine have hitherto been defrayed by the proceeds of the invested funds, amounting to 46,16,000 rupees. This source of supply will be exhausted by the end of the current month, and the budget shows no balance to fall back upon. The Government of India have agreed to grant the loan, as, otherwise, the Mysore State would be compelled to borrow in the open market, a policy which the Government is not prepared to accept in the case of any Native State; and the loan will be granted on terms to be fixed hereafter, in the following instalments:—

In October - - - - -	20 lakhs.
„ November - - - -	15 „
„ December - - - -	10 „
„ January or February - - -	5 „

30. Until the beginning of September, the condition of affairs in some of the Central India States, especially Gwalior and the Bundelkund country, was getting worse and worse. Already there was a demand for relief labour in Gwalior; emigration was beginning, and strings of emigrants were passing down the Indore road, some hundreds of whom received a meal at Goona. To relieve this pressure, relief employment has been opened on the further section of the Agra and Gwalior railway. Sir Henry Daly, the Resident at Indore, telegraphed on the 29th August that the commencement of work on the railway had temporarily checked the emigration. Work on the Pahlunpore railway, recently sanctioned by your Lordship, was also arranged, as a relief measure to relieve the pressure in that part of the country; which pressure is, according to latest telegrams, now much enlightened by the favourable rainfall of the past week.

31. The season telegram despatched to-day to your Lordship is as follows:—

Madras.—One to 1½ inches rain. Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, much benefit; good rain Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Kistna; thunderstorm at Madras; one inch rain at Madras on 4th. Only half an inch elsewhere, save where occasional heavy showers, crops improved by rain, except in South Arcot, Coimbatore, Salem, Madura; prices dearer; 901,227 on works, 1,430,885 on gratuitous; grain importations large, railway transport improving.

Bombay.—Showers throughout week everywhere; four inches rain all over Guzerat; continuous heavy rain all Konkan districts; good rain throughout Khandesh, Nasik,

Sattara, Belgaum, and greater part Poona, Sholapore. Partial rain, Dharwar, Kaladgi. Prospects much improved. Prices not yet cheaper. Numbers on works 278,731, on gratuitous 125,960.

Mysore.—Bad week, occasional light showers; good rain Bangalore, night second September gauging 1½ inches; dry crop prospects worse in all districts, gratuitous numbers 213,000, works number 49,000.

Hyderabad.—Three days' good rain, over four inches. Much benefit. Good rain Berar.

Rajputana.—Heavy rain Aboo and South-West States. Good rain Jeypore. Heavy showers Ajmere, Meywar, and East States. Lyall telegraphs general prospect very materially improved. More rain needed Ulwar, Meywar.

Central India.—Good rain Rutlam, Indore, and all Malwa. Two inches rain Neemuch, Gwalior, Bundelkund, too late to save much autumn crop Gwalior. Still prospects everywhere improved.

North-West.—Moderate rain Allahabad, Benares Divisions; four inches Jhansi Division; half inch Agra; good rain one day Meerut and Bareilly; rest slight partial showers. Autumn crop lost many parts.

Panjab.—Dry hot weather up to second, then heavy universal rain over province, gauging 9½ inches at Loodhiana, too late to save autumn crop in parts. Lieutenant-Governor telegraphs prospects immensely improved, spring crop sowings secured over the important grain-producing districts.

Bengal, Central Provinces, Burmah, Assam.—Seasonable weather, good prospects.

It has given me great pleasure to be able to address to your Lordship so satisfactory a telegram. But I cannot forget that, although our prospects are almost everywhere so much better than they were when I left Simla, yet everything in the Madras Presidency depends mainly on the October rains (north-east monsoon). The condition of Mysore is still a matter for much anxiety; and our hope for the future can only be fulfilled by a continuance of the present favourable change in the weather.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.

No. 216.

No. 34 of 1877.

From the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, Madras, September 5, 1877.

In my letter, No. 33, of to-day's date, I have laid before your Lordship some account of the journey I have undertaken to Madras accompanied by my colleague, Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, together with a brief summary of the latest changes in agricultural prospects over the several provinces of the Indian Empire. In the present letter I shall confine myself to a description of the arrangements concluded, after personal conference with the Governor, for the purpose of systematizing the policy and strengthening the administration of State relief throughout the famine-stricken districts of the Madras Presidency.

2. My Minute dated the 12th August submitted to your Lordship with our letter of the 20th August, contained a review of the situation which the Government of India had been dealing with up to the date at which that Minute was written, and of the famine policy pursued by us in reference thereto; with a general indication of those changes in the relief operations of the Madras Government which appeared to myself and my colleagues urgently needed by the protracted duration and increasing pressure of the famine in this part of Southern India. No. 131.

3. The general rules of famine policy set forth in my above-mentioned Minute are in complete conformity with the views previously expressed in the instructions to Sir Richard Temple of the 16th January last, which were approved by your Lordship. Abstention from interference with private trade and from Government operations in the grain market; employment of the destitute upon useful well-supervised public works; careful supervision of gratuitous relief, and the restriction of it by applying needful tests to recipients, are principles which have been steadily inculcated by the Government of India as opportunity arose since January last. But, although from the facts and figures laid before us by the Madras Government, it appeared to us that its conduct of relief operations was not in complete accordance with the principles thus laid down by the

Government of India, we had nevertheless many reasons for believing that the partial disregard of those principles would be on the whole less mischievous in its ultimate effects than the friction, irritation, and general paralysis of effort likely to arise from authoritative interference with the action of the Local Government. From such interference therefore, in reference to all matters not of paramount importance, we purposely abstained so long as it was possible to do so; that is to say, until the failure of the summer rains of 1877 had made it clear that famine relief and famine expenditure on a large scale must continue in the Madras Presidency till December or January next.

4. The Madras famine then assumed dimensions which placed it altogether outside the category of local calamities. It had become one of the most serious imperial disasters which the Supreme Government had ever been called upon to deal with. Under the existing constitution of the Government of India there must always be a certain amount of divided responsibility in dealing with any great catastrophe of this kind. For while a large executive responsibility is advantageously exercised by the Local Governments, the financial responsibility of the Government of India remains inalienable. In ordinary circumstances this financial responsibility involves the severest and most minute scrutiny of all expenditure. But in exceptional circumstances such as those created by the pressure of a great famine, that scrutiny cannot be enforced without extreme inconvenience. Owing to the delay caused by the requisite investigation of details, and protracted correspondence between the Supreme and Local Governments irremediable disasters might occur before the measures necessary for preventing them could be sanctioned and undertaken. Thus on occasions like the present we find ourselves placed in the anomalous position of a Government which is practically obliged to relax the exercise of its financial control in proportion to the increasing gravity of its financial liabilities. Such relaxation of control, however, is only justifiable so long as the limits of expenditure can be foreseen. When this is no longer the case, when uncontrolled expenditure threatens serious and imminent peril to the finances of the Empire, then the Government of the Empire cannot suspend or transfer to any other authority that financial supervision which constitutes its most essential function without repudiating the paramount duty of an Imperial Government. How to reconcile due guarantees for the discharge of the financial responsibility devolving exclusively upon the Supreme Government with adequate provision for the freedom and celerity of action so greatly needed to ensure the success of the Local Government in coping with the present grievous calamity is a problem which pressed for early solution, and I am hopeful that it may have been adequately solved by the arrangements now concluded with the valuable advice and assistance of the Governor of Madras.

5. The object to be attained was twofold. On the one hand it was necessary to secure for the Government of India that consideration of its views on the part of the Government of Madras, which is strictly demanded by the impossibility of transferring to the latter any portion of the financial responsibilities of the former. On the other hand, it was no less necessary to do this, in some manner involving the minimum of friction and delay, and calculated to strengthen rather than weaken the executive action of the Local Administration.

6. Great rapidity of reference would doubtless have been secured, and much time saved in the conduct of official correspondence between the two Governments, by temporarily transferring the seat of the Supreme Government to this Presidency. But to the Duke of Buckingham and to myself such a measure seemed open to many and grave objections which heavily counterbalanced the advantages of it in that respect. On the other hand, it appeared to me, after much anxious consideration, that if some means could be devised of placing at the command of the Local Government all the higher consultative and executive ability and experience which, owing to its unrestricted field of selection and authority, are in ordinary times commanded only by the Government of India, then the Government of India would be justified in reducing to a minimum all checks upon the action of the Local Government; because its own responsibility in reference to such action would under these conditions be sufficiently represented and practically secured by the selection of subordinate agents.

7. For the adoption of this latter alternative, which commended itself no less to the judgment of the Duke of Buckingham than to my own, I placed myself in personal communication with his Grace. The Duke informed me that he would gladly receive in pursuance of our common object the assistance of Major-General Kennedy, who had accompanied me from Poona, and whose services Sir Richard Temple was kind enough to place temporarily at my disposal. Major-General Kennedy, who is favourably known to your Lordship and to the Government of India as Public Works Secretary to the Bombay Government, has under two successive Governors successfully directed all

famine relief operations in the Bombay Presidency. I considered that Major-General Kennedy's advice would be of great use to the Government of India, and that were his services accepted by the Government of Madras he would be most valuable in helping to organise and carry out the difficult but necessary operation of transferring to large and permanently useful works the greatest possible proportion of the $2\frac{1}{4}$ millions who were being supported by the State in the Madras Presidency, and of whom barely one-quarter of a million were doing useful work. The Government of India is under great obligations to Sir Richard Temple for thus sparing the services of his chief famine officer, and a copy of a communication conveying to his Excellency the expression of our thanks for this loyal service forms Enclosure No. 1 to my present letter. No. 208.

8. On the evening of the 25th I met the Governor of Madras by appointment at Bellary. Before meeting his Grace I had sent him a copy of my Minute of the 12th August, and had confidentially communicated to him my views as to the necessity for certain changes in the relief management which could only be effected by improved unity and directness of control. In that opinion his Grace fully concurred, and our interview at Bellary left no essential difference between us as to either principles or measures. On the following day the Duke of Buckingham returned to Madras, where he had to attend a meeting of Council, and where I rejoined him on the 27th.

9. The day after my arrival at Madras I had a long conference with the Governor, at which my colleague Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, Major-General Kennedy, and some of my secretaries were present. We considered, proposal by proposal and clause by clause, a memorandum with which I had furnished the Duke, on the principles and measures commended to his adoption by the Government of India. These measures included only one important change of system which the Governor of Madras was unwilling to accept, viz., that the famine districts should be divided into two or more commissionerships, each under a Commissioner acting as chief executive officer in his division. The Governor of Madras held that it was unwise to take his best Collectors from their districts to be Commissioners; that it was doubtful whether functionaries with such extensive charges as those assigned to the Madras Collectors would work well under Commissioners, and that what was required in the way of inspection and enforcement of Government orders could be done by deputing members of the Board of Revenue from time to time to visit particular districts, without assigning to them any definite territorial charge. On that point my own opinion and that of my colleague Sir Alexander Arbuthnot is unchanged; but we did not deem the point essential, and have not pressed it.

10. With this single exception, complete concurrence of opinion and purpose was happily established between the Government of India and the Government of Madras, whose final conclusions were expressed in their Secretary's letter No. 2,232, dated the 31st August. The letter, together with the orders passed thereon by the Government of India, will be found in the "Gazette of India Extraordinary," published on the 3rd September, Nos. 201–3. which forms Enclosure No. 2 to this letter. The principles of famine policy thereby affirmed are:—

I. *Grain Supply.*—That the Madras Government should abstain from importing grain on its own account, and from any measure which might interfere with the activity of private trade.

II. *Public Works.*—A large scheme of useful public works under professional supervision should be the backbone of the relief system; all other forms of relief being subsidiary to the main scheme, and all relief works of any magnitude being directed and controlled by agency belonging to the Public Works Department. Large works under professional agency should not be limited to works which are deemed directly remunerative, nor even to works which may probably be finished during the continuance of the famine. The Governments of India and Madras will be prepared to accept a proportion of unremunerative and unfinished public works at the end of the famine.

III. *Gratuitous Relief.*—All gratuitous relief should be as far as possible temporary, and subsidiary to the main object of getting the distressed people on to the works or back to their ordinary occupations. It will be necessary to maintain relief camps in order to receive and support the starving, the helpless wanderers, and infirm persons, with a view of getting them into condition to labour. But the ultimate object of these relief camps as receiving places only for people hereafter to be drafted to works should ever be kept in view. Village relief, other than casual relief to famine-stricken travellers, should be confined to resident villagers who are house-ridden, or otherwise unfitted for or incapable of labour.

11. To carry out this policy the hitherto existing system of administration in Madras was indisputably too cumbrous. Under that system the Collectors reported on most famine subjects to the Board of Revenue; the Board, and in some instances the local officers, reported to one or other of four different branches of the Secretariat; the references so received from the Board or the local officers were then minuted upon by the two members of Council; and not till they had thus at last reached the hands of the Governor could they receive the orders of his Excellency in Council. It seemed to the Government of India, and in this view the Government of Madras entirely concurred, that under such a system the administrative chain was too long, that control was weak, and that uniformity and promptitude of action was hopelessly unattainable. In presence therefore of the increased and increasing difficulties which the action of the Madras Government, thus retarded and dispersed, had been unable to counteract, it was deemed absolutely necessary to concentrate the direction and simplify the process of its famine business by placing it within the immediate control of a Famine Dictator, who, acting under the general authority of the Government of India, should be solely responsible for the administration of this department.

12. By none but the head of the Local Government could such a task be properly assumed or adequately discharged. It was therefore decided, that by rules passed under the India Council's Act, the Governor of Madras should take the famine business into his own hands, as was done by Lord Northbrook during the famine of 1874 in Bengal; that Collectors and executive officers should correspond with the Government on famine matters direct, and not through the Revenue Board as heretofore; and that Major-General Kennedy, acting as the accredited agent of the Government of India, should be appointed personal assistant to the Governor in all famine affairs. The object of this arrangement (to which great importance is attached by his Grace the Governor and by myself) is to associate the authority of the Supreme with that of the Local Government without abrogating the responsibility of the former or hindering the action of the latter.

13. These measures, as settled between the Governor and myself, have been loyally accepted by the other members of the Madras Government. I do not expect from them, either now or hereafter, a complete recovery of the whole ground already ravaged by the growth of famine; but I feel assured that they will greatly facilitate remedial operations and restrain the progress of positive pauperism. The Government of India has given to the Government of Madras the services of one of the very best famine officers in India; and we have arranged for the immediate despatch of all the engineering, executive, and medical* assistance required by the Local Administration. The Supreme Government, relieved from all necessity for detailed supervision or vexatious interference, will spare no effort to assist the free and more vigorous action of the Madras Government, in following out the broad lines of famine policy now accepted. The Governor of Madras becomes virtually a dictator in famine affairs, so far as the constitution permits such an arrangement, and I have every reason to anticipate great amelioration in the social and financial conditions of the Madras famine from his Grace's more direct control of the operations which will now be commenced.

* On our journey an urgent demand reached me by telegraph for 100 additional medical subordinates for Madras. Bengal had already lent 88 such officials. At the present time of writing over 62 out of the additional 100 have been arranged for, and some 20 have actually arrived in the Madras Presidency.

14. The letter from the Government of Madras, which will reach your Lordship by the present mail, gives the latest available information on relief affairs. It will be seen from it that there are now in this Presidency two and a quarter millions of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief, and on relief works; most of which works are under no adequate control, nor are they of such a character as to promise any great permanent benefit to the country.

15. It only remains for me to express the hope that the arrangements reported in this letter and its enclosures will meet with your Lordship's approval, and to record my warmest acknowledgments of the cordiality and ability with which I have been assisted by the Duke of Buckingham in bringing these arrangements to a prompt, and I trust a satisfactory, conclusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.

No. 217.

Telegram, dated 6th September 1877.

From PRESIDENT, Simla, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Viceroy approving, we wish public works engineers on furlough, under rank of superintending, and medically fit, warned to be ready to return to India on further intimation.

No. 218.

Telegram, dated 6th September 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM.

Yours 2nd instant. I am very glad to learn the satisfactory arrangements that you have made with Viceroy. We hope much from concentration of famine administration in your hands. I understand Viceroy has urged on you greater stringency in confining gratuitous relief to those unable to work. I have no doubt of the propriety of this recommendation, but, as it implies requirement of task work from all who can do any work at all, the greatest care in executing it will be necessary in the case of those who have been reduced to feebleness by long privation. Mortality may result if sufficiency of nourishment is made to depend on work beyond their strength; moreover, amount of nourishment which was sufficient when they were strong may not be sufficient now.

No. 219.

Telegram, dated 6th September 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

I have heard with great satisfaction of judicious arrangements concluded between you and the Duke of Buckingham. I believe that concentration of famine management in his hands will be of greatest advantage. The appointment of General Kennedy, in whom you repose well-grounded confidence, will also be very beneficial. I approve generally of your arrangements, reserving any observation I may have to make on matters of detail. Greater stringency in confining relief to those unable to work is no doubt in many places necessary, but every precaution should be taken that consequent requirement of task work is not allowed to press dangerously on those who by privation have become partially incapacitated for labour. I have telegraphed in this sense to Duke of Buckingham.

No. 220.

Telegram, dated 7th September 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

State locomotives ordered for delivery here: in October, 10; November, 13; December, 44; January, 27; February, 19; March, 7. These fill up four largest makers, who have in consequence shunted English orders.

Additional 20 locomotives specified in yours 5th, being novel type, cannot be made quickly. If quick delivery desirable, discretion must be left with me in selection of type, for which drawings and patterns are ready to hand, for instance, Great India Peninsular type; new pattern locomotives cannot be delivered under 16 weeks from date of completion of drawings; complete drawings of State type not yet copied.

Additional engines that type cannot be delivered before 2nd of January. On all present orders extra price is given for quickest possible delivery.

No. 221.

Telegram, dated 8th September 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Yours 7th. Type locomotive left to your discretion. When could 20 additional for Madras be delivered?

No. 222.

Telegram, dated Bangalore, September 8, 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

I have arranged with Arbuthnot to take the management of the famine business of the Government of India into my own hands.

Encl. in No. 239.

No. 223.

No. 821 (Famine), dated Bangalore, 8th September 1877.

From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

I am directed by his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General, in pursuance of the result arrived at in this day's conference, to issue the following instructions for the guidance of your administration in famine affairs.

2. His Excellency deems it unnecessary to criticise the action of the past; but he finds from recent returns that the numbers now on gratuitous relief are 213,710; that there are on works managed departmentally 22,975, and on works managed by civil agency 25,644. It appears very doubtful if any considerable proportion of the people employed on departmental works can be considered as "relief labourers" in the ordinary sense of the term, and the works under civil agency are petty works, which experience has shown to be but little suitable to famine operations, and to be specially difficult of supervision.

3. It is also manifest that, owing to the want of sufficient relief works, the relief camps or kitchens (as they are called) have become crowded to an extent incompatible, under existing organization, with proper discipline or control; that vast numbers are relieved at those places who are quite capable of working; that, in some of them, no nominal register is kept; that different scales of rations are in force in different kitchens, rendering the maintenance of the more economical standard a task of unnecessary difficulty, and that, altogether, there is a serious want of organized and systematic control over them.

4. The principles on which famine relief should be administered are laid down with sufficient distinctness in the Minute of his Excellency the Viceroy dated the 12th August, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, and Lord Lytton gladly acknowledges that the orders issued by you from time to time have been generally in accordance with these principles. It is only necessary that such orders should be more fully developed and acted on.

5. The Viceroy desires that the attention of your administration should be specially directed to the maintenance of a sufficient scheme of large works of public utility for the relief of the destitute population. The works should be managed as relief works, on the task work system, on relief wages, and under stringent tests, such as those in force in the Bombay Presidency, and to these works all persons capable of labour should be drafted both from relief camps and, hereafter, from petty works under civil agency. Petty works under civil agency should also be brought under the general supervision and control of the Public Works Department. The above-mentioned scheme must be the backbone of the relief system, all other forms of relief being subsidiary to it. The entire energy and strength of your Public Works Department, unhampered by the rules and restrictions which ordinarily regulate its employment of labour and expenditure of money, must be devoted to the object thus defined. This must be done at the expense, if necessary, of other works, which may have been sanctioned in the annual budget, but which may not be suitable for relief works. It is not absolutely essential that such works should be remunerative, nor even that they should be such as can be finished during the continuance of the famine; but preference should, of course, be given where possible to works coming under these two categories.

6. The Viceroy is not unaware that, in carrying out this duty, alien as it is to the every-day work of the Department of Public Works, much disturbance of the machinery must take place, involving some deterioration in the discipline of the regular coolies on the establishment, and in the efficiency of the departmental staff, of which Colonel Sankey is now justly proud. But in times of famine, as in war, all ordinary administration must give way to the one main object of the campaign; and the Viceroy cannot permit the convenience or even the efficiency (for ordinary purposes) of any single department to become an obstruction to what he deems the essence of a sound system of relief.

7. His Excellency regretted to find at the conference that Colonel Sankey, notwithstanding the previous explanation of the views of the Government of India, which the Viceroy had personally given to him, still failed to grasp this principle. Colonel Sankey was apparently not prepared to close any of his ordinary works or convert them into relief works, nor was he willing to divert any of his ordinary departmental staff from these works to the duty of controlling relief works. The scheme of works, moreover, submitted to the Viceroy, was insufficient in itself to receive the numbers which ought, as shown by your returns, to be drafted on to them, whilst at the same time it was mainly made up of petty works ill adapted to the concentration of control, and consequently to the discipline essential to the due execution of relief works.

8. Lord Lytton, therefore, in order to obviate any failure of the policy hereby entrusted to your execution, desires you to forego your budget scheme of public works during the present crisis. Those of the sanctioned works, which are adapted for relief purposes, should be carried on as relief works, and those that are not so adapted must be closed, the departmental establishment employed thereon being transferred to relief works properly so called. His Excellency looks with confidence to your co-operation in carrying out these instructions, which he has every reason to believe are not out of harmony with your own views.

9. All gratuitous relief should be as far as possible understood to be a temporary concession, subsidiary to the main object of getting people when in condition to labour on to the relief works or back to their ordinary avocations. At relief kitchens, *i.e.*, unenclosed feeding places, it is certain that neither can proper tests be applied nor can efficient discipline be maintained. It should be an object, therefore, to confine the gratuitous distribution of food to properly enclosed relief camps where the people may be kept under strict discipline and properly registered, and set to such light labour as they may be able to do. The efficient organization of these camps should receive early attention. It will be necessary to maintain them for some time to receive and support the starving helpless wanderers and infirm persons, with a view of getting them into condition to labour. But the ultimate object of these camps, as receiving places only for people hereafter to be drafted to works or to their ordinary occupations, should ever be kept in view.

It is essential that all relief camps, whether in Bangalore or elsewhere, which are kept up by Government money, should be placed under Government organization, so that one system of control and one scale of rations may be applied to all. The responsibility of Government in this matter cannot with propriety be delegated to an irresponsible committee.

The Viceroy learns that the people in relief kitchens have through long idleness become so demoralized that there will be much difficulty in keeping them on works. It will be necessary for your civil subordinates to give the assistance of the police (taking on if necessary extra men) to maintain discipline in the camps attached to the works. It will also be the duty of those in charge to prevent aimless and uncertain wandering, and to see that people do not leave the works without some security for their being able to support themselves in other ways.

10. Village relief is not given in Mysore. Should it become necessary to give village relief at all, it should be confined to resident villagers who are houseridden or otherwise unfitted for or incapable of labour, and should on no account be given in the shape of cash.

11. In order to assist you in the arduous task of introducing these changes, and of supervising the famine administration of Mysore generally, the Government of India have been pleased to place at your disposal as Famine Commissioner, Mr. C. A. Elliott, C.S., with Mr. Wingate, of the Bombay Civil Service, as your Additional Secretary in the Famine Department.

12. The Famine Commissioner will assist you in directing all famine operations in the provinces of Mysore and Coorg, and, subject to your approval on matters of importance or principle, will issue orders on your behalf through the Commissioners or through the ordinary official channel under the signature of the Famine Secretary. He should have authority when travelling in the interior to give instructions in your name to the local officers, in accordance with the policy of the Government of India and of the Chief Commissioner, such instructions being of course reported to you, and being likewise communicated to the Commissioners of Divisions. The Famine Commissioner should, moreover, have an opportunity of laying his views before you on all correspondence connected with famine matters that may come up to you for orders.

13. The Government of India have already caused to be placed at your disposal the services of five military officers to assist in supervising relief organization, and in addition

to this the Government will endeavour to procure such assistance in the Department of Public Works as may be necessary, and will also obtain the services of as many medical officers as may be necessary to supply the deficiencies of your staff in this respect.

Encl. in No. 239.

No. 224.

No. 822 (Famine), dated Bangalore, 8th September 1877.

From S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India, to the CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

In paragraph 9 of my letter No. 821 of this day's date I conveyed to you the instructions of his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General that all relief camps, whether in Bangalore or elsewhere which are supported from Government funds, should be placed under the responsible organization of Government officers.

2. I am to take this opportunity of requesting you to convey to the President and Members of the Relief Committee at Bangalore the sincere thanks of his Excellency the Viceroy for the gratuitous supervision they have hitherto bestowed on some of these camps. More especially does Lord Lytton desire to acknowledge publicly his obligations to Mr. J. D. Gordon, C.S.I., the President of the Committee, who ever since January last has, with unwearied self-devotion, and not without injury to his health, given up his scanty leisure to the difficult and depressing task of controlling these camps, and has continued the work in the face of overwhelming difficulties, caused by the ever increasing numbers of applicants, and the deepening severity of their destitution.

No. 225.

Telegram, dated Bangalore, 9th September 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Yours of 6th. With reference to latter portion I may say that system now established at Madras provides that only those capable of labour are sent to relief works; those who are weakly are kept apart and specially treated, others are tasked at first lightly until perfectly fitted for full work. Bombay people thus treated; experience shows they improve more rapidly than those left idle and demoralized in relief camps. Every attention will be paid to the important consideration enjoined by you.

Encl. in No. 239.

No. 226.

No. 5,788.—Genl. 154, dated Bangalore, 10th September 1877.

*No. 223.

Order.—Ordered that copies of the above letter* be communicated to the Commissioners of Divisions, Deputy Commissioners of Districts, the Deputy Surgeon General, Indian Medical Department, and all executive officers engaged in famine relief operations.

2. The Minute of his Excellency the Viceroy, dated the 12th August last, referred to in paragraph 4 of Mr. Bayley's Despatch, will be published in the supplement of the Mysore Gazette, and the attention of the executive officers of the Administration is directed to the principles therein laid down.

3. The object which the Government of India have in view in their present instructions is, it will be observed, to withdraw from the Government kitchens as large a number as possible of those who are now in the receipt of charitable relief, and to employ them on large public works of permanent usefulness under professional supervision.

4. The duties of Mr. C. A. Elliott, who has been appointed as Famine Commissioner in this province, are stated in paragraph 12 of Mr. Bayley's despatch under reference, and it is necessary only on this point for the Chief Commissioner to direct that all written, or in minor matters of detail, verbal instructions which may be given by that officer direct to the Deputy Commissioners should be promptly carried out. The Chief Commissioner relies on the hearty and loyal co-operation of the Division and District Commissioners in affording to the Famine Commissioner that support which will be needed for the successful accomplishment of his duties.

5. In future all correspondence immediately connected with the administration of famine measures will be conducted in a Special Famine Department to which Mr. A. Wingate, Bombay Civil Service, has been attached as secretary, and reports will be addressed to that officer as "Additional Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Famine Department."

No. 227.

Telegram, dated 11th September 1877.

From the GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Since my telegram 3rd, further seasonable improvement in situation in Bombay Presidency. More rain fallen Sind, Kattywar, Guzerat, Deccan, South Maratha Country, Concan. In some parts of Deccan rain extraordinarily favourable; Poona itself alone suffers protracted drought; good rain in neighbouring territory, Rajputana, Malwa, Hyderabad. Public anxiety much mitigated, but prices high, and severe distress continuing among some classes.

No. 228.

Telegram, dated September 13, 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to VICEROY.

I am very glad you have taken famine business into your own hands. It is far the most important business before you.

No. 229.

Revenue, No. 64.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 13th September 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 16th July, No. 29 of 1877, relative to the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and the Province of Mysore, has been considered by me in Council. No. 79.

2. The general prospect indicated in the Despatch is very gloomy, but recent accounts received by telegraph are more favourable, and I trust that all the affected districts will soon manifest improvement.

3. The discussion between Dr. Cornish and Dr. Lyon on the subject of famine wages, which is based to a considerable extent on theoretical grounds, does not demand remark from me. The local governments possess full discretion to adapt the wages given to the actual necessities of the people.

4. I approve of your orders to the Commissioner of Mysore for the abandonment of the practice of paying labourers on relief works once in 15 days; and for the early substitution of bi-weekly, and when distress is extreme of daily, payment.

5. Your Excellency has taken the wisest course in leaving the question of the reduction of the numbers in the relief camps to the discretion of the Government of Madras, and I have no doubt that the measures suggested in the resolution of the Government of Bombay, a copy of which has been transmitted to Madras, will receive the careful consideration of the Government of the latter Presidency.

6. I fully approve of the instructions issued to the Government of Madras for the publication, in the Government Gazette, of such information as may be procurable as to the details of stocks and of consumption at the various inland markets in the famine districts, and also for the publication of the weekly relief reports. Such information will be of the greatest value in guiding merchants in their conduct of the operations of trade.

7. I need hardly assure your Excellency in Council of the deep interest and sympathy with which I regard the exertions of your Government, and of the Governments of Madras and Bombay, to mitigate, as far as human foresight, judgment, and resolution can mitigate, the terrible and, it may be, increasing evils of the calamity before you.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 230.

Telegram, dated 14th September 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

12th September. Chief Commissioner, Mysore, issued Gazette Extraordinary containing Government orders on Mysore famine affairs as settled after conference with Chief Commissioner and inquiry on spot. Out of 260,000 relief recipients it is doubtful

if a single man of the nominal one tenth of the whole number hitherto supposed to be on properly arranged relief works is a *bonâ fide* relief labourer; about one twelfth are on Civil Agency works. Persons relieved gratuitously are under no sufficient order or control. Public Works Department in Mysore have persisted against orders in confining all the works at its disposal to able-bodied coolies employed under contract system, and in repudiating its duties on behalf of famine relief; orders are that system of large useful works be framed for employment, under ample safeguards, of all relief recipients capable of any work; public works budget programme to yield to pressing need just as in war. Undertakings not suitable for relief work must be suspended; as sufficient irrigation works not available in Bangalore district, earthworks of Mysore railway sanctioned as relief measure. Gratuitous relief to be temporary and subsidiary to works; as people able to labour are drafted to works, relief camps must be brought into order, inmates registered, disciplined, and kept indoors. One system and scale of food for all camps; volunteer committee managing Bangalore relief, 50,000 persons at Government expense, thanked, and business transferred to Government agency. Village relief not now given. If hereafter granted, to be restricted and not to be in cash.

Mr. C. A. Eliot appointed Famine Commissioner, to assist the Chief Commissioner and direct famine operations; he will inspect famine districts and give orders on spot. Mr. Wingate, a skilled Bombay famine officer, appointed temporary Famine Secretary to Chief Commissioner. Major Moncrieff, in whom I have much confidence, acts as Chief Engineer for Colonel Sankey, temporarily transferred to Simla. Additional engineering and medical staff being arranged for, also young military officers for relief supervision.

Encl. in No. 288.

No. 231.

Dated 14th September 1877.

From Doctors T. R. Lewis and D. D. Cunningham, Special Assistants to the Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India, to Dr. S. C. Townsend, Officiating Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the "extract" from paragraph 4 of a despatch from the Secretary of State to the Government of India, No. 53 (Revenue) dated 26th July 1877, intimating that the further report promised in a communication by one of ourselves to your office regarding the fever then prevalent in Bombay* would be awaited.

* Report by Dr. T. R. Lewis, dated Calcutta, 16th May 1877.

2. The proposal to submit this further report was in great measure made on the supposition that the statements then current regarding the wide distribution of a like fever in Madras were correct. Personal inquiry, however, made it evident that fevers, so far from being exceptionally severe, were decidedly in abeyance.† No opportunity was therefore afforded for instituting the suggested comparisons.

† Report by Dr. D. D. Cunningham, dated Calcutta, 18th June 1877.

3. We have however availed ourselves of the opportunities which the various hospitals and jails of Calcutta afford of carefully observing the forms of fever which have prevailed during this season, but as yet have not observed any which could be regarded as fairly comparable with those which were prevalent in Bombay during the earlier part of the year—the fevers here being for the most part manifestly "intermittents" and "continued."

4. Since our reports were written Surgeon-General Hunter, of Bombay," has submitted to the Local Government an exhaustive account of the leading features of the fever recently prevalent in that city, accompanied by numerous charts of temperature. This report corroborates the inferences which were made in the communication regarding this fever referred to in the despatch, viz., that—(*a*) in none of the cases in which the blood-spirillum had been observed "could the origin of the fever have been directly attributed "to want;" and that (*b*) the clinical history of the fever presented "no well-marked feature "which would be sufficient to distinguish it from the class of fevers usually referred to as "remittents" in this country. German authorities also state that the fever in which the blood-spirillum was originally found "manifested a distinctly remittent character."‡

5. With regard to the first cited of these conclusions we beg to draw special attention to the circumstances that it is in complete accordance with the experience hitherto acquired in connexion with the presence of spirilla in the blood. None of the observers who detected these organisms in Europe have in the remotest manner implied that their

‡ Geissler in Schmidt's Jahrbücher, 1875.

presence in the blood was associated with want; on the contrary, Geissler expressly states that the fever in which they occur (commonly referred to in Germany as recurrent typhus) is not a famine fever. Indeed it so happened that at the time of one of the epidemics the wages of the labouring classes were exceptionally high.*

No. 232.

Telegram, dated 16th September 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Season telegram, 4th to 14th. Madras, all districts save Coimbatore, Madura, Tinnevelly, good rain, averaging over 2 inches; much improvement to growing crops, pasture, and general prospects. Small harvests reaped, averaging nearly half ordinary yield. Prospects worse in Madura, Coimbatore, Salem, where all depends on October rains. Prices stationary and very dear.

On works, 773,094; on gratuitous, 1,513,555; grain importations by sea maintained at 3,600 tons daily; railway despatches by Raichore short.

Bombay improvement continues; favourable rain everywhere, save part of Poona, Nassik, and Ahmednagar. Autumn crops revived, and mostly saved; winter crops progressing; prices very dear; severe distress continues among poor.

On works, 280,727; on gratuitous, 158,733.

Mysore, showery weather everywhere, much good to crops; autumn millet lost in parts; distress very severe. On works, 52,000; on gratuitous, 227,000.

Hyderabad—heavy rain in Hyderabad, and worst district gauging seven inches; very great benefit. Berar prospects good.

Central India, good rain in Bundelkund; Malwa prospects fair.

No rain in Gwalior, whence migration southwards. General rain of previous week not continued. Rajputana, rain much needed in Ajmere and Eastern States, some showers; less cause for anxiety elsewhere. North-west, good rain in Fyzabad, Shahjehanpore, Humeerpore; elsewhere only partial showers. Prices rising; prospects bad; much autumn crop lost.

Punjaub, general but not sufficient rain, except in Multan, where floods. Unirrigated autumn crop failed generally; ploughing for spring crop proceeding; prices rising. Bengal, Burmah, Central Provinces, Assam, prospects favourable on whole.

No. 233.

Telegram, dated Ootacamund, 16th September 1877.

From VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Yours 7th. Altered prospects season render unnecessary 20 additional locomotives proposed for Madras Railway in my message of 5th. Please do not confirm arrangement begun thereon.

No. 234. Encl. in No. 239.

No. 846 (FAMINE).

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, Revenue Department.

Governor-General's Camp, Ootacamund,
dated the 16th September 1877.

A deputation of Wynaad planters waited upon the Viceroy yesterday and represented, among other things, that relief works were greatly needed in both Wynaads for the employment of the immigrant poor from Mysore. They said that tens of thousands of people, over and above the requirements of the coffee estates, had come and were coming into the Wynaad; and they feared that many of these poor immigrants must

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* "*Der Recurrens-typhus ist Kein Hunger-typhus Gerade die Tagelohnarbeiten waren damals gut bezahlt.*" Geissler, op-cit.

die and were dying before they could be deported back to Mysore and relieved there. The planters represented that, if relief road-work was opened, these people could earn wages; they offered to supervise the work and to arrange for the supply of grain.

2. The Viceroy and Governor-General, in his reply, expressed the opinion of the Government of India that relief works for the employment of the immigrant Mysore poor were required in Coorg and the Wynaad; and he intimated the willingness of the Government of India to defray a part of the cost of such relief works, provided the Madras Government could also contribute and the local planters would bear a share of the cost. It appeared that about 80 miles of district roads had been made, and that the object now was to lay gravel on as much as possible of this length. Metal was, it was said, easily obtainable; its collection, breaking, and stacking would form good relief labour.

3. It appears to his Excellency the Viceroy that the settlement of all details as to the manner and kind of relief work is entirely within the discretion of the Local Government. He understands from his Grace the Governor that the Madras Government is ready to sanction relief works in the Wynaad for Mysore immigrants, provided a part of the cost is contributed by the Government of India from the Mysore revenues or from elsewhere. Accordingly the Viceroy is pleased to direct that a grant of Rs. 30,000 be made by the Government of India to the Madras Government towards relief roads in the Wynaad, provided that at least a corresponding sum is contributed from Madras local and provincial resources; provided that the planters contribute a further sum in money or supervision or labour, or in all three, as the Local Government may decide; and provided that the whole sum now to be available for relief roads is expended between this time and the month of May 1878. The Government of Madras will take such steps as may seem fit for opening the relief roads and relieving the pressure on Mysore as soon as possible.

Encl. in No. 239.

No. 235.

MEMORANDUM by MR. C. A. ELLIOTT ON PROGRESS made from the 10th to the 19th September 1877.

Bangalore, 19th September 1877.

It was decided first of all to take in hand the worst and largest of the Bangalore kitchens—those at the Siledar Lines and the Petta. The former, which is an enclosed place, was first weeded of its able-bodied residents, and their places were filled by drafts of the worst cases relieved at the Petta kitchen. The able-bodied paupers were all put on the railway works close by. At first some difficulties were experienced owing to the great numbers which had to be dealt with and their want of discipline, the unpreparedness of the Public Works Department officers to receive such large additions, and the want of tools and overseers and establishment. By great labour and patience on the part of Mr. Wingate and Major Cole, to whom this duty was specially entrusted, these difficulties were successfully overcome, and we now have about 5,000 labourers on this work, all doing fair work, and brought into good order and system, paid in cash and able to house and feed themselves; and our kitchens are relieved to a more than corresponding extent of the crowds which thronged to them. A special officer has also been put in charge of the Binnamangala camp, and the conditions of residence and labour have been enforced there, and 1,000 people have been sent to work, and are paid in cash and struck off the kitchen rolls. One kitchen (that at Shúle) has been abolished. The following table shows how the Bangalore numbers stood on the 10th and the 19th September :—

	10th September.	19th September.
Petta	11,615	5,548
Siledar Lines	2,675	2,747
Shúle	1,709	—
Cleveland Town	4,159	2,247
Binnamangala	10,575	2,759
Total	30,733	13,301

2. The decrease is probably due to three causes—(1) the seasonable rain and the prospect of field employment in weeding, ploughing, &c.; this cause had already begun to operate in the week ending September 8th, and the numbers had fallen from their highest point; (2) the employment of about 6,000 people on public works, and the

dread of others, who had accepted food without being really in want, that they would be compelled to work; (3) the enforcement (though as yet only partial) of the rule of residence in the camp. A further cause has perhaps operated here, and will certainly operate when the outlying kitchens are taken in hand, viz., the stoppage of peculation under close supervision.

3. Besides the railway, the chief engineer has notified his readiness to receive about 18,000 people on 15 works in different districts, and his separate note attached to this memo. shows that by the 8th October he will have made arrangements for starting three other works, and will be able to employ 24,000 more. The district officers have been informed about the works which are ready to be started, and they are arranging for the transfer of labourers from their relief camps; but no facts are at present known as to what has been done up to date, except in the case of the road from Bangalore to Túmkúr through Nelamangala.

4. The Famine Commissioner has just visited this road and the Nelamangala relief camp and three others in the neighbourhood. The system of transferring the paupers from gratuitous relief in camps to works under the Public Works Department has been started here with such remarkable success that it deserves to be narrated with some particularity. The Nelamangala relief camp professed to have fed 2,653 persons on the 13th, 2,479 on the 14th, and 2,505 on the 15th. On the morning of the 17th he found about 1,700 people assembled to be fed. Of these he picked out 488 as able-bodied and sent them to the overseer in charge of the road. Of the rest he found only about 20 to be too infirm for work (besides about 200 in the hospital and convalescent ward) and he divided 956 into gangs, and apportioned light work to them. Of these more than half (487) were children whose parents sent them to be fed, but did not come themselves. On the morning of the 19th the overseer had all the 488 drafted from the kitchen on his work, besides a few more drafted on the 18th, and 279 more, volunteers from the neighbourhood; and he had many more applicants, but no tools for them. He had treated them kindly, tasked them with due consideration for their strength, and paid them punctually, and in consequence numbers were flocking to his work. The relief camp on the other hand presented a very changed appearance, and its capacious sheds looked all too wide for its shrunk numbers. Of the 956 people retained as fit for light labour, only about 360 remained; the rest had refused to submit to the conditions of residence and work. Possibly some of them will be unable to find subsistence in their homes, and the system of village inspection will be actively worked to prevent any undue distress arising from the stubbornness of the more impoverished. But the great majority of those who have gone home have done so because they could afford it, and because they preferred it to living in the relief camp under the altered conditions.

5. Similar inspections of three other large relief camps in the neighbourhood produced and are producing similar results. It is not too much to say that all of these were organized in such a way as to create the impression that the *raison d'etre* of the place was to provide for all comers one or two meals a day in the manner most agreeable to the applicants and least laborious to the distributors. No practical effort was made to get the people to work or to retain them in the camp, and when these conditions are enforced the numbers will greatly diminish. Large numbers also of Brahmans and other people of good caste have received rations of raw food without being in distress. To all of these employments suitable to their caste can be offered, to the men as overseers and gangsmen, to the women as rice cleaners and grinders, and their gratuitous rations will be stopped.

6. The Famine Commissioner and the chief engineer are satisfied that those officers were mistaken who believed that the kitchen paupers would refuse to go to public works or would not do a fair day's work on them. On the contrary they believe that the opening of these works will be a real blessing to the famine-stricken population, and that when once they are convinced that the work is lasting and is fairly paid for they will flock to them in large numbers, leaving the relief camps almost empty.

7. During the 10 days since September 10th some important orders have been issued which may be recapitulated here. A circular has been issued prescribing a uniform ration of cooked food for all occupants of relief camps, as well as rates of pay for labourers on public and on civil relief works, accompanied with a sliding scale so as to provide for each labourer's receiving $1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs. of food, with a small sum for condiments—nine pies per man on works where the heavier task is performed, and three pies where the lighter. Instructions have been issued (after consultation with the district officers) for closing nine relief kitchens in the Bangalore District, two in Kolar, and 19 in the two districts of the Ashtagram Division; those kitchens being chosen which are not at

Taluk headquarters, and which are near enough to other relief camps for the sick and infirm to be transported. A plan has been sketched out for a house-to-house visitation of Bangalore itself, and for the provision of employment for needy artizans by supplying them with materials for their own profession. Orders have been issued to wind up the small civil relief works, finishing off at once those which it would be unwise to leave incomplete and stopping the rest, and to make preparation for starting other and larger civil relief works—the minimum being fixed at 300 people for one month, to supplement where necessary the works undertaken by the Public Works Department; but these are only to be used as safety-valves for labour in cases of emergency. A code is also being prepared for distribution to district and relief officers, laying down the main rules which it is conceived will be found necessary for the establishment of a sound and uniform system.

Encl. in No. 239.

No. 236.

NOTE BY MAJOR C. S. MONCRIEFF, R.E., Chief Engineer.

19th September 1877.

It is rather soon to report any very marked results from the change made last week in the Public Works Administration of Mysore, but the following measures have been taken which it is hoped will soon begin to bear fruit.

2. The first thing was to issue orders that famine relief was to be the main duty of the Public Works Department, that all budget assignments for works in progress were cancelled, and that whether any particular work was to go on or not was to depend on whether or not it was fitted for famine relief. The limit was fixed that each single work should give employment to at least 1,000 unskilled labourers for at least three months. The system of petty contracts was ordered to cease, so that no labourer should get more than a subsistence however strong, nor less than a subsistence however weak, a task at the same time being required from each. Superintending engineers were directed to send in at once list of works that might be taken up for relief, and to consider where new works could be begun.

3. Earnest efforts have been made to empty the kitchens of Bangalore and to transfer the inmates to the new railway. Contiguous to this work is the site of the proposed Agrahara tank embankment. These have both been laid out, and day after day an increased number of labourers are employed. To-morrow there will be about 5,000 on these works, and a week hence there should be as many more.

4. In the Bangalore district arrangements are making for beginning work at once on the Hoskote and Bhadram tanks, where 2,000 might be employed in a week and 4,000 a few days after. Work has begun on the repairs of the road to Túmkúr, and 800 labourers will find work there for the next three months. In a few days 1,000 labourers will be employed on the repairs of the Mysore road. On the Bangalore-Bellary and Yelhanka-Ballapur roads 2,000 labourers will find employment.

5. In Kolar arrangements are being made to receive at once 4,200 people on four tanks.

6. In the Túmkúr District work has begun on the Shimoga road, and 1,400 labourers will be employed for three months. On the Bellary road work will be started in a few days for 1,000 labourers.

7. In the Chitaldroog District the Public Works Officers have been ordered to take over a large tank work at Timmanhilla, lately started by the civil officers. No exact details have been received about this yet, but it is believed that about 3,000 can be employed on it.

8. In the Kadur District, an irrigation channel is being laid out at Keresanté, and the Executive Engineer will be prepared to take on 1,000 labourers by 1st October and 2,000 more a few days after. By the same date work will be ready in that neighbourhood for 1,000 labourers on a new road. Later on their numbers will be increased.

9. In a fortnight work can be given on the Mandigere Channels in the Hassan District, and there too the numbers may be increased in a few days, while the Annaiyanakatte tank works in the same taluk will be put in hand whenever required.

10. On the Mysore waterworks about 2,000 labourers have been employed up to now. The Executive Engineer has orders to convert this into a relief work, and to prepare for 3,000. The Ane Irrigation Channel near Maddur will be started at once with 1,000 labourers, and more can be received, if required.

11. To sum up, relief works have been begun and will expand, day by day, until by the beginning of October there should be 32,400 employed as below :—

In Bangalore District	- - - -	15,800
„ Kolar „	- - - -	4,200
„ Túmkúr „	- - - -	2,400
„ Chitaldroog „	- - - -	3,000
„ Kadur „	- - - -	2,000
„ Hassan „	- - - -	1,000
„ Mysore „	- - - -	4,000
	Total -	32,400

Should the demand arise this number can be increased a week later to 42,000. Nor is the list exhausted. The postal service in Mysore is not very rapid, and reports are coming in daily from executive engineers of new works suitable for poor relief.

12. In the western districts, Shimoga, Hassan, and Kadur, abundant work can be found on the Malnád roads, but the country is said to be so feverish just now that it would not be judicious to send weakly gangs there until the close of the N.E. monsoon, *i.e.*, the 1st November. Nor is the distress very severe in those tracts.

13. The Túmkúr District is suffering severely, and the Public Works Department can as yet suggest no large work to employ the people. Search is being made for suitable tank sites; should that fail it may be necessary to move the population to the banks of the Cauvery in the Mysore District, where most useful irrigation channels can at once be put in hand, extensive enough to employ from 10 to 15,000 people.

14. The heavy rain of the last fortnight will now greatly reduce the number of poor in the kitchens. But in case further labour should still be required, the Mysore railway can be started for 12 miles beyond Bangalore, giving a large field for labour.

No. 237.

Encl. in No. 289.

No. 856, dated Bangalore, 20th September 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 2619, dated 31st August, forwarding a statement in which the Revenue Board show approximately the demand, collections, remissions, and balances of land revenue of the year 1876–77 as compared with the three previous years.

2. The Viceroy and Governor-General gathers from this statement the following main facts :—

	Lakhs.
(*a.*) The land revenue current demand for the year 1876–77 was only - - - - - - -	355
Compared with an average current demand of the three previous years of - - - - - -	449
(*b.*) The total collections current and arrears for the year 1876–77 was only - - - - - - -	278
Compared with a previous average of - - -	449
(*c.*) The actual remissions of the year 1876–77 are only - - on account of the arrear demand, no remissions having yet been granted on the current demand.	3
(*d.*) The balances of the year 1876–77 are - - - - -	130
Compared with a previous average of - - -	60

3. It thus appears that the deficiency in the year's* land revenue collections amount to 449 minus 278 lakhs, that is to 171 lakhs. This total is considerably in excess of previous estimates. If more than 45 lakhs out of the outstanding balance of 130 lakhs should be collected hereafter, then the deficiency on the year will be proportionately reduced. But if the arrear collections of the present year fall short of 45 lakhs, then the deficiency of the year 1876–77 will practically be increased above the total of 171 lakhs.

* July, 1876 to June 1877, inclusive.

4. The partial failure of the south-west monsoon of 1877 has made the collection of arrears more difficult, and may in some cases necessitate a reduction of the current year's demand below the average of previous years. His Excellency the Viceroy has confidence that the Government of Madras will not permit sacrifice of revenue, either by reduction of the demand or by remissions, beyond what is absolutely necessary. But he desires to invite the attention of his Grace the Governor in Council to the extreme gravity of the losses which the public treasury has, according to these papers, to bear.

No. 238.

Revenue No. 65.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 20th September 1877.

No. 103. Para. 1. The despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 30th July, No. 31 of 1877, on the subject of the famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, the territory of His Highness the Nizam, and the province of Mysore, has been considered by me in Council.

2. The Despatch gives a very clear statement of the situation throughout India on the date on which it was written. It also submits some useful information both as to the probable requirements of the famine districts of Madras, Bombay, and Mysore, and as to the stocks of grain in other parts available for exportation.

3. I fully approve of the intimation which your Excellency in Council has made by telegraph to the Governor of the Straits Settlements as to the importance of encouraging importation of rice into India, and, through the Straits Government, to the Governor General of Cochin China, and the King of Siam, on the same subject.

4. I shall await with interest a detailed account of the arrangements which your Excellency in Council has under consideration for securing a more united action between the several railway companies for the facilitation of the transport of grain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 239.

No. 35 of 1877.

From the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, Famine, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Bangalore, the 20th September 1877.

In my last letter, dated 5th September, I informed your Lordship that it was my intention to proceed to Bangalore for the purpose of taking, in communication with the Chief Commissioner, such steps as might then, after adequate inquiry, appear to me necessary to improve the Famine Administration of the Mysore Province.

2. From my minute of 12th August, and from our regular despatches, it will have become known to your Lordship that the state of affairs in this province has long been a source of grave anxiety to the Government of India; and I had, in anticipation of my visit, despatched from Poona two selected officers, Mr. C. A. Elliott and Major Scott Moncrieff, to study the actual condition of the famine administration in Mysore, with a view to the eventual employment of these officers, under the Chief Commissioner, in the introduction of an improved system.

3. I regret to inform your Lordship that from the statement laid before me by these gentlemen, and from the communications I have now held with the chief civil officers of the province, as also from what I myself saw at Bangalore, I was forced to the conclusion that matters were even worse than I had anticipated; that the provision of proper relief works had been entirely neglected; that gratuitous relief, which had increased to an inordinate extent, had been administered in a lax and unsystematic manner; that crime had greatly increased; that people were wandering from Mysore into other districts in vast numbers; and that the mortality both in hospitals and among the wanderers was terrible.

4. The annexed statement will show your Lordship how the numbers relieved, respectively on works and under the system of gratuitous relief, have varied during the

past six months; and how utterly disproportionate is the former to the latter class. But even this statement does not adequately represent the whole evil. I found while at Bangalore that the people employed on works under the organization of the Department of Public Works were not, properly speaking, relief labourers at all. The works were not special relief works, but were those sanctioned in the ordinary way under the annual budget allotment; and the labourers employed on them were the ordinary able-bodied coolies, paid by piece work, and engaged by the ordinary petty contractors of the Department. That these works kept a number of the labourers so employed from the necessity of applying for relief cannot be doubted, but in no other sense can they be called relief works, and the system under which they were employed had been already emphatically condemned by the Government of India in its communications with the Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

	On Works under D. P. W.	On Works under Civil Agency.	Gratuitously relieved.	Total.
March - - - -	31,081	41,735	43,592	1,16,408
April - - - -	31,495	29,740	74,569	1,35,804
May - - - -	32,499	30,011	1,03,392	1,65,902
June - - - -	26,807	28,066	1,14,109	1,68,982
July - - - -	20,777	26,325	1,44,861	1,91,963
August - - - -	22,644	25,981	1,99,375	2,48,000

5. I was anxious to introduce an improved system of management without any undue interference with the ordinary administration of the country, and I found that the Chief Commissioner was fully prepared to accept and carry out my views. Mr. Saunders had, in fact, previously issued instructions in accordance with the general policy of the Government of India; and these instructions, had they been obeyed, would probably have ensured the timely introduction of a proper system of relief works in Mysore.

6. His chief engineer, however, had objected to the employment of the Public Works establishment otherwise than on the ordinary contract system, and had omitted to provide any special works for relief purposes. Even on the brief extension of the Bangalore Railway, which had already been sanctioned by the Government of India, the Department had declined to employ more than 300 out of the thousands who were ready to labour, and whom the civil officers were anxious to draft from gratuitous relief to works.

7. Colonel Sankey, the chief engineer, is an officer of much experience in Mysore, and has the reputation of being a very able engineer. He has under him an unusually strong departmental staff in proportion to the size of the Province; and I had hoped that he would prove a valuable assistant in carrying out my policy of making large relief works, under departmental supervision, the backbone of the whole relief system. I accordingly explained my views to him at some length, first in a private interview, and afterwards at the conference which I held with the Chief Commissioner and other officers.

8. To my regret Colonel Sankey persisted in objecting to the employment of his departmental organization for the supervision of real relief works; he brought forward a scheme of works which were, he said, ready to be put in hand; but these, when examined, proved insufficient to give employment to more than one half the requisite number; and even for this instalment, Colonel Sankey repeated his unwillingness to employ any of his regular staff, or to divert them from the ordinary sanctioned works. Those works opened for relief purposes he proposed to start with only such additional assistance as the Government of India might be able to afford him from other provinces.

9. It thus became clear to me that to entrust Colonel Sankey with the execution of our famine policy was to ensure the failure of it. It will, in any circumstances, be a matter of great difficulty to withdraw people from the loose, undisciplined, idle life of relief kitchens (where they are fed gratuitously, and having got their meal may employ the rest of their time as they think best) to the strictly enforced tasks and regular discipline of properly supervised public works; and I felt that I could not justly, or with due regard to the interests of the public, rely upon the exertions of Colonel Sankey for the successful prosecution of a policy which he seemed unable to accept in principle and unwilling to adopt in practice. I therefore took advantage of a wish expressed by Sir Andrew Clarke for the temporary assistance of a deputy secretary during the pressure caused by famine work in the Central Office of the Department Public Works, and Colonel Sankey has been appointed to this duty. I have transferred Major Scott Mon-

crieff, R.E., to the temporary chief engineership of the Province, and I am quite satisfied to leave in his hands the execution of the Government policy.

No. 223. 10. The other arrangements which I have made for improving the famine administration of Mysore will be found in the letter (No. 821, of 8th September) from my Additional Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, which forms Enclosure No. 1 to this letter.

11. In addition to the main object of providing sufficient relief works on a proper system for the destitute poor I directed the Chief Commissioner's attention to the necessity of re-organising his relief kitchens, and maintaining them as enclosed camps under proper discipline and control. I ordered that those in Bangalore which are supported from Government funds, and which had quite out-grown the supervision of the volunteer committee by whom they had hitherto been administered, should now be placed under the responsible control of Government officers, and to assist the Chief Commissioner in carrying out these instructions I placed at his disposal the services of Mr. C. A. Elliott as Famine Commissioner, and of Mr. Wingate, of the Bombay Service, as Additional Secretary. Both these officers have been carefully selected on account of their special qualifications. In the lower grades I have strengthened the hands of the Chief Commissioner by appointing five military officers to assist in relief works, and by obtaining for him the services of the additional medical engineering staff entered on the margin.

34 medical subordinates in addition to the 14 previously sent.
2 executive engineers.
7 assistant engineers.
6 subordinates.

12. I have determined, after consulting Mr. Molesworth, as well as the most experienced local officers, to sanction the commencement of the earthwork of the Bangalore and Mysore Railway as a famine work. It is specially suitable for this purpose from its situation, the line of country through which it passes, and the facilities it affords for supervision. When considering the scheme for Mysore relief works I bore in mind the despatches regarding the Mysore Railway, which conveyed your Lordship's instructions that the Mysore savings should be spent on irrigation works rather than on the railway; and I only sanctioned the railway earthwork, when it had become quite clear to me that sufficient irrigation works were not ready in and near the Bangalore District, where 90,000 people are receiving relief. In estimating the necessity and probable effect of this measure it may be well to remember the character of the irrigation works in Central and Northern Mysore; they are all rain-fed tanks, and their waters fail in a season of drought, so that the Mysore Railway is perhaps a more effective work of famine-protection than the ordinary irrigation works of the country. The railway work will be begun in two principal sections, the length which will be put in hand in the first instance being 46 miles, 36 miles at the Bangalore end of the line, and 10 at the Mysore end. The intervening space will be put in hand, if necessary, as soon as some questions concerning its alignment have been re-considered.

13. I explained in my letter No. 33 of 5th September to your Lordship (para. 29) the circumstances under which the Government of India had consented to sanction a loan to the Mysore Government of 50 lakhs of rupees. Finding on my arrival at Bangalore that the Chief Commissioner was much pressed for funds, and that the balance of his invested surplus (9 lakhs) could only be sold out, at the present moment, at a sacrifice of from 8 to 10 per cent. discount, I sanctioned his drawing at once on the Madras treasury (which I had ascertained to be amply supplied) for a first instalment of 10 lakhs on account of the loan, postponing the sale of his invested surplus till a more favourable opportunity.

14. I could wish that the Mysore administration had been able to show some useful works for the many lakhs which have already gone in famine relief; but, as it is, I doubt not that but for this expenditure the loss of life, severe though it be, would have been indefinitely multiplied. I trust that the arrangements I have now made will be instrumental not only in saving many lives, but also in giving to the Mysore State some useful return for the vast sums which must still inevitably be expended by it in order to preserve the social and material sources of its future agricultural prosperity.

15. Before leaving Bangalore I determined, in consultation with my colleague, Sir A. Arbuthnot, to take into my own hands the administration of the Famine Department of the Government of India. This arrangement was proposed to me by Sir A. Arbuthnot as the natural corollary of the changes, which the Duke of Buckingham had adopted in the Madras administration; but the proposal commended itself for various reasons to my judgment. The paramount importance of famine administration at the present time has obliged me in practice to give to the details of it the closest and most constant personal supervision; it therefore seemed desirable on public grounds that I should openly and definitely acknowledge the responsibility I have virtually undertaken for the

success or failure of the policy I have laid down, and am endeavouring to enforce, in the conduct of relief operations. The arrangement tends also to a speedier disposal of business, and diminishes the frequeney of references.

16. Sir A. Arbuthnot on receiving my assent to the above-mentioned proposal, returned, at his own request, to Simla, where his presence was much needed in consequence of the illness of Sir J. Strachey, who had during Sir Alexander's absence taken charge of the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

17. I left Bangalore on the evening of Sunday the 9th instant, and halted the following morning for a few hours at Coimbatore where, in company with the Collector, Mr. Wedderburn, I inspected the relief camps, work, and hospital. The condition of these institutions does not differ materially from those I had inspected at Bellary and Madras. There was a large proportion of people gratuitously maintained who were perfectly competent to labour, but for whom no work was found; the scale of diet was high, and for some classes unnecessarily luxurious. The rainfall of the district is always small (10 to 12 inches), and this year is no exception to the rule. The state of the crops, however, near the town of Coimbatore was fair, as irrigation was available, but in the interior of the district the early autumn crops have failed.

18. I continued my journey the same day to Coonoor, a European settlement on the edge of the Neilgherry hills; and on the 11th I proceeded to Ootacamund. At each of these places I was waited on by deputations who urged the wants of their respective municipalities, and both of them laid special stress on the necessity of a railway, on the Rigi mountain principle, to the Hills; for which a guarantee of 4 per cent. on the outlay was demanded. I informed the above-mentioned deputations that whenever the Madras Government are prepared to forward to the Supreme Government a practical scheme for the construction of such a railroad, it will receive my earnest consideration, but that in the meantime I was unable to give any definite expression to the view which might ultimately be taken of it by the Government of India. I received at Ootacamund a deputation from the coffee planters of the Wynad, whose address dealt with various subjects now under the consideration of the Madras Government, but who also made some special requests, which I may properly bring to your Lordship's notice. The most pressing of these was in regard to wanderers from Mysore seeking employment in the Wynad. The coffee estates in the Wynad habitually give employment to large numbers of labourers from Mysore; but this year in consequence of the famine the numbers thus seeking employment are infinitely in excess of the labour requirements of the estates. Numbers of these wanderers, too, arrive in a weak and emaciated condition which renders them utterly unfit for labour. Many of these, as soon as they are fit to travel, are deported back to Mysore by the Madras Government; but several of them, it is feared, die, and others linger on, fed either by private charity or in relief houses. The Planters' Association urged the expediency of starting relief works for these people in the shape of preparing and collecting metal for 80 miles of road, already made, and they offer to contribute in money and supervision. After personally consulting his Grace the Duke of Buckingham I came to the conclusion that their request was a reasonable one; and I determined to grant a sum of Rs. 30,000, to be recovered ultimately from the Mysore State, as a contribution to the estimated expenditure, on condition that the Madras Government and the Planters' Association provided the rest. I have left the details in the hands of the Madras Government, and my Secretary's communication (No. 846, dated the 16th instant) to that Government forms Enclosure No. 2 to this letter. No. 234.

19. The other requests submitted to me by the Wynad planters were for the unifaction of the coffee districts under one administrative head, and for the simplification of extradition between Mysore and British territory. The first question involves the transfer to the Madras Government of the Coorg District which is now administered by the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, and it cannot, therefore, be settled till it has been discussed with both authorities. The latter is a simpler matter; and, as there is no reason whatever why Mysore, while it is under British administration, should not be treated in respect to the service of the processes of our courts precisely as if it were British territory, I propose to communicate my wishes on this subject to the Chief Commissioner without delay.

20. I left Ootacamund early on the morning of the 16th September and reached Mysore late in the evening of the 17th, after inspecting some large cinchona and coffee plantations on my way thither. A considerable portion of the Madras territory through which I then passed is largely auriferous, and I was informed by an experienced expert, who has for two years been investigating its mineral resources, that neither in California nor in Australia, all parts of which he had previously visited, do there exist gold deposits

more capable of being remuneratively worked. This statement appears to me an important one, and I may perhaps take an early occasion of addressing to your Lordship a special communication on the subject of it. Meanwhile I may mention that silver is also found, as well as considerable quantities of small diamonds, in the Wynad.

21. The political incidents of my visit to Mysore will be recorded in a separate letter, but in this I desire to report what I learnt of the condition of Coorg in relation to the famine-stricken immigrants from Mysore.

22. The coffee planters of Coorg, like those of the Wynad, are mainly dependent on Mysore for their labour supply, and, as in the Wynad, multitudes of immigrants unable to find work, or unfit to work, are to be found in Coorg in a state of extreme destitution, and the mortality among them has been very grievous indeed. A memorial purporting to come from the Planters' Association at Coorg was submitted to my Private Secretary for presentation to me, but, as it was not presented through the local authorities, and in fact had been refused by them, I declined to accept it formally as a memorial, but expressed my willingness to receive the two gentlemen who had come as a deputation to present it, and to hear all they had to urge.

23. These two* gentlemen accordingly waited on me on the 18th, the Chief Commissioner of Mysore and the Superintendent of Coorg being present at the interview.

* Rev. A. Fennel. Mr. Hunt.

They dwelt specially in the conversation that ensued on the great mortality among the wanderers from Mysore, a mortality which had they asserted been greatly underestimated by the local authorities; they complained that no relief works had been established, and said that the planters were through poverty unable to support the starving wanderers. Many of their assertions were traversed by the local officers, but it was clear that, as a matter of fact, relief works had not been established in Coorg, and that there was urgent necessity for them. I learnt that while roads were numerous in the province a considerable portion of them require to be metalled, and that one or two good roads, the need of which is admitted, still remain to be made. Finally I offered to grant either from Mysore or from imperial revenues a sum of Rs. 50,000 if the planters would consent to contribute one third of that amount either in money or supervision. Finding however that the two gentlemen forming the deputation had no authority to accept such an offer, and that they did not actually represent the whole body of planters, I undertook to depute either the Famine Commissioner, Mr. Elliott, or Major Scott Moncrieff to visit Mercara, and to ascertain personally what the actual wishes of the planters are, and what may best be done with their co-operation in the way of starting relief works.

24. I am greatly pleased to be able to inform your Lordship that, on returning to Bangalore (which I reached last night), I found most satisfactory evidence of the beneficial results of the system of relief operations, which I had established before leaving this town on the 9th current. These results are recorded in a most interesting memorandum by Mr. Elliott, which forms Enclosure No. 3 to the present letter. Your Lordship will perceive from this very suggestive paper that uniform rates of wage on relief works and rates of food ration in relief camps have been laid down; that orders have issued for closing superfluous and unsupervised relief kitchens, the really necessitous recipients of relief being brought into well supervised relief camps; that petty relief works under civil officers are being wound up and closed; that in and around Bangalore town one relief kitchen has been closed, while from the other kitchens persons capable of labour are being drafted to relief works, that already 5,000 have been so drafted and are doing good work on the railway bank instead of being fed in idleness at the kitchens; that the relief recipients who cannot labour are being kept inside the camps and tended until they recover, in-door being thus substituted for out-door gratuitous relief; that relief employment of a kind suitable to destitute artizans and higher caste people is being arranged in Bangalore town, and that partly in consequence of these measures, and partly in consequence of the favourable change in the season the number of inmates in the Bangalore kitchens has fallen from 30,733 to 13,301. Great care is taken by the officers in charge to treat specially persons who come on the works in an enfeebled state of body.

Nos. 235–6.

25. On the 16th I despatched to your Lordship a telegram reporting on the state and prospects of the season. On the 22nd I shall send from Poona a further telegraphic report. I am glad to say that over the whole of Southern India prospects have continued to improve; rain has fallen everywhere except in parts of the Madura District and a small tract round Poona. The numbers receiving relief in the Madras Districts have begun to decrease by reason of people going away to their fields, but it is not yet certain that the reduction in numbers will be permanent. Prices are somewhat cheaper both in Bombay and Madras; but prices in the interior have fallen but little

and are still very dear; and the pressure on the poorer classes is still very severe. Even under the most favourable circumstances the pressure cannot greatly abate until the middle of November, by which time the prospects of the great winter food crops will be ascertained. The condition of the North-West Provinces and Oudh is still very critical, no sufficient rain has fallen in the Agra, Rohilkund, or Meerut Division, or over a great part of Oudh. And there is still cause for much anxiety abont the States of Gwalior, Meywar, and of North-eastern Rajputana. The chiefships of Kattywar and the Baroda country are happily out of danger for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.

No. 240.

Encl. in No. 253.

No. 2,810, dated Fort St. George, the 20th September 1877.

From J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government of Madras, Revenue Department, to S. C. BAYLEY, Esq., C.S.I., Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

In continuation of my letter of the 3rd September 1877, No. 2,630-B., I am directed to forward, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the accompanying copies of a letter from the Secretary to the General Committee of the Madras Famine Relief Fund, and its enclosures, setting forth the objects on which, and the agency through which, it is proposed to expend the funds raised by public subscription in aid of sufferers by the present famine. No. 210.

2. It will be seen from page 4 of Enclosure A. to Mr. Digby's letter that the General Committee propose to expend the money placed at their disposal in the following manner:—

(1.) In aiding by contributions local committees for the relief of the necessitous poor not reached by Government.
(2.) In giving contributions towards the taking care of destitute children and the like.
(3.) In providing clothes for destitute women and children.
(4.) In making allotments towards any special object which seem to come within the scope and ability of the fund.

And as further information is received, the Committee hope the objects on which they propose to spend the money will be more specifically defined.

(5.) The agency on which the Committee largely rely is that of missionaries, but they had apparently hoped that the officers of Government would have greatly assisted them also, and they earnestly beg that they may be allowed to do so.
(6.) On this point I am directed to solicit the early orders of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council.

No. 241.

Encl. in No. 253.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, No. 2,810, dated 20th September 1877.

Read the following paper:—

From W. DIGBY, Esq., Honorary Secretary, General Famine Relief Fund, to J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Additional Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George.

In reply to your letter of 18th instant, in continuation of office docket No. 2,630 A., dated 3rd September instant, and the reply of the General Famine Relief Committee thereto, I am instructed by the Committee to submit the accompanying papers, marked A.,* which indicates the objects on which the Committee propose the relief funds should be at present expended.

As information which the Committee have taken active steps to procure is received, their operations will be more definitely directed and widely extended; and at the same time will be capable of more distinct definition; attention is particularly drawn to the resolution recorded at page 4 of Enclosure A.

2. The allotments that have already been made in pursuance of the abovesaid objects are stated at page 7 of Enclosure A. The Committee regret that much more has not

* These were not forwarded from India.

been done, but difficulties over which they had no control have impeded their operations; these will be alluded to farther on.

3. The circulars already issued by the Committee, requesting collectors and other influential officers to aid by forming local committees, have elicited little response. The General Committee have accordingly resolved to send deputations in the persons of the Rev. Dr. Strachan and F. Rowlandson, Esq., to assist present efforts and arrange for further operations. A copy of the instructions given these gentlemen (who are proceeding forthwith to the distressed districts), marked B., herewith enclosed, will explain the Committee's intentions in employing them. It may be observed that missionary agency and co-operation is very largely relied upon.

4. Special difficulties in promptly utilizing the Famine Relief Funds have been alluded to above. These have arisen from the impression produced by what appeared in the public prints with respect to the suspension of public meetings, and by the official correspondence recorded in the "Gazette of India Extraordinary," dated 31st August, and the action that was taken thereon. It is obvious that officials generally have felt themselves debarred from co-operating in the objects of the Committee.

5. I am therefore to express the earnest hope of the Committee that Government will be pleased to inform its officers that it is the desire of Government that public servants of all grades should give all the assistance they can render, without detriment to their official duties, to the formation of local committees, and generally to promote the objects which the Famine Relief Committee, and subscribers to the Famine Relief Fund, have in view. The Committee respectfully suggest that a Gazette announcement to this effect be published forthwith.

B.

INSTRUCTIONS.

To organise, as far as possible, local committees in different parts of the various distressed districts to be in direct communication with the General Relief Committee at Madras for the distribution of Famine Funds.

2. Also to organise special agencies where local committees cannot be formed or sub-agencies are likely to be more efficient.

3. The fund is designed to relieve the necessitous poor whom Government cannot, or do not, reach, and care is necessary to avoid even indirect interference with Government operations.

4. Under the above designation may be included those who are not ordinarily reckoned "poor," but who are rendered dependent by the present distress.

5. While Government operations have for their object the salvation of life, the funds may be legitimately applied to the mitigation of intense suffering.

6. Whatever agency may be employed, proceedings to be reported and accounts rendered by that agency to the General Committee.

7. The General Committee will be prepared to make pecuniary provision, if necessary (within reasonable limits), for preparing local accounts.

8. It is important to impress upon those who are invited to give their services that the object is not to collect funds, but to secure promptitude, economy, and efficiency in dispensing the funds placed at the General Committee's disposal.

9. The deputations to keep the General Committee informed of the local arrangements made.

10. These points are noticed to indicate generally the Committee's wishes, but they leave the deputations a wide discretion and rely on their making the best arrangements which the circumstances in each locality admit of within the scope of the funds, and the general principles above enunciated.

11. The Committee look to the deputations for practical suggestions for the more efficient and prompt distribution of the funds, and the object to which they, as the local committee, desire to apply them.

No. 242.

Telegram, dated Poonah, 22nd September 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Referring to Simla financial telegram of 14th, I have now following figures regarding famine expenditure in Madras:—

Actuals to end of August 409 lacs; estimate for September 60 lacs; October to March 150 lacs; total 619 lacs. Short revenue receipts to end of August 200 lacs;

estimate of further loss not received. I take additional 80 lacs; total for Madras 900 lacs.

Bombay total estimate 200 lacs. Mysore and Hyderabad expenditure and deficient revenue 100 lacs a-piece. Grand total 11 crores for British India and two crores for feudatories.

Madras estimate will be largely exceeded if north-east monsoon fails, or if further delay occurs in executing orders of 31st August; delay of three weeks allowed by Madras has caused much unnecessary expenditure.

No. 243.

Telegram, dated Poonah, 22nd September 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Before leaving Madras Presidency I had interview with the Duke, and approved draft instructions which he will issue to give effect to policy agreed on between us. Delay, however, has been most detrimental both to population and finances. During past fortnight good rain has everywhere put people in heart and provided work in fields, affording admirable opportunity for weeding relief camps, but three weeks were wasted before issuing instructions. The Duke's orders provide for drafting destitute persons who are capable of labour on to works. Every precaution has been taken to prevent loss of life in effecting this, and to prevent overtasking feeble persons on works. Effect has already been given to similar orders, dated one week later, in Mysore, with admirable results.

Separate telegram on Mysore affairs despatched to-day. Prospects in both Madras and Mysore much improved.

No. 244.

Telegram, dated 22nd September 1877.

From SECRETARY OF STATE to GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Following for your information.

A merchant reports Native merchants have arranged for delivery of rice at Tuticorin, Madras, and Negapatam before 15th October or after 30th November to prevent recurrence of loss from rains, thus leaving ports in question without supplies for six weeks. He suggests Government should pay compensation at market value for rice destroyed, upon importers proving that warehouse accommodation is insufficient.

No. 245.

Telegram, dated 22nd September 1877.

From VICEROY, Poona, to SECRETARY OF STATE.

My letter 20th September gives your Lordship full details of my orders regarding famine administration in Mysore; immediate effect given to those orders, with following results:—

Uniform rates of wage on relief works and uniform scales of rations for relief camps have been laid down; relief kitchens are being closed or converted into organised and disciplined camps. In Bangalore 5,000 persons drafted from gratuitous relief to work on railways; in Bangalore town, numbers in relief kitchens have fallen from 30,000 to 13,000. Neighbouring district Kolar, in three relief kitchens, numbers fallen from 6,500 to 1,450; of these, 1,600 gone to works, rest to fields, because recent rain renders cultivation possible. Great care taken to prevent loss of life in carrying out these steps, feeble persons treated specially; overtasking avoided.

No. 246.

No. 36 of 1877.

From GOVERNOR-GENERAL, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, Famine, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Governor-General's Camp, Poona,
22nd September 1877.

In paragraph 3 of your Lordship's despatch, No. 62, dated 9th August, is expressed approval of the orders issued by us, enjoining publicity in rare cases, where district officers find it necessary to purchase grain for the supply of any landlocked foodless tract. And the same paragraph counsels vigilance in watching the operation of our orders restricting the purchase of grain.

The words of this paragraph were telegraphed to me by your Lordship on the 10th August and we submitted by telegraph the reply given in the margin. Since the despatch of that telegram my minute, dated the 12th August, has given (paragraph 18) a general statement of the principles which should guide the Government of India when any question arises of importing grain on Government account. That paragraph gives expression to views in which all my colleagues concur; it runs thus:—

"18. When harvests fail in an Indian province, considerable old stocks of food are left in the hands of the landholding and mercantile classes; but these stocks are often held back from sale. Markets have, therefore, to be supplied with grain imported from a distance. I consider that, except under most peculiar and exceptional circumstances, the function of supplying the demand for imported grain can be best, and, indeed, alone discharged by private trade, and that private trade should be left to do its work in this respect with as little interference from Government as practicable. The Government and its officers should, however, give all possible information, and should give, where necessary, additional facilities to private trade. Early and correct information as to prices and means of carriage should be published. The carrying power of railways and canals leading into the famine tracts should be reinforced, tolls and other restraints on free intercommunication should be removed; roads into the interior should be improved and kept in order; rates of railway or other carriage might be reduced, and in cases of extreme necessity temporary railways or tramways might be laid from main railway lines into populous tracts whereto means of communication failed, or were insufficient. These will, indeed, be the most useful of all works if we have to meet another year of famine. Grain required by Government for alms to the helpless poor, or for labourers on relief works, or for any tract where supplies were deficient, should be obtained through the trade, at or near the local markets, and should not be imported from a distance by Government itself. Experience has shown that Government operations in the grain market disorganise and paralyse private trade to an extent out of all proportion to the operations themselves. Moreover, where the carrying power of a country by rail, canal, or cart is limited, and is fully utilised, Government grain importations must necessarily displace a corresponding quantity of privately imported grain. My view, therefore, is that under no circumstances which are likely to occur ought the Government itself to engage in the business of importing grain. Free and abundant private trade cannot co-exist with Government importation. Absolute non-interference with the operations of private commercial enterprise must be the foundation of our present famine policy. Trade towards the famine country from Bengal and Northern and Central India is at present active, and there is every reason to believe that the Indian sources of supply are still considerable. But even if these should fail, the interference of the Government would be a ruinous error. It could only have the effect of decreasing the total amount of food available, and thus aggravating the catastrophe. I am confident that more food, whether from abroad or elsewhere, will

Telegram dated 14th August 1877.

Your cypher message of 10th. We do not fully understand the object of it.

Our instructions about publication referred only to local purchases from trade. We decided at outset that private trade would import grain more efficiently than Government, and we have lately re-asserted publicly our determination not to interfere.

Do you intend to say that you think it probable that Government ought to make large importations of grain?

We can foresee no circumstances under which such Government interference with private trade would not be a ruinous mistake. Trade towards famine country from Bengal, Central and Northern India is most active, and we see no reason to doubt that the necessary supplies will be furnished. We are convinced that far more food from abroad or elsewhere will reach Madras if we leave private enterprise to itself, and we should paralyse it by Government competition. Free and abundant private trade cannot co-exist with Government importations. Even if we anticipated failure in source of supply, we should still believe that Government interference would only decrease the total amount of food available and aggravate the catastrophe.

If Her Majesty's Government should think differently, we request that we may receive distinct intimation of the fact. We cannot take upon ourselves any responsibility for a course which would in our opinion be fatal. Nor can we usefully give calculations. Local estimates say that from 4 to 5,000 tons of grain must be imported daily: grain actually ready for export on Great Indian Peninsula Railway reported to be 120,000 tons and stocks in Bengal, Central and Northern India believed to be large.

reach Madras if we leave private enterprise to itself, than if we paralyse it by Government competition. These remarks refer to the famine we are now dealing with. I do not, of course, intend to assert that famines cannot occur in which Government interference for the importation of food may not be absolutely necessary. Indeed, the Orissa Famine was one of those cases."

2. In addition to what has been urged in the telegram and extract quoted above I would add a short further explanation of the principles which guide the Government of India, and of the position we take when we decline, under present circumstances, to purchase and import grain for the supply of the famine districts.

3. If prices do not greatly rise after a failure of harvest, and if imports are inactive, then the natural conclusion would be that there must be considerable old stocks in the country. These are of course difficult, if not impossible, to trace. When prices in a province approach famine rates, then we presume that if surplus food exists in other provinces, and if communication by water or railway be fairly good, private traders will carry that food to the famine districts more cheaply, more promptly, and more directly than Government could possibly do. If there is one branch of internal trade which Indian traders fully understand, it is the grain trade; they know what grain is wanted, whence it can be bought most cheaply, and where the need is sorest. Among the many contrasts between the system of Government importations adopted in 1874 and the private trade system of 1877, it may be mentioned that the Government importations in 1874 consisted, with some small exceptions, of rice, mostly of Burmah rice;—while private trade has in 1877 brought under contribution every province and every food staple in India;—wheat, barley, grain, two kinds of millet (jowar and bajra), and pulses have come from scores of railway stations in the Punjab, the North-western Provinces and Behar, from the River Chenab on the north to the Soane on the south; rice, pulses, and marwa millet (the ragi of Madras) have come from Bengal and Orissa; millets and pulses have come from Guzerat, Berar, the Central Provinces, and even from Rajputana. Burmah has sent a small quantity of rice; but Burmah rice generally rules dearer than the common varieties of Bengal rice, and so traders have drawn but little from that source of supply, so long as Bengal stocks were large.

4. Not only could private traders do the work of supplying grain to Southern India better than Government could do it; but it was obvious that the trade, as a whole, could make much larger importations than Government could effect by itself. If once the Government were to begin importing grain, the first rumour of any impending intrusion of Government action into the field of private enterprise would paralyse the confidence of the whole trade, would send up prices at the source of supply, would keep up prices in the famine country below the natural trade level, and would thus, indirectly as well as directly, check imports. The Government having once entered on such an undertaking there would be no half-way stage at which we could arrest our ruinous course. The Government would soon find itself responsible for providing grain enough for every village, not merely in Madras and Mysore, but also in tracts of Northern India to which famine might spread. Any partial substitution of Government agency for private trade was impossible. We had to choose between either leaving private trade alone or taking upon ourselves the whole of its natural work. If we had adopted the latter alternative, it would probably have cost the Government more to lay down one ton of grain than it would have cost the trade to lay down two. We had before us the financial results of the Bengal famine of 1874, where the cost* of buying and transporting Government grain came to 6,474,000*l.* out of a gross expenditure of 9,177,000*l.*, or to 4,259,000*l.* out of a net cost of 6,402,000*l.* The famine of 1877 has been severer, and has extended over a far larger area than the famine of 1874; if we had taken the grain supply into our own hands, the cost of famine relief in 1876–78, alarmingly great as it is, must have been indefinitely increased. If Government had undertaken to import grain for the supply of Southern India, we should, even if we had succeeded in our undertaking—which is doubtful—have made a stride, of which the magnitude can only be conjectured, on the road to national bankruptcy.

* NOTE.—These figures are taken from the approximate statement of the Bengal famine charges given in Part V. of Sir Richard Temple's final Report, submitted at the close of the Bengal famine of 1874.

5. The financial argument indeed, in the present condition of the Indian treasury, carried its due weight in deciding us to adopt what, on other grounds, seemed to us the wiser alternative. Still, apart from financial considerations, we were convinced that the safety of the afflicted populations would be best secured by the adoption of the course we took. It must, I fear, be admitted that Government cannot avert all death from famine when the drought is so severe and affects so large an area as in the present season has been the case. And I am convinced that under present circumstances there

would have been more misery, more death, and a less constant supply of food in the districts of Southern India if Government had undertaken to import grain on a large scale than have happened under the policy which the Government of India, after full consideration and with your Lordship's approval, have adopted.

6. These were some of the considerations which influenced our decision when the question of importing grain arose in the autumn of 1876. When the same question came before us in July 1877, such considerations gained renewed force from the experience of the preceding eight months. The proposal to import grain largely by Government agency had been put forward during the autumn of 1876, both at Bombay and Madras. The Governor, Sir Philip Wodehouse, fully and specifically discussed the question with his colleagues; and they decided not to buy grain, but to trust entirely to private trade for the supply of the country. This decision, cordially approved as it was by the Government of India, was at once made public. Grain was forthwith consigned to the Deccan by private traders in enormous quantities; insomuch that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was blocked with grain early in November. By strenuous effort the block was gradually cleared, and the supply by rail and seaboard to the famine districts of Bombay has since November sufficed for the needs of the country. Prices have indeed been very dear; but, though some parts of the Bombay famine tract drew their supplies from railway stations or seaports 130 miles off, still there has always been enough grain in the markets.

7. The Madras Government, about the same time as the Bombay Government considered the question, decided to buy 30,000 tons of grain as a beginning. This decision was not known to the Government of India until the transaction was concluded and the bill had to be paid. The purchases were effected with just so much secrecy as served to alarm the trade; and in Calcutta, the chief source of the Madras rice supply, dealers were, until the middle of February, possessed with a fear that further large purchases by Government were imminent. Interference with the grain market was stopped by the Government of India; and, whatever may have been the views of the Madras Government at the time, I believe the Governor of Madras is now, and has for some time been of opinion that further Government purchases of grain were inexpedient. The Madras Government made their purchases in October, and as no further action of the kind was taken the stream of private trade set in during December, and has continued ever since. Private trade has sent by sea to Madras, or has consigned from marts in Northern India, more grain than the railways and other means of transport could carry into the interior. During the last two months (August and September) since the failure of the summer rains and the occurrence of a second famine, private trade has carried into the districts of Madras and Mysore a daily average of 4,000 to 5,000 tons of food. This great result must be largely due to the assurances, published by the Governments of India and Madras in June last, to the effect that Government would not interfere in the grain trade. These were the assurances to which we referred in our telegram quoted in the first paragraph of the present letter.

8. The grain bought by the Madras Government is being kept in reserve, and so its presence does not operate to keep prices low, and thereby to check importations. I am aware that the Members of the Madras Government, though they do not now advocate Government purchases, are strongly of opinion that their purchase of 30,000 tons, and their placing the greater part of that supply in depôts up the country, paved the way for private trade, and encouraged its steady flow. It is true that private trade increased after the Government purchases had been made; but trade did not acquire its full stream till August 1877, and it did not flow freely at all till December 1876, that is to say, some weeks after the Government transactions had been concluded; whereas the Bombay importations set in with full tide early in November. I do not say that the purchase of 30,000 tons permanently affected the flow of private trade in the face of the enormous demands of the Madras and Mysore country; but I fear the transaction must (for the time) have checked private importations; it is certain that the Government grain occupied railway waggons to the exclusion of merchants' consignments, and I can see no practical or theoretical ground for the contention that the Government purchases galvanised private trade into active exertion.

9. Though the considerations stated in the foregoing paragraphs guided our unanimous decision on the occasions when the question of purchasing grain came before us during the present famine, yet we must not be understood to say that occasion never did, and never can arise, when Government purchases of grain might be necessary. The Orissa famine of 1866 may have been such a case. Orissa was a small province; it had then few transactions with other parts of India; its marts were not frequented by merchants from other provinces; there were practically no land communications between

Orissa and other provinces, save for pilgrims; and communication by sea was at that time cut off during the most critical season of the year. The famine of 1866 in Orissa may have been a case in which Government might in some way have effected or promoted grain importations. In the famine of 1874 the Behar famine tract, with its population of 19 millions, was divided by the Ganges into nearly equal parts; one part, south of the Ganges, possessed two railways, metalled and bridged roads, and large trading populations; the other part, north of the Ganges, had no railways, not a single metalled and bridged road, and comparatively few traders. Thus the Government was able to occupy North Behar with its agency and with its grain imported from the east; while the wants of South Behar were sufficiently met by private trade with supplies from the west. The circumstances and characteristics of the two tracts were so different that Government trade in North Behar did not interfere with private trade in South Behar; and furthermore all the Government grain came by railway or river from the east, while the railway from the west was left exclusively for private traders. The famine tracts of Southern India, on the other hand, are not landlocked like Orissa; nor are their seaports closed for months together as were the Orissa roadsteads. There are several railway lines in the south of India; a number of seaports are available on the east and west coasts; Madras possesses a better system of metalled and bridged roads than any part of India; much of the Bombay and Mysore country is also well supplied with roads. There was thus every facility for the free action of private trade. Nor was there any section of the famine country so separate and distinct from the rest that Government agency could have imported grain thither, while private trade supplied the remainder of the country without let or hindrance.

10. I have laid before your Lordship thus at length an expression of my views on the subject of this letter, because I think its importance is very great. If your Lordship were able to concur generally in the views now expressed, the hands of the Government of India would be greatly strengthened when hereafter the problem of supplying food to a famine-stricken province again arises.

11. In any case the traders of Southern and Northern India will have learnt an important lesson of self-help. Private trade will be more prompt than heretofore to supply the wants of provinces where scarcity of food may prevail. I anticipate also that, after the brisk and lucrative trade of this year, traffic on the Madras guaranteed railways will never fall again to the low ebb of former years. And I hope that the opening of the Dhond and Munmar Railway will do much to produce free interchange of commodities between the north and the south of India, which now for the first time have traded on a large scale with each other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.

No. 247.

Encl. in No. 253.

Telegram, dated 22nd September 1877.

From the GOVERNOR, Madras, to VICEROY.

Clear line. Charitable relief committees to remove misapprehension on part of officers which is doing harm, propose to issue following notification:—

"It is the desire of Government that public servants of all grades should give all the "assistance they can render, without detriment to their official duties, to the formation "of local committees, and generally to promote the objects which the famine relief "committee and subscribers to the famine relief fund have in view." Oblige by acknowledgment.

No. 248.

Telegram, dated Guneshkhind, 23rd September 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Season telegram, 15th to 23rd. Madras, good general rain in all districts, except parts of Coimbatore and small part of Salem, Tinnevelly, Madura; tanks filling, crops reviving; petty harvests being reaped, moderate outturn, prices slightly cheaper in some districts, elsewhere stationary.

Numbers on works, 698,476, gratuitous, 160,501. Grain supply maintained. Bengal despatches to Madras 3,800 tons daily; Peninsula Railway delivers to Madras 960 tons daily; railway working better.

Bombay, good rain, prospects improving everywhere, except large parts of Khandesh, Nassik, Ahmednagar; prices slightly falling; autumn crops small in area, but thriving; winter crop sowings progressing. Number on works, 242,860; gratuitous, 160,380. Pressure of prices and scarcity still severe.

Mysore, good rain over province, 5 to 8 inches during month of September, tanks filled, crop prospects improved greatly.

North-west Provinces, little rain anywhere; hot winds. Lieutenant-Governor telegraphed yesterday, unirrigated autumn crop ruined in Meerut, Rohilcund, Agra, Lucknow, Seetapore divisions; condition critical in Rai Bareilly, and part of Benares division, remainder barely half average yield expected, irrigated autumn crop small, fodder scarce, spring crop sowings in northern divisions possible if rain comes in 20 days. Price of wheat, 20 pounds per rupee. West of Allahabad relief works opening in Rohilcund and Agra divisions.

Punjab, only partial showers. Lieutenant-Governor telegraphed yesterday, autumn crop almost lost, save on irrigated land which are large, spring crop sowings possible till December, if yield good; distress from loss of autumn crop very large. Prices remain high in Indore. No rain in Central India States; pressure in Gwalior increasing greatly, and continuous emigration thence. Rajputana, few light showers; much failure of crops and pasture in north and east. In Ajmere prices very dear. Hyderabad, good rain everywhere, prospects much improved. Bengal, Assam, Burmah, Central Provinces, prospects generally favourable.

No. 249.

Telegram, dated 24th September 1877.

From Secretary of State to Viceroy.

Yours 22nd.

Do figures given include loss of revenue and famine expenditure in 1876–77 as well as in current year, thus representing total cost of famine?

Encl. in No. 271.

No. 250.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, No. 2,847, dated 24th September 1877.

Revised Instructions for the administration of Famine Relief in the Madras Presidency.

His Grace the Governor in Council is pleased to issue the following instructions for the guidance of all officers concerned in the administration of famine relief:—

1. Under the successive orders of the Madras Government relief has been sanctioned to famine-stricken people—

(1st) in the form of wages for work done;

(2nd) gratuitously in camps, relief-houses, and villages to those unable to labour or temporarily incapacitated for work.

2. It has been determined that both relief by employment on works for the strong and gratuitous relief to the infirm shall be continued.

3. To enable employment on large public works to be more extensively and systematically carried on, the Government of India have agreed to lend a large additional force to the Public Works Department, and to enable collectors to duly watch the distribution of gratuitous relief, the Government of India have placed at the disposal of this Government a large number of European officers to supervise relief operations in the several taluks of the distressed districts.

4. In order that the wishes and instructions of his Grace the Governor in Council may be clearly understood, the conditions under which relief has been sanctioned and is to be continued are subjoined.

5. Collectors and civil officers are responsible for sending to relief works or for providing gratuitous relief, under the orders now issued, to all who have not adequate means of supporting life. The Public Works Department officers are responsible for providing a sufficiency of work in every distressed district for the employment of the persons who may be sent to them by the civil officers, and shall employ thereon all those so sent.

Relief Works.

6. The intention of his Grace the Governor in Council is that all relief shall be eventually given through relief works, closed camps, and village relief.

7. Relief works affording to indigent persons capable of some labour the opportunity of earning money with which to buy food constitute the backbone of the relief system.

8. These works are of two classes—

(*a.*) Those under the supervision of the Public Works Department or other professional supervision which may for the sake of brevity be called professional agency works;

Professional agency works.

(*b.*) Those not requiring to any great extent professional supervision, and which may for the sake of brevity be called civil agency works. These works will be under the superintendence of the Public Works [redacted] of the Civil Department according to circumstances.

Civil agency works.

9. Every district engineer will prepare a list of works in his district which may be made available as relief works. These lists should show approximately—

(*a.*) the probable cost of each work;

(*b.*) roughly the proportion of the total cost required for earthwork;

(*c.*) the number of persons who can be employed upon each, and for how long.

10. These lists will be submitted to Government through the chief engineer or the chief engineer for irrigation. His Grace the Governor in Council will sanction them provisionally either wholly or in part, and the works thus provisionally sanctioned may be taken up from time to time as need for affording relief arises, except large works, the commencement of which will be decided by his Grace the Governor in Council. The opinion of the collector should decide which of the works in the list so sanctioned shall be first proceeded with. Estimates to cover such works as may be approved by Government in these lists should be prepared and submitted for final sanction as soon as possible, but the commencement of no such work shall be delayed, where its commencement is necessary, for the reason that a plan and estimate have not been sanctioned. Lists of works which have been commenced, specifying the approximate number of persons who can be received thereon, will be furnished by the district engineer from time to time to the collector, who will send copies to every revenue, police, and famine officer.

11. The very widest publicity of the locality of relief works must be given; the responsibility with regard to this point rests upon the collectors and their assistants.

Publicity of relief works.

12. The distinction between budgeted works and famine relief works is abolished in the following districts:—

Nellore.	Chingleput.	Madura.
Cuddapah.	North Arcot.	Tinnevelly.
Bellary.	South Arcot.	Coimbatore.
Kurnool.	Trichinopoly.	Salem.

And all works whatever therein (Imperial, provincial, or local, excepting only buildings) shall be considered famine relief works, and shall be carried out under all the rules, tests, and restrictions applicable to famine relief works. Any relief works which may be necessary in any of the remaining districts will be carried out as special works under special arrangements.

13. All establishments at present employed under civil officers in supervision of, or in accounting in respect of, relief works should be transferred, with the charge of the several works, to the Department Public Works as soon as the district engineer is in a position to take them over.

14. All persons capable of labour, who are in fair health and condition, must be drafted to professional agency works, and with them must also be drafted such members of their families as are willing to accompany them.

People to be drafted to professional agency works.

15. Weaker people, who are nevertheless capable of some work, should be employed upon civil agency works, but should, as they recover strength, be drafted to professional agency works, the object being to employ the largest possible number of people to whom it may be necessary to afford relief upon works of this latter description.

People to be employed upon civil agency works.

16. Work is to be exacted and musters taken for six days in every week; payment for the seventh day is, however, included in the following scales of wages.

Off-day.

17. The rates of pay to persons who perform their allotted tasks shall be for each working day:—

Upon Professional Agency Works.

		Rates of Pay. Rs.	A.	P.
For a man the value of 1 lb. of grain - - -	Plus	0	1	6
For a woman ,, ,, - - -	,,	0	1	0
For a child of 7 and upwards, ½ lb. of grain - -	,,	0	0	9

Upon Civil Agency Works.

For a man the value of 1 lb. of grain - - -	,,	0	1	0
For a woman ,, ,, - - -	,,	0	0	9
For a child of 7 and upwards, ½ lb. of grain - -	,,	0	0	6

18. By grain is meant grain of medium quality and of the description in ordinary use at the time of payment among the labourers on the works. The price to be taken at the re[illegible]e grain ruling at the cusba of the taluk on the previous week.

Grain.

19. When work is interrupted by rain to such an extent that the tasks ordered cannot be exacted, professional agency labourers should be paid civil agency rates and civil agency labourers should be paid the civil agency rate, less 2 pies all round.

Interruption from rain.

20. No work is to be taken from children under seven years of age, nor are such children to be allowed to remain among the labourers while they are working. Such children, belonging to parents or natural guardians employed upon works, must be mustered at a convenient spot at some little distance from where the work is in progress, and placed under the charge of a sufficient number of the women drafted to the works who will be employed as nurses. At large works, and where working camps are established, kitchens must be provided, and these children supplied with rations of cooked food not exceeding ½ a lb. of grain per diem. The nurses must receive their full ration of cooked food, *i.e.*, 1 lb. grain plus the money portion of the wage. On small works officers in charge must make suitable arrangements for effecting the same purpose.

Children under 7.

21. To prevent relief works becoming unduly attractive, three tests are necessary, viz., 1st, *primâ facie* evidence that the individual really requires employment upon a relief work ; 2nd, distance of the work from the home of the labourer ; and, 3rd, tasks.

Tests.

22. The task to be exacted upon professional agency works is 75 per cent. of what the individual would be able to perform if he worked to the full extent of his ability ; upon civil agency works 50 per cent. of what the individual would be able to perform if he worked to the full extent of his ability.

Tasks.

23. In settling and exacting these tasks it will be necessary for the officers concerned to use great judgment, discretion, and firmness so as to avoid oppression of the people upon the one hand or encouragement to idleness and laxity on the other.

24. It may probably be expedient in many cases to take, as the unit for tasking, a gang composed of all the members of one family who are on the work, or a portion of the inhabitants of any one village ; and it is the wish of his Grace the Governor in Council that, as far as possible, consistently with economy and discipline on the works, members of the same family should not be separated in their employment. But these points of detail, varying as they will with the size and nature of the work and other circumstances, must be left to the discretion of the executive officers acting under the general orders of Government.

25. The employment of contractors directly or indirectly is absolutely prohibited on relief works.

26. Masonry work requiring skilled labour, such as culverts, tunnels, sluices, calingulahs of tanks, and similar works found essential to the completion of relief works, may be performed by contract in the ordinary way. In selecting works to be placed on the list, Public Works officers will bear in mind that the beneficial effect of the work, as a relief measure, is the principal object ; therefore works, of which a large proportion of the estimate is for masonry or compensation for land, should generally be at once laid aside as unsuitable.

27. The distance test is necessarily to a great extent enforced by concentrating relief labour upon a comparatively small number of large works, and until further instructions this test may be deemed to be complied with when the labourer goes to professional agency works and performs the tasks exacted there.

Distance.

28. The question whether persons are fitting objects for employment upon relief works must be decided by the civil officers, who will refuse employment to all persons except those who are destitute.

Persons not destitute.

29. The civil officers will despatch such applicants for employment as they consider eligible with written duplicate nominal rolls, and the production of such rolls will be the authority to the Public Works Department officers to employ the persons named in them. The rolls shall specify the name and father's name and village of each person, and shall be dated and shall bear the signature of the despatching officer.

Rolls for employment.

30. Where camps are necessary on works these camps will be under the charge of the Public Works officer directing the work, who will make arrangements and enforce rules for strict conservancy and sanitary measures, and select suitable persons from the relief coolies for the various duties of scavenging, water drawing, &c.

Sanitary precautions.

31. In transferring people to works at a distance exceeding 10 miles, it will be necessary under some circumstances to pay them batta. The amount and nature of this batta will vary with local circumstances, but it should never exceed 16 oz. of uncooked grain for each day's march.

Batta.

32. There will probably frequently be exceptional cases arising on works requiring special treatment. It is obvious that what may be sufficient for the vast majority may be unsuitable in quantity or quality in individual cases. Such cases, which will include also those of people arriving on the works worn out and in low condition must, as far as possible, be specially treated under medical advice; and they may be fed in accordance with the scale laid down in G. O. No. 2372 of July 24th, 1877, for people under such treatment. The extra allowance must cease as soon as the person, in the opinion of the medical officer, regains strength.

Special cases.

33. Persons not permanently incapacitated for labour will probably regain health, as soon as convalescent, more rapidly upon a relief work than amidst the surroundings of a relief camp.

34. All labourers must be warned that they are liable to fine and dismissal from relief; but these punishments should be enforced with care and judgment.

Punishments.

35. Short work from idleness should in the first place be met with a small fine, and a repetition of the offence should be punished with greater severity. But, until further orders, the effect of the fine in the case of weakly people must never be to reduce the wages of an individual upon professional agency works below civil agency work rate, nor to reduce those of an individual upon civil agency works below the relief house scale.

Fine.

36. Incorrigible idleness or insubordination on the part of persons in fair physical condition should be met by immediate dismissal.

Dismissal.

37. Payments upon relief works must be made at least twice a week, and oftener if necessary. New arrivals should for the first few days be paid daily.

Frequency of payments.

Charitable Relief.

38. All previous orders relating to gratuitous relief, so far as inconsistent with the following rules, are hereby cancelled.

39. Relief officers will be appointed to the charge of one or more taluks or parts of taluks according to size and local circumstances.

40. Their duties will be to supervise all relief operations within their charges except public works. Their especial duty is to see that the orders of Government are strictly carried out; that relief reaches all who need it; that waste, abuse, and fraud are prevented, and the utmost economy, consistent with due relief, enforced throughout.

41. They are expected to be constantly on the move, and to visit the several villages and relief camps as frequently as possible and at uncertain times.

42. They will furnish to the collector every Saturday information on the following points:—

(1.) The number of cases in which relief has been granted, refused, or stopped.

(2.) Any case of failure of duty, inattention, or inefficiency on the part of any officer or servant.

(3.) The physical condition of the people generally on relief, whether failing, improving, or stationary.

(4.) They will submit any general remarks.

43. Village relief shall be given either in the shape of cooked food or in money according to the discretion of the collectors and local circumstances, and shall, subject to the provisions of paragraph 53, be confined to destitute resident villagers, who are house-ridden, or otherwise unfitted for or incapable of labour. This class will include such persons as are idiots, cripples, blind, or so old or decrepit that they are not able to support themselves; or young children living with and wholly dependent on such persons; women in an advanced state of pregnancy, or who have been recently confined; and further to qualify for this relief these persons must be without well-to-do friends or relatives on the spot on whom their support would ordinarily and rightly devolve.

44. Immediately on the receipt of these orders officers in charge of taluks shall cause each village to be inspected by an officer not below the rank of a village inspector, and, after careful inquiry into the circumstances of each individual case, shall strike off the register any persons who, from condition and circumstances, do not come within the above description. The relief officer in charge of a taluk or part of a taluk shall visit each village as early as practicable and satisfy himself that his instructions have been properly carried out. No fresh admissions to the register shall subsequently be made, except under the orders of the village inspector, who, whenever he may authorise any such admissions, shall, in his next weekly return, report them to the taluk relief officer, who shall transmit an abstract, showing increase or decrease of numbers in each village of his charge, to the collector weekly, for preparation of the weekly tabular statement for Government. The taluk officer shall take the earliest practical opportunity of inspecting the persons who have been newly admitted.

45. Persons, who, under the operation of the above order, are struck off the registers of village relief, shall at the same time, if capable of labour, be sent to work, and if temporarily incapacitated by illness or any other cause shall be sent to the nearest relief camp to be there maintained and treated until able to work or found permanently incapable.

46. All open camps other than works-camps shall be abolished, and in their place such number of closed camps as may be necessary shall be established. On this point collectors should at once take such steps as may be needed.

47. Until further orders are published for the regulation and interior administration of closed relief camps, the arrangements now in force should continue; but it should be distinctly and clearly understood by the officers in charge that no person capable of labour should be received into a camp, and that as soon as any inmate of such camp recovers strength and condition sufficient to enable him to undertake labour on professional agency works, he should at once be drafted off to such works, which should not be situated within 10 miles of the village of which he is an inhabitant.

48. Officers in charge of camps will recollect that the primary object of the camp is that the strength of its residents should be restored therein, and that they may be thus rendered fit for work. Food and shelter, but no money payment will be given therein. Camp diet is prescribed in G. O., 24th July 1877, No. 2372; but all camps must be so divided as to render it impossible for those not actually requiring it to obtain the special diet allowance sanctioned for those under medical treatment. No person shall in any case be admitted to the higher scale of diet except under the written order of the medical officer of the camp.

49. Collectors will take care and watch carefully the effect of relief operations, and if it should appear that any camp has a tendency to draw to it those who should be relieved in their villages, or any undue tendency is observed on the part of those on works to seek camp relief, the diet must be so adjusted, in accordance with the discretion given by the Government order referred to, as to counteract such tendency.

50. No outside relief shall be given at any closed camp.

51. All able to work will at once be sent to a suitable relief work with a list as described in paragraph 29. In carrying out these instructions, however, the officer will exercised a careful discretion in cases where husband or wife, mother or child, may be ill in camp, and should not enforce separation in such cases. Any able-bodied person so retained temporarily in camp will be required to do suitable work in or about the camp.

52. The collector should keep superintendents of camps informed of all works in progress, and to what extent labour can be accommodated on each work, and the order of the superintendent of the camp to the officer in charge of the work shall be sufficient authority to the latter to receive the persons who may be sent from the camp.

53. Wanderers who present themselves at any village in a state of destitution shall be provided by the village head with one meal, *i.e.*, 10 oz. grain, and he will be held

strictly responsible that no person manifestly in need of assistance to prevent starvation shall remain unrelieved; but such persons shall only receive one meal and shall be passed on to the nearest relief camp where they shall receive support, or, if needed, medical treatment, or if in a fit condition to support themselves by labour be at once sent to suitable works. In special cases, where necessary, village heads may incur such charge as may be needed to convey to the nearest relief camp destitute persons who cannot travel. But whenever this is done an immediate report must be made to the village inspector.

54. In laying out relief camps, sanitary requirements, especially position of hospital, water supply, and latrines should be very carefully attended to.

55. With the exception of those in hospital, persons in relief camps are not to be allowed to remain idle; they must be employed in all the necessary duties of the camp, its conservancy, water supply, cookery, hospital attendance, &c., or in spinning, weaving, rope-making, or other similar light work. No extra allowances are to be given for work performed in or about the camp.

56. This order, except as regards scales of diet, does not apply to the Nilgiris district, in which the Commissioner's arrangements to meet the special circumstances will continue in force subject to further instructions.

No. 251.

Telegram, dated Allahabad, 25th September 1877.
From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

My telegram, 22nd, gives estimated total Madras and Bombay famine, both expenditure and revenue loss, eleven crores from beginning of famine to March 1878. Estimated loss of Madras revenue, 280 lacs may be exceeded. Madras Government has furnished no figures. Feudatory and possible North-west Provinces expenses are outside the eleven millions.

No. 252.

Encl. in No. 253.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras. No. 863.

G. G.'s Camp, Amballa, the 25th September 1877.

Your letter No. 2810 of the 20th instant has been laid before the Viceroy, and by his Excellency's instruction I have already in the telegram, marginally quoted, conveyed to you the assent of the Government of India to the issue by the Madras Government of a notification, calling on the local officers to assist in the formation of local committees, and generally in facilitating the objects of the fund.

Telegram dated 24th September.
From the Viceroy to the Governor of Madras.
Charitable relief committee. Your letter of 20th instant reached me before leaving Poona. Under conditions there explained I do not object to your publishing notification proposed in your telegram of 22nd. Am communicating further on the subject by post. The committee's instructions to their deputation have my full approval.

2. The information, however, for which his Excellency asked in my letter No. 773, dated 31st August, as to the specific objects in detail to which the committee propose to devote their funds, is still, I am to point out, but incompletely supplied.

3. Your letter directs the attention of the Government of India to the resolution passed by the committee on the 24th August, and from that resolution you recapitulate the objects of the committee in the following terms:—

"(1.)—Aiding, by contributions, local committees for the relief of the necessitous poor not reached by Government.

"(2.)—Giving contributions towards the taking care of destitute children and the like.

"(3.)—Providing clothes for destitute women and children.

"(4.)—Making allotments towards any special object which seems to come within the scope and ability of the fund."

4. In regard to this recapitulation I have to point out that object No. 1 still needs some further specification and definition, as to the classes of the necessitous poor, which are indicated as not being reached by Government; there may be, as suggested in my previous letter, many such classes, but without further specification of them there is an obvious danger of the operations of the committee overlapping, and, at some points, clashing with, those of Government.

5. In regard to No. 2 it is to be observed, as already remarked, that Government is endeavouring to maintain all destitute children that may come on its hands during the famine, and there is room for further discrimination between the objects of the committee and those of Government in this respect. The question of providing for the maintenance of these destitute orphan children, after the famine has ceased, is one which may perhaps be deemed worthy of the consideration of the committee.

6. To the third class of operation which the committee propose to undertake, the Government of India have no objection to make; and the fourth merely provides for any exceptional cases which may not happen to fall under any of the former categories.

7. There is still therefore much room for more definite specification of the purposes of the committee, and the Viceroy observes that the committee propose, as further information is received, to complete the work of formulating the objects of their expenditure.

8. In addition to the points above noticed the Viceroy learns from the instructions, which the committee have given to their delegates, that in a general way the committee accept, as the field of their operations, the mitigation of suffering, as distinguished from the duty of saving life which the Government has undertaken through its own agency. The committee also inculcate on their local agents to avoid even indirect interference with Government operations. His Excellency is satisfied, therefore, that so far as in their power the committee will act on different lines, and for other objects, than those already covered by the operations of Government, and in this assurance has consented to the services of local officers being enlisted in aid of the committee; but having regard to what has been said as to the want of definiteness in the scheme of operations hitherto laid down, and the promise of the committee to remedy this hereafter, I am to express the hope, on the part of the Government of India, that the Madras Government will communicate with the committee, and will assist them not only in defining and systematising the aims and objects to which their expenditure may be most usefully expended, but also in regulating the assistance to be given by Government officials so as to reduce to a minimum the anticipated dangers of friction, of increased labour, and of having to satisfy conflicting claims on their time and attention.

9. Having disposed of the main subject of your letter his Excellency desires me to advert to one or two subsidiary matters which have arisen in the course of this correspondence.

The concluding paragraph of my letter of 31st August was perhaps the subject of some misapprehension by the Government of Madras. It was by no means meant to convey an absolute prohibition against Government officers taking part in the disbursements of the committee's funds. It was simply an expression of the Viceroy's hope that the committee would be persuaded to use their own agency as far as possible, and thus to avoid imposing double burthens on the collectorate establishments. The Madras Government, it was anticipated, would have communicated with the committee, would have assisted them in formulating their scheme of operation, and, if these proved ultimately to be at variance with Lord Lytton's suggestions, would have either sought for some means of reconciling them, or else have again addressed the Government of India.

10. Had this course been followed much valuable time would have been saved, much misapprehension would have been avoided, and the Madras Government would not have been misled into believing* that the committee was not relying on the agency of State establishment for the administration of their private funds.

*No. 210. * See paragraph 2 of your letter, No. 2630, dated 3rd September 1877.

11. I am also to point out, with reference to the scantiness of the additional information furnished in your letter, that the resolution of 24th August to which you now refer the Government of India, as exhibiting in a definite form the scope and objects of the committee's expenditure, was the identical resolution referred to, and quoted almost in the same terms, in my letter of 31st August in the paragraph reproduced in the margin. The only divergence is that the third head—regarding the provision of clothes for destitute women and children—was omitted in my letter, under the impression that it was finally negatived after discussion in the meeting of 24th August.

"His Excellency finds on the proceedings of the committee held on the 24th August, a resolution that the fund should be devoted (1) to contributions in aid of local committees for the relief of necessitous poor not reached by Government, (2) to contributions towards the care of destitute children, (3) to making allotments towards any other special objects which seem to come within the scope and ability of the fund."

12. As these very resolutions were specified in my letter, as failing to convey to his Excellency the specific and detailed information which he desired, the Viceroy cannot forbear expressing some disappointment at being again referred to them, after the lapse

of three weeks, as conveying the requisite definition of the committee's action; but, without dwelling further on the past, his Excellency desires me to express his confident assurance that the Madras Government will accept the responsibility which necessarily attaches to them as administering imperial finances, of ascertaining, and, if need be, of guiding the action of the committee; and that they will, while labouring to further to the utmost the legitimate action of the committee, endeavour, in free and frank communication with them, to regulate its demands upon local officers, and to define and systematise the scope and objects of its expenditure.

No. 253.

No. 37 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, Commerce, and Famine, to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Camp Dhurmpore, 27th September 1877.

In my letter* to your Lordship I reported the action I had taken for the improvement of famine administration in Mysore, and the communications which I had held with the Planters' Associations of Coorg and Wynad. No. 239.

* No. 35, dated Bangalore, 20th September.

2. I may mention that, in accordance with the arrangement reported in the 23rd paragraph of that letter, I directed before leaving Bangalore that Major Scott Moncrieff, the Chief Engineer of Mysore, should at once visit Coorg, and arrange for a proper system of relief works in communication with the Planters' Association; and I instructed him to take the opportunity of ascertaining and reporting to me the real wishes, not only of the planters, but of the people themselves, on the question of the absorption of Coorg into the Madras Presidency, and its unification with the other coffee-planting districts.

3. Referring to the results of the recent measures in the Bangalore district, which were reported in paragraph 24 of that letter, I have subsequently had an opportunity of conferring with the Deputy Commissioner of the neighbouring district of Kolar, and I found that he was able to assure me of similarly favourable results in his district. In three relief camps, out of 6,500 inmates, 1,600 had been drafted to works, and a similar number remained in the camps; the rest, when told to go to the works, had preferred to take advantage of the recent rain and return to their agricultural pursuits. The state of affairs in this district has greatly improved; tanks have been filled, the rice crop secured, prices have fallen a little, and ryots are no longer coming to the markets so generally as heretofore to purchase imported grain, there having been an increase of their home supply by the incoming of the small ragi harvest* of September. These circumstances have greatly facilitated the weeding of the relief kitchens, and the general execution of my recent orders; and I should have thought it a matter of much congratulation if I could have informed your Lordship that advantage had been taken of the equally favourable weather in Madras to carry into effect with similar promptitude the orders regarding that Presidency which were issued on 31st August.

* Millet.

4. Leaving Bangalore on the morning of the 21st, I was joined at Jollarpett junction by the Duke of Buckingham and General Kennedy; and it was then I learnt, to my disappointment, that during the three weeks which had elapsed since the Government of Madras had publicly announced their entire adhesion to the principles of my famine policy, no subsidiary orders of any kind had been issued with a view of applying those principles to the problems in hand.

5. Even the correspondence of the district officers on famine subjects continued, I learnt, to go through the Board of Revenue as heretofore; and in the more important matters of drafting people from camps and from village relief, on to works, I could not learn that district officers had received any orders whatever. The delay was attributable to the Duke's visit to Ootacamund; but, none the less, it is to be lamented that such an admirable opportunity, as the recent rain has given, of reducing the number of those gratuitously relieved, and of introducing more economical management, was allowed to pass by. The Madras Government are now spending 60 lakhs a month, the greater part of which goes in maintaining a system of relief, at once wasteful, demoralising, and above all others open to peculation. It is not too much to say that if, when the rain of

the early part of September again made agriculture possible and hopeful, the masses on gratuitous relief had at once been put to work, a great majority of them, as in Mysore, would have preferred devoting their labour to their own fields, and a sum equal to a quarter or a third of the monthly expenditure might at once have been struck off without danger or difficulty.

6. Before the Duke of Buckingham left me to return to Madras I had examined with him and approved the code of instructions which, with General Kennedy's assistance, had been drawn up for the guidance of officers engaged in famine relief, and which the Governor was then about to issue. I have since learnt that these instructions have been published; and as they provide fully for all the principal objects on which the policy of the Government of India lays stress, I have no doubt that the desired reforms will be introduced, and that the main object of my journey will at length be accomplished. Without this security for obtaining some practical result to our deliberations I should have hesitated about returning to Simla, and was prepared to remain some further time in Southern India.

7. Reaching Poona on the evening of the 22nd I was received by Sir R. Temple, and learnt from him that the state of affairs in Bombay was continuing to improve.

8. While at Poona I received from the Madras Government a letter on the plan of operations proposed for adoption by the General Relief Committee of Madras with reference to the questions I had previously asked—(1.) as to the main objects to which the funds were to be devoted; (2.) as to the agency through which the committee proposed to operate. I had deprecated the employment of these funds for objects already undertaken by the State, and I had expressed a hope that, so far as possible, they would make use of other agency than that of the collectorate establishments, whose whole time and attention are already devoted to the relief operations of Government. That your Lordship may have the correspondence before you at once, I enclose the letters noted on the margin for your perusal; it will be seen that, though no sufficient endeavour has been made strictly to formulate the objects to which the committee will devote their funds, and though they do rely to a great extent on the assistance of State establishments, I have been unwilling in any way to hamper them in the work of expending to the best advantage the large sums subscribed, and have therefore sanctioned the issue of a notification directing local officers to give their best assistance to the committee; but at the same time I have requested the Madras Government to assist them in defining, with some attempt at precision, the objects to which their operations can be devoted, without clashing with those of Government; and in regulating the demands to be made on the time and attention of the collectorate establishment.

Nos. 199, 200. Letter of 31st August to Madras.
„ 210. Their reply of 3rd September.
„ 247. Duke of Buckingham's telegram of 22nd.
„ 240, 241. Madras Government's letter of 20th.
„ 252. Viceroy's telegraphic reply of 24th. Official reply of the 25th September.

9. I have now completed my visit to Southern India, and hope to arrive at Simla to-morrow. I have kept your Lordship fully informed from time to time of what I have seen and done; and I trust that my visit may not have been without effect in an improved system of famine administration, in a better economy of our finances, and in the saving of life. Before closing this, the last of the series of letters which I have been addressing to your Lordship during my absence from my colleagues, I wish to place on record my deep sense of the obligations I am under for the ever ready assistance I have received from Sir A. Clarke, who has displayed a loyal anxiety to meet my wishes by placing at my disposal the whole resources of the Public Works Department, on which department I have mainly relied for a trustworthy system of relief works, and who has rendered valuable advice and assistance on all matters in which I have consulted him. I have already informed your Lordship of the admirable readiness with which Sir R. Temple, notwithstanding the difficulties against which he is struggling in the Bombay Presidency, has placed at my disposal some of his ablest officers, and has responded to all my calls for assistance in the way of medical and other establishments. My thanks are also due to his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and to the several local governments and administrations for their ready response to the indent I found it necessary to make on their resources, in order to supply the deficiencies in the medical, engineering, and supervising staff in the famine-stricken districts of Madras and Mysore.

10. The latest accounts I have received as to the rainfall and state of crops show that over the Madras and Bombay Presidencies and over the Province of Mysore there has been favourable rain throughout September, and prospects continue to improve; in Burmah and Assam, as well as in Bengal Proper, there has been abundant rain; in one district of Burmah the rain has been excessive; in Behar, the Central Provinces, Berar, the Hyderabad country, and Malwa, the crops are so far

in good condition, but rain is again required to render them secure; in the Punjab rain is much wanted to enable the people to sow the spring crops; in the North-west Provinces, north of Allahabad, over a great part of Oudh, in Gwalior, and in Northern Rajputana there is already great and daily increasing scarcity, which, accompanied as it is by a failure of fodder for cattle, cannot but cause severe distress during the coming season; indeed, the Government of the North-Western Provinces has already had to open relief works, and already there is daily a large multitude of emigrants leaving Gwalior. Unless, moreover, rain should come within a few weeks, so as to permit of sowing the spring crops, scarcity will probably deepen into famine in large parts of the North-west Provinces, of Oudh, of Rajputana, and of Gwalior. My season telegrams will, however, have told you how matters stand before this letter arrives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON.

No. 254.

Telegram, dated 28th September 1877.

From Governor of Madras to Secretary of State.

Yours, 20th. Fears of insufficient warehouse room groundless. Tuticorin storage considered equal 20,000 tons; Negapatam 35,000; confirmed on present inquiry. Rail removal cannot exceed five hundred each; ample shelter Madras. Rains have much improved prospect of crops generally.

Imports to Madras good; insignificant elsewhere. Tank bursting destroyed half mile main line near Moorapore in Salem, Wednesday; expect restoration to-morrow.

No. 255.

Encl. in No. 271.

Statement No. 33, regarding Famine Relief Operations in the Province of Mysore, for the week ending the 22nd September 1877.

Bangalore, 29th September 1877.

The weather during the last week has been all that could be desired; there have been frequent showers of rain with bright sunny weather between. The rainfall has averaged about 2 inches and has been universal, the dry tract mentioned in the previous week's report having received a liberal downfall. Such of the early (dry) ragi as survived the drought has revived beyond all expectation and may yet produce a good crop, but it is not ripe yet. The irrigated ragi and rice are being cut in many parts. The late ragi is looking as well as possible, and the sewing of horse-gram and other rabi crops is proceeding under favourable conditions.

	Inches.
Bangalore	2·6
Kolar	3·1
Túmkúr	1·5
Mysore	1·8
Hassan	2·
Kadur	2·
Shimoga	1·7
Chitaldroog	2·2

The markets continue to be well supplied. The imports by rail have been 4,200 tons, or 1,027 tons more than in the previous week: such temporary ebbs and flows appear to be due to accidental causes. The imports have been sent from the following quarters:—

	Tons.
Madras	3,520
Beypore, Coimbatore, and Malabar	267
Trichinopoly, Tanjore, and Negapatam	379
Other places	34
Total	4,200

On the other hand the exports from Bangalore Municipality, as registered by the octroi officials, have been 1,896 tons, or 33 tons more than in the previous week. They were despatched to the following quarters:—

	Tons.
Túmkúr	346
Bellary and Chitaldroog	279
Mysore	571
Usur (Salem District)	272
Round Bangalore	428
Total	1,896

3. Prices are again a little easier than in the preceding week. The following statement shows the maximum and minimum prices in the districts of the province :—

	Maximum in lbs. per Rupee.		Minimum in lbs. per Rupee.	
	Rice.	Ragi.	Rice.	Ragi.
Bangalore District - -	10½	13	8	11
Kolar „ - -	11½	16	9	11½
Túmkúr „ - -	10	16	9	10
Mysore „ - -	9	14	8	10
Hassan „ - -	10	14½	8	9
Kadur „ - -	9	14	8	10
Shimoga „ - -	10½	12	6½	8
Chitaldroog „ - -	10	16	8½	10

In rice there is a fall of about ½ lb. per rupee, both in the maximum and minimum scales. In ragi the minimum rate is almost unchanged, but in the maximum there is a great fall, in Túmkúr, for instance, the maximum was 12 lbs. per rupee and now it is 16 lbs.

4. The number of labourers on civil relief works has increased from 28,803 to 31,280, a rise of 2,477. The increase runs through all districts except those of the Nagar Division, in all three of which there is an unexplained decrease. In the others the increase is as follows :—

Bangalore - - - - -	236
Kolar - - - - - -	568
Túmkúr - - - - -	1,946
Mysore - - - - - -	128
Hassan - - - - - -	920

But the Bangalore Deputy Commissioner in his own return shows an increase of 2,640. The discrepancy will be inquired into.

5. The Public Works Department returns show 25,271 labourers against 24,942 previously, an increase of only 329. There is a decrease everywhere, except in the Bangalore district, where the large number of relief labourers put on the State Railway and the Túmkúr road brings up the total. A good many of the works are on tanks and have been stopped by the water; in many cases it is reported that the labourers have left to work on their fields.

6. The numbers gratuitously fed in relief camps have fallen from 208,683 to 161,892. The decrease is very general and almost universal, but it is largest in the Bangalore District and Municipality in Kolar, Tùmkúr and Chitaldroog; in fact, in those districts where the numbers were most overgrown.

	Week Ending—			
	September 15th.	September 22nd.	Decrease.	Increase.
Bangalore District - -	61,873	45,795	16,078	—
Do. Municipality - -	26,467	15,342	11,125	—
Kolar District - - -	17,865	8,698	9,167	—
Túmkúr - - - -	46,848	41,297	5,551	—
Mysore - - - -	2,381	2,575	—	194
Do. Municipality - -	680	707	—	27
Hassan - - - -	12,398	12,147	251	—
Kadur - - - - -	3,033	2,828	205	—
Shimoga - - - -	4,204	3,984	220	—
Chitaldroog - - -	32,934	28,519	4,415	—
		Total	46,791	

The decrease is partly due to the improvement in the prospects of field employment, and would have occurred in any case. It is partly due also to the enforcing of the conditions of residence and labour, and to the effects made to relegate the paupers to works. Of the numbers in the relief camps of the Bangalore Municipality, which have fallen by 19,000 in the last fortnight, over 5,000 have been put on the State Railway and the adjacent embankment; about 2,000 on the embankment of the Alsur lake; and about one thousand more on different projects, the waterworks, and two lines of road. The improvement in the condition of the labourers is already obvious; they are cheerful, healthy and contented, and those who a fortnight ago were thought hardly able to lift a pickaxe are now doing a fair day's work. Of the rest, some have left for their villages, some prefer to beg about the town, but these will be collected and brought in by the

police. To every applicant either labour or food is offered: if labour cannot be provided their food is given till the applicant can be set to work. The want of tools is still one of the greatest difficulties.

7. The cost of gratuitous feeding is returned as follows:—

	Per Head.
Bangalore District - - - -	0 13 0
Do. Municipality - -	Not returned.
Kolar - - - - -	0 10 6
Túmkúr - - - - -	0 12 3
Mysore - - - - -	0 15 3
Do. Municipality - - -	1 14 8
Hassan - - - - -	0 12 9
Kadur - - - - -	0 15 8
Shimoga - - - - -	0 8 4
Chitaldroog - - - -	0 10 7

An explanation will be called for of the excessive figures received from the Mysore Municipality.

PROVINCE OF MYSORE.

(No. 33.)

CONDITION STATEMENT FOR THE WEEK ENDING 22ND SEPTEMBER 1877.

DIVISIONS AND DISTRICTS.	Area in square miles.	Affected area in square miles.	Population.	Population of the affected area.	No. and description of works in progress under Revenue Officers.					Daily average number of persons employed on works of all kinds under Revenue Officers.		Daily average number of persons employed on works carried on by the Professional Department.		Amount sanctioned up to date of report for works under Revenue Officers.	Expenditure from the above amount known up to date.	Amount sanctioned up to date of report for works under officers of the Professional Department.	Expenditure up to date from the above amount.	Particulars regarding gratuitous relief.					Prices of staple grains in lbs. per rupee.						Average Rainfall for five years in inches, calculated up to 31st March 1876.	Total Rainfall from 1st April 1876, up to 15th September 1877.	Rainfall at Head-Quarters during the present week.	Average Rainfall of the District.	REMARKS.
					Roads.	Tanks.	Miscellaneous works.	Total present week.	Total last week.	During last week.	During present week.	During last week.	During present week.					Daily average number of persons gratuitously relieved at kitchens and camps.		Grants for gratuitous relief.			Total Expenditure up to date.	Average in ordinary years.		During last week.		During present week.					
																		During last week.	During present week.	Amount of private subscriptions up to date.	Amount of Government grant.	Total.		2nd sort Rice.	Ragi.	2nd sort Rice.	Ragi.	2nd sort Rice.	Ragi.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
NUNDYDROOG. Bangalore	2,914	1,914	828,354	384,968	42	122	122	286	313	6,390	6,626	5,054	7,442	3,52,932	2,51,056			61,873	45,795	1,506	6,61,363	6,62,869	6,65,241	26	60	10	12	10	12	35·	35·04	1·40	2·6	
NUNDYDROOG. Kolar	2,577	2,577	618,954	618,954	54	263	85	402	402	4,738	5,306	3,249	2,683	3,07,985	2,00,060			17,865	8,698	6,108	1,72,366	1,78,474	1,74,830	32	80	10	12	10	13	25·4	30·61	4·95	3·1	
NUNDYDROOG. Túmkúr	3,606	3,606	692,239	632,239	58	108	63	229	258	8,444	10,390	1,911	1,385	2,83,938	2,09,693			46,848	41,297	1,709	4,39,156	4,40,865	4,39,928	28	106	9	11	9	12	27·4	36·66	·40	1·5	
ASHTAGRAM. Mysore	4,127	1,470	943,187	118,032	42	20	9	71	69	777	905	5,166	4,614	1,15,844	79,284	34,61,961	25,94,204	2,381	2,575	7,495	30,887	38,382	30,083	24	70	8	11	8	11	24·3	34·88	2·80	1·8	
ASHTAGRAM. Hassan	3,291	2,154	668,417	190,873	42	33	25	100	98	961	1,881	2,382	2,185	1,36,951	1,12,444			12,398	12,147	2,769	1,21,801	1,24,570	1,21,776	32	76	9	10	9	11	34·4	31·86	2·04	2·	
NAGAR. Shimoga	3,797	388	498,976	47,431	23	78	44	145	143	1,272	1,184	1,615	1,662	2,34,221	1,49,952			4,204	3,984	5,615	25,171	30,786	29,935	30	76	8	9	9	10	38·4	37·34	3·33	1·7	
NAGAR. Kadur	2,294	691	333,925	100,444	13	40	90	143	142	630	219	1,959	1,859	1,06,895	52,149			3,033	2,828	2,573	30,389	32,962	27,766	30	64	8	10	8	12	35·7	39·11	3·57	2·	
NAGAR. Chitaldroog	4,471	4,238	531,360	511,204	48	59	224	331	328	4,714	4,665	3,606	3,441	2,78,483	1,82,544			32,934	28,519	5,852	3,20,911	3,26,763	3,00,082	24	38	8	11	9	12	23·5	25·17	1·85	2·2	
Bangalore Municipality	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	877	114	—	—	35,932	33,898	—	—	26,467	15,342	25,711	2,64,490	2,90,201	2,87,347	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Mysore Municipality	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	50	—	—	49,721	41,707	—	—	680	707	12,510	31,983	44,493	43,586	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	27,077	17,038	5,055,412	2,604,145	323	724	662	1,709	1,754	28,303	31,280	24,942	25,271	18,97,902	13,12,787	34,61,961	25,94,204	2,08,683	1,61,892	71,848	20,98,517	21,70,365	21,20,574	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

NOTE.—1. The expenditure entered in column 24 includes the amount contributed by private subscriptions as well as the Government grant in aid thereto.
2. The figures entered in columns 17 and 18 are based on the latest accounts received from the Examiner, Public Works Accounts.
3. The figures entered in columns 21 to 24 against the Bangalore Municipality represent the grants and expenditure up to 15th September, the return for the week ending 22nd September, not having been received.

(Signed) A. WRIGHT,
Additional Secretary.

REGISTER of Rainfall recorded scientifically at the Government Observatory at Bangalore for each week in the year, as the usual monthly averages do not give sufficiently reliable information in a tropical climate.

Week.	Month.	Rainfall—Inches and Cents.										Remarks for 1877.
		Average of 1871, 1872, and 1873.		1874.		1875.		1876.		1877.		
1st	January.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2nd		—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3rd		—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
4th		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5th	Feb.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
6th		—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
7th		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
8th		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
9th	March.	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10th		—	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11th		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	65	
12th		—	—	—	—	—	86	—	7	—	—	
13th		—	—	—	—	1	56	—	47	—	—	
14th	April.	—	41	—	—	—	31	—	—	2	20	
15th		—	20	—	14	—	—	—	47	—	—	
16th		—	40	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	
17th		—	2	—	45	—	15	—	—	—	1	
18th	May.	1	86	—	13	—	—	1	37	—	22	
19th		—	19	6	20	—	85	1	93	—	—	
20th		—	24	1	12	2	39	—	34	1	30	
21st		—	36	3	88	—	35	—	93	—	75	
22nd		1	9	4	28	—	48	—	3	1	15	
23rd	June.	—	39	—	20	1	69	—	1	—	97	
24th		—	10	—	83	1	43	1	42	1	77	
25th		—	88	—	28	—	7	—	21	—	26	
26th		1	15	—	30	—	14	—	67	—	—	
27th	July.	—	14	—	11	1	73	—	75	—	35	
28th		1	11	—	48	—	3	—	45	—	—	
29th		—	71	3	44	—	39	—	2	—	2	
30th		—	19	2	42	—	19	—	23	—	76	
31st		1	8	—	28	—	63	1	66	—	62	
32nd	Aug.	2	42	2	74	1	24	—	20	—	75	
33rd		1	98	1	51	—	59	1	60	1	31	
34th		1	97	1	96	—	86	—	58	—	54	
35th		—	54	1	45	1	59	—	50	—	3	
36th	Sept.	2	30	4	65	—	—	1	7	4	23	
37th		3	24	4	63	—	6	—	3	1	62	
38th		1	5	3	8	1	19	—	—	1	40	Week ending 22nd September 1877.
39th		1	56	2	31	—	54	—	45			
40th		3	12	2	20	—	27	—	72			
41st	Oct.	1	11	—	59	—	—	—	—			
42nd		1	76	1	30	—	45	—	—			
43rd		—	48	2	56	1	39	—	—			
44th		—	5	1	75	—	—	—	—			
45th	Nov.	—	33	—	82	—	26	—	52			
46th		—	47	—	—	—	34	—	—			
47th		—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—			
48th		—	49	—	35	—	—	—	9			
49th	Dec.	—	42	—	9	—	—	—	—			
50th		—	8	—	1	—	3	—	—			
51st		—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—			
52nd		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
		34	66	56	54	22	6	17	34			

Mean Meteorological Results from the Bangalore Observatory Register.	For the week ending 8th September 1877.	For the week ending 15th September 1877.	For the week ending 22nd September 1877.
Reduced atmospheric pressure -	26·944	27·054	27·008
Mean temperature of air -	74·9	76·2	75·8
Maximum solar heat in vacuo -	143·9	145·7	148·8
Maximum in shade -	82·6	83·2	82·9
Minimum in shade -	66·7	66·6	66·3
Depth of rain in inches - -	4·23	1·62	1·40

Encl. in No. 271.

No. 256.

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the GOVERNMENT of BOMBAY, Public Works Department, No. 590 P., dated the 2nd October 1877.

Read—

Memorandum from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, No. 5,887, dated 28th September 1877.

Submitting, for consideration and orders, a letter from the executive engineer for irrigation, Belgaum and Dharwar, requesting instructions, now that prospects of the season are quite assured, and there is no probability of there being any great demand for relief labour, as to the policy Government intend adopting with regard to the Gokak canal works. If it is intended to complete the canal up to the ninth mile, and to construct the main weir and the head works, there will be sufficient employment for his establishment, which is large, well trained, and capable of the management of 20,000 labourers, but to attract labour the canal must proceed as an ordinary public work, and piece-work and the petty contract system must be introduced. Requesting early orders on the subject, as the 5,000 labourers now employed on the canal have expressed their intention of leaving within a month for their homes.

RESOLUTION.—Government at the present time cannot authorise any measures that will tend to keep up the numbers upon this or any other relief work in Belgaum.

2. The chief engineer for irrigation should be requested to submit the complete project for the Gokak canal at an early date in order that the Government of India may be invited to classify the work as extraordinary.

Encl. in No. 288.

No. 256*a*.

Endorsement by the Commissioner of the Pegu Division,—No. 963–1, dated the 2nd October 1877.

Copy of the following, with copy of enclosure, forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma, with reference to his letter No. 1615–421, dated the 12th instant.

RECENT FLOODS IN THE HENZADA DISTRICT.

From the DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Henzada, to the COMMISSIONER OF THE PEGU DIVISION, No. 40–2, dated the 27th September 1877.

With reference to your docket, Revenue Department (Miscellaneous), No. 889–1, dated the 17th instant, I have the honour to submit a detailed statement showing the probable extent of the destruction of crops caused by the recent floods, aggregating 59,100 acres, or nearly one-fourth of the entire rice crop of this district.

The return is made up roughly, and is founded on information furnished by the Thoogyees and others, and upon my own observations in the course of a visit to the inundated lands in Tharrawaddy, from which I have just returned. Although the water of the Irrawaddy was, I believe, little over a foot higher than it was in 1875, the Meit-ma-kah rose some four or five feet higher than upon that memorable occasion, and the destruction has in consequence been very much more widespread; added to this the first replanting in that quarter was entirely destroyed by the rise of the end of August, thereby using up the greater part of the stock of reserve seedlings, and leaving insufficient for a second complete crop.

I regret to have further to state that the prospects of a supplementary crop are much less favourable now than they appeared a fortnight ago. The want of rain and hot weather which has prevailed are against the chance of the seedlings (which are becoming too mature for transplanting) surviving or attaining to vigorous maturity. Of the damage caused by the three breaches in the embankment, that near Zaloon is accountable for about 8,561 acres; that at Kyanghin has permitted the flooding of the whole of the "protected" land, 2,900 acres; the third breach on the Laymyethna embankment, near Dambee, has caused danger to but 160 acres.

The river is again full up to the brink, and the flow through the breach near Zaloon is renewed to the utter destruction of the seedlings put in since the flood abated.

I believe the figures given in the statement submitted, though as near as can be at present ascertained, represent the outside estimate of the damage; and I think that one fourth may be deducted from it for lands which will be still utilized by planting out or broadcast hand-sowing.

The remaining crops in the district promise remarkably well.

Floods in the Bassein District.

From the Commissioner of the Pegu Division to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burma,—No. 953–135, dated the 1st October 1877.

I have the honour to forward herewith for the Chief Commissioner's information copy of letter No. 36–13, dated 17th September last, together with a memorandum in original by Mr. A. L. Hough, Extra Assistant Commissioner, containing a complete account of the breaches made in the Nga Woon embankment in August last.

2. It will be seen from Mr. Hough's memorandum that there is very little, if any, foundation for the report made by a subordinate of the Public Works Department that the first breaches were intentionally or maliciously made.

All the damage would appear to be due to the intrinsic weakness of the bund in places where its foundations are composed of loose friable soil. Although the water in the Nga Woon rose one and a half foot higher than it has ever been known to rise before, the bund did not give way because it was overtopped by the water, but because its foundations were sapped and carried away.

The Deputy Commissioner remarks from personal observation :—" In many places the " water percolated through nearly the thickest part of the bund, and it was with the " utmost difficulty that the workmen and villagers could prevent the underneath part of " the bund sliding away in a liquid mass."

Mr. Hough's experience is the same. The foundations first were eaten away. The superstructure naturally subsided, and then the water rushed in and carried everything away.

The bund, therefore, appears to have been deficient in breadth of base rather than in height.

Out of the 15 breaches in the Bassein district, 13 were made before the water reached its highest level.

3. Notwithstanding the immense volume of water which poured through the breaches, and submerged the villages inside, it is satisfactory to learn that no lives were lost, though many must have had narrow escapes, and amongst a less amphibious population loss of life would probably have occurred.

At one place Mr. Hough remarks :—" Women came and begged for boats to go and " bring away their children, whom they had had to place upon trees as the water had " driven them from their homes."

A few cattle are supposed to have been drowned. The loss of household property is not given. The greatest loss of course is in the standing crops.

The Deputy Commissioner roughly estimates the area over which the crops have been destroyed as 47,767 acres; and but a small portion of this is likely to be planted out again, the season being so far advanced, and seedlings not being easily procurable.

It may be reckoned that an area of 40,000 acres at least will be lost this year.

This is out of a total of about 260,000 acres in the whole of the Bassein district.

4. Colonel Davies appears to have been making very zealous but, I fear, somewhat useless endeavours to induce the people to attempt the cultivation of dry weather crops, such as gram, sessamum, &c. in their paddy-fields. To succeed in raising a dry weather crop out of the ordinary paddy kweng of the delta would be very creditable to a scientific agriculturist; and it is hardly to be expected therefore that the inexperienced peasants of the country should succeed on the spur of the moment in performing such a feat.

5. All the local officials appeared to have laboured zealously, and done what they could to avert the calamity.

The Deputy Commissioner, Colonel Davies, I regret to say, succumbed to the fatigue and exposure which he underwent, and has since been dangerously ill.

Mr. Hough mentions some of the native officials who did good service, but his list is not complete. He has been requested to furnish another and more complete list.

No. 257.

MYSORE FAMINE CODE, 1877.

This code is issued, with the sanction of the Chief Commissioner, for the instruction and guidance of all officers engaged in relief operations. That part of it (Chap. I., Sec. I.) which relates to the duties of the D. P. W. officer has been drawn up with the approval and under the instructions of the chief engineer.

Undoubtedly experience will bring to light errors and omissions in this code, which is issued now as a tentative measure, and the undersigned will be glad to receive suggestions and criticisms from all quarters, and especially from all relief officers.

C. A. ELLIOTT,
Famine Commissioner.

Bangalore, 2nd October 1877.

FAMINE CODE.

PREFACE.

The backbone of the famine policy is the employment of all suitable applicants for relief on large works of permanent utility superintended by professional officers of the Public Works Department. It is the duty of the civil officer to decide who are suitable applicants, *i.e.*, who are sufficiently able-bodied for labour. In the present state of this province it is not intended, until a crop is harvested, that any applicant should be rejected on the ground of being too well to do, provided he submits to the three tests :—

(1.) The distance test—which shows that he is willing to labour at a distance from his home, not returning there at night but being hutted on the work.

(2.) The wage test—*i.e.*, that he receives a wage calculated to provide a bare subsistence for himself, but not enough to support any non-working member of the family.

(3.) The task-work test—*i.e.*, that he performs a daily task proportioned to his strength.

It is important to remember that, while it is desirable to secure the best return in work for the expenditure incurred, the main object of opening and carrying out a relief work, is not for the sake of the work, but for the sake of the labourers employed on the work.

On every large public work there will, if possible, be placed a civil officer to co-operate with and assist the Public Works officer, and a medical officer to take charge of the sick and those requiring special treatment. There will also be three classes of labourers.

Class I.—The moderately able-bodied, who can on an average perform 75 per cent. of the task usually accomplished by an ordinary cooly. Some members of this class will be fully able-bodied; some, though strong themselves, may have a sickly wife or child; some may be reduced by privation below their usual strength. But the class, taken as a whole, counting the stronger with the weaker members, should be able to perform the 75 per cent. condition, and should receive the higher or A. scale of wages, *vide* Appendix I.

Class II.—Those who are weakly, but are still able to work, and can on an average perform 50 per cent. of their ordinary task. This class will consist mainly of those who are old, infirm, partially disabled by some natural defect, or who are temporarily enfeebled by famine, but whom regular work and regular pay may be expected to restore. These should receive the lower or B. scale of wages.

Class III.—Those who are too much emaciated to do any but a very light task, but who under special care may be expected to improve, and whose health and self-respect will be best consulted by employing them in easy open-air work. These are called the class under Special Treatment. They will receive the A. scale of wage, in the hope of restoring their strength and fitting them to be drafted among the able-bodied, in addition to any extra nourishment the medical or the relief officer may prescribe. Old and decrepit persons who cannot be expected to improve in strength are not to be included in this class.

The civil officer will classify the applicants as they arrive according to these three classes, and will from time to time, as they improve or retrograde in strength, suggest their transfer from one class to another. The medical officer will see to the special

treatment of all those who require extra food and nourishment, and for whom the ordinary wage is not sufficient. The D. P. W. officer will receive the gangs and individuals made over to him, set them to work, register and number them, measure up the work they do, and see to their payment and their hutting. Accordingly, the code treats in separate sections—(1.) of the duties of the professional officer of the Public Works Department; (2.) of those of the civil officer; (3.) of those of the medical officer.

II. Civil relief works are supplementary to large P. W. D. relief works, and may be employed in three ways:—(1.) as a safety valve for labour when there are more applicants than the Public Works Department can receive; (2.) as a training school for P. W. D. work, when it is desired to move bodies of men to considerable distances, and they are broken into this by being organised and accustomed to work together in gangs for a short time near their homes; (3.) to give employment to the old and decrepit who do not come up to Class II., *i.e.*, cannot do half an ordinary day's work, and who will not be restored to strength by liberal treatment, and so must not be put in the special treatment class.

The petty relief works, on which small bodies of 10 or 20 labourers have hitherto been employed, being paid by piece-work or by contract, and under no real supervision, are to be discontinued. No work will be undertaken as a civil relief work which will not afford employment for at least 300 people for one month. They will be hutted on the work, and not, except in the second case referred to above, allowed to go to their homes at night, and each work will be supervised by a responsible civil officer. The second chapter of the code expounds the duties of the civil officer with relation to civil relief works.

III. The third main division of the scheme of famine policy is the relief camp. These camps are not to be used, as has generally been the case hitherto, as dining places, where people come for a meal or two meals a day and go away. Every person who receives relief at a relief camp must submit to two conditions:—(1.) residence in the camp; (2.) work. The camp must therefore be enclosed, and be provided with sufficient shed accommodation for its population. The able-bodied should not be received there but sent at once to a work. The weakly applicant should also be generally sent to a relief work, but may sometimes be detained a few days to be fed up. The ordinary population should consist entirely of the old and infirm who are not likely to improve, and of the sick in hospital. For all these, except the sick, such work as they are capable of should be provided.

IV. The fourth main head of the code is Special Treatment. The Chief Commissioner's Proceedings, Famine Department, No. 5, dated 11th September (*vide* Appendix I.), prescribe the ordinary wages on P. W. D. and civil relief works, and the ordinary ration in relief camps. But there are many cases in which the ordinary rates will not apply. Small and emaciated children, nursing mothers, who either themselves or their babies are suffering from innutrition, young and middle-aged adults of both sexes who have been temporarily brought down by starvation, women advanced in pregnancy, convalescents out of the hospitals, these form the chief classes of "special cases" who require "special treatment." No part of the relief officer's duty (whether he be P. W. D., civil, or medical) is more important than the selection of cases for special treatment and seeing that the orders he gives are carried out.

V. The fifth chapter in the code treats of village inspection and relief. This is especially the duty of the civil officers of the district, and unless it is zealously and carefully performed it is impossible for them to find out the true condition of the people of their district, or to know if there are many people in the villages who need relief, but are too proud, or too frightened or too resigned to their fate, to apply for it.

It may often happen that an officer may inspect a village once a week for three weeks running, turn out the inhabitants and find them all looking stout and comfortable, and on the fourth week may see that distress and emaciation have suddenly set in. Then he will act by sending the people on to relief works or into relief camps, and seeing that they go; but without this inspection he may be startled by suddenly finding a large influx of famine-stricken people who have come in too late to be saved.

Special relief for artisans who are unfitted for manual labour is provided by supplying them with the raw material of their trade, and for this purpose it is necessary to provide for the careful house-to-house inspection of all large towns.

Finally, every officer employed in connexion with relief operations, of whatever rank, is held personally responsible that measures adequate to the distress are used, that

unusual or impending distress is early brought to notice, that no question of form is allowed to impede relief, and that all orders are carried into execution.

Relief must never be allowed to run short so long as relief is necessary; foresight must be exercised, and one work planned as fast as another draws near completion, or as fast as there are indications of an influx of labour. A list of works which are ready to be undertaken should be drawn up for each district, so as to be available whenever there is a fresh demand for work. No officer will be held excused for turning off gangs of labourers on the completion of a work, or for refusing *bonâ fide* applicants for labour, by the plea that he had not received a sanction.

CHAPTER I.

Section I.—Duties of the D. P. W. Officer.

Preparation. I. The executive engineer or other officer placed by the chief engineer in charge of a relief work will, after completing his preparations, give information to the Deputy Commissioner of the district that on a given day or at given dates he will be prepared to receive so many labourers to be made over to him at such a place.

Location of classes. II. He will divide the work out so as to locate in separate parts of it the gangs belonging to the different classes :

(1.) Able-bodied.
(2.) Weakly, but fit for labour.
(3.) Special treatment.

Division of classes into gangs. III. When the labourers arrive (they will be already classified by the civil officer according to the above three classes) he will distribute them into gangs, allowing those of the same or neighbouring villages as far as possible to work together, and, where the prejudices of the people require it, those of the same caste. Each gang will ordinarily consist of about 50 people under one gangsman or head cooly; men, women, and children being associated in due proportion; and about four to six gangs will be under one writer who will keep up the nominal register.

Nominal Registers. IV. The first duty will be to frame nominal registers of labourers, showing the name, caste, and village of each, and the date he was taken on the work. The roll will be called daily, and those who are absent for part of the day will receive half a day's pay; if absent during the whole day, no pay for that day.

Hutting. V. The next point is the hutting. Instructions have already been issued (*vide* App. No. II.) as to the kind of hut which should be put up to contain one family. The earthen walls and raised floor should be the labourers' task, the mats for the roof are supplied by the D. P. W. officer. Huts to accommodate about 10 per cent. of the numbers expected may, if necessary, be erected before the arrival of the relief labourers; but this need not be done, if there is any available accommodation on the spot. As to the selection of the site of the camp, and the general rules which should guide its laying out, the instructions of the Bombay Sanitary Commissioner (App. No. III.) should be followed as far as possible.

Task work. VI. The first day or two will be occupied in organizing and hutting the labourers, and for those days full wages (scale A for Classes I. and III., scale B for Class II.) should be given. When the labourers are thoroughly organised and set to work, task work should be exacted from them, not individually but by the gang, the work of each gang being measured up weekly or twice a week. Task work must not, however, be exacted rigidly during the first few days, especially from those who are at all feeble. The able-bodied who are in Class I. are expected to do 75 per cent. of the work done at ordinary times by an able-bodied cooly; if they do less they should be cut down to the lower wage (scale B). Those who belong to Class II. (weakly but fit for some labour) are expected to perform 50 per cent. of the full task which they could ordinarily perform; but if they do less, their wage (being calculated at the minimum sufficient for supporting life for seven days by six days' labour) should not be cut, unless the D. P. W. officer is quite satisfied that the failure to work is wilful and not due to weakness. He should exercise great discretion and patience here, should warn the people two or three times, and if that fails he may deduct the condiment portion of the wage. But this penalty should not be repeated without consulting the civil officer, lest the labourers should begin to fall off in condition. From the 3rd class, those under special treatment, no task can be demanded. The amount exacted as the task in each kind of labour should be reported by the P. W. D. officer to the superintendent engineer, who

will see that the rates are fair and not excessive. No work will be exacted on Sunday and no wages paid, the rate of wages for working days being calculated so as to leave a margin over for Sundays.

Payment of wages.

VII. It will generally be necessary at first to pay the labourers daily, and after a time twice or thrice a week; but weekly payments should be the rule for the able-bodied gangs (Class I.), and should be introduced as soon as possible, without inconvenience and loss to the labourers. When the work has been going on for some time, and the grain merchants acquire confidence in the system, and know that a labourer whose name is on the roll is sure to be paid at the end of the week, they will readily give him credit during the week. But facilities must be given for any labourer's departure from the work at any time for his home, provided there is reasonable presumption that he can support himself when he gets there. He must be paid up and let go even in the middle of a week. All payments must be made in cash; no cooked or raw food is to be given except to the people who are under special treatment. Payments will be made on nominal registers or muster rolls, which should be checked as expeditiously as possible in order to avoid any delay in making the week's payment. They must not be made through low-paid underlings but by regular cashiers borne upon the strength of the establishment, from whom good security should be required. Officers in charge will be expected to check payments, and inspecting officers, civil or D. P. W., must, on visiting a work, endeavour to satisfy themselves that the full Government wage reaches the cooly, less duly authorised cuttings. When required by the civil officer, arrangement should be made for paying new arrivals an interim payment after they have been one or two days on the work.

Shelter for infants.

VIII. Shelter should be erected, in which the infants and children too small to labour, belonging to people in the working gangs, may be collected. About 20 children may be placed together under the care of a woman, who is herself a nursing mother, or otherwise entitled to consideration through age or infirmity. The shelter should be at such a distance that the children of mothers belonging to the gangs should not interfere with the work, but should be within easy access of their mothers. Any of these children who are weakly will be treated and fed as special cases.

Information as to room on the work.

IX. The D. P. W. officer will weekly send a slip in the following form to the Deputy Commissioner of the district, who will circulate it to such of the relief officers under him as he considers proper.

Name of Work.	Number employed on the of .	Additional number to whom employment can be given on or after the of .

Expiry of sanction or completion of work.

X. When a sanction is approaching expiry, or when a relief work is approaching completion, the D. P. W. officer should make timely report to his immediate superior to enable him to pass such orders as may be necessary, and shall also inform the Deputy Commissioner.

General responsibility of the Department Public Works officer.

XI. In cases where a civil officer cannot be spared to be placed on the relief work, the duties which ordinarily belong to him will devolve on the D. P. W. officer, and especially those defined in rules IV., V., VI., VII., VIII., and IX., section II. Every officer in charge of a relief work will be held responsible for the condition of his people, and for the prompt and judicious carrying out of all orders laid down.

Outbreak of epidemic.

XII. The outbreak of any epidemic disease, and especially of cholera, should be immediately reported to the civil officer, or, if there is none present, to the Deputy Commissioner of the district, and also direct to the chief engineer.

Form of weekly report.

XIII. Every officer in charge of a relief work will make a weekly report in the form appended (Appendix No. IV.). The condition and health of the labourers should be specially noticed, and the cause of any increase or decrease in numbers should be explained.

CHAPTER I.

Section II.—Duties of the Civil Relief Officer.

N.B.—The term Civil Relief Officer is applied to a Deputy or Assistant Commissioner or a Special Relief Officer, not to an Amildar.

I. The Deputy Commissioner, on receiving information from the executive engineer or other D. P. W. officer of the number of relief labourers who can be entertained at a given place on a given date, will decide from what taluk or taluks the numbers are to be sent, will instruct the relief officers of the taluks accordingly, and will, if possible, appoint a civil officer to cooperate with the D. P. W. officer on the new relief works.

Drafting of gangs on to relief works.

II. The civil relief officer in charge of a taluk, on hearing how many people he is expected to send to a relief work, will first of all select the number from the relief camp or camps in his taluk. He will be careful not to draft on to relief work those who are too emaciated to do any work at all, or to benefit in health by the move. In the first instance, when the gangs drafted are large, and the people have long been accustomed to gratuitous relief, there will be unwillingness to move, and timidity. This must be overcome by tact and exertion. The relief officer should himself march the earliest gangs to the relief work, so as to prevent any desertion by the way, or he may send them in the charge of a trusty superior official, such as the amildar. When the system is well established, and the people have confidence in the work and crowd to it instead of shrinking from it, it will be sufficient to place the party under the charge of a gangsman or peon or constable, according to his discretion, and to send with him a slip of paper showing so many persons of the 1st class, so many of the 2nd, so many of the 3rd, despatched on such a day, to reach the relief work on such a day. The relief officer will in either case distinguish the individuals by giving to those whom he ranks in Class 1 a paper ticket marked A, to those of Class 2 a ticket marked B, and to Class 3 a C ticket. These tickets are to be delivered up to the D. P. W. officer on arrival.

Batta or travelling allowance to labourers.

III. Batta will be given to the labourers according to the distance to be travelled. If it is not more than one day's march, the best plan is to give them a meal in the morning before starting, and a meal in the evening on arrival. If the distance is more than one day they should either be halted for the night at a relief camp, having an order on it for food, or else at some police station, or some village, the patel of which is known to be trustworthy, where the police officer or patel would on production of the relief Officer's order provide the party with food. The allowance should not exceed 16 oz. of grain, raw or cooked, for each day. Money should not be given to the labourers themselves till they arrive.

Reception of applicants by civil relief officer.

IV. The civil officer on the relief work should receive these labourers, and make them over to the D. P. W. officer. When the first start has been made applicants for labour on the work should apply direct to the civil officer, who should establish a fixed place at which to receive all applicants every morning, in order to classify them and send them on to that or any other work.

Distance test.

V. In all cases the "distance test" should be enforced, tentatively and cautiously at first, more strictly afterwards. People should never be sent to work close to their homes, but a little distance off. The Deputy Commissioner should enforce this test by the direction he gives as to what taluks should supply what work. As a rule the labourers from a relief camp in one taluk should not be sent to a relief work in that taluk, but elsewhere; but the rule should be introduced gradually, the people being employed at first a little distance off, then when they are organized and accustomed to work in gangs, and have got to know each other and the gangsman, and to have confidence in the system, they can be marched to greater distances. Similarly when applicants come to the civil officer on a relief work, if the work is one stretching over some miles, he will send them to that part of it which is farthest from their homes.

No applicants to be rejected.

VI. The civil officer may refuse to send to the work people who are obviously unfit for relief, who wear gold ornaments, rich clothes, &c. But in the present state of the province he is not authorised to refuse employment to any who apply, merely because they are fat and strong and in good condition. It is believed that the enforcement of the three conditions—

1. the distance test,
2. the wage test,
3. the labour test,

are sufficient to prevent the danger of the work becoming too popular.

VII. The civil officer should move daily up and down the work and inspect the gangs; if he sees any falling off in condition, or any improvement, he should suggest to the P. W. D. officer to remove them from one class to another; he should see that there is a bazar sufficiently stocked, at which food can be got at reasonable prices; he should supply the P. W. D. officer with a statement of the price of grain at the end of each week in order that the rate of daily wage for the next week may be found from the sliding scale; he should occasionally inspect the payment of the gangs and should see that there is no peculation and no unlicensed deduction made from their wages; he should carefully watch the carrying out of the orders as to special relief to infants, to nursing mothers, and to the sick and emaciated. Constant inspection and supervision.

VIII. Every civil officer in charge of a relief work will receive a permanent advance of Rs. 100 to enable him to give food or money to applicants the first day they arrive on the works, and to meet any exceptional expenditure. He will send in to the Deputy Commissioner on every Monday an account of his expenditure under this head for the previous week, and also a weekly report on all points of interest and importance. Permanent advance.

X. Relief labourers should be encouraged to bring their whole families with them to the works, and relations of labourers who arrive subsequently should always be taken on, if fit for labour. Attention to this point is particularly necessary when any deterioration of the labourer's physique becomes apparent, and inquiry will probably show that he has been endeavouring to support members of his family on a wage intended only for himself. Inspecting or superintending officers will therefore be expected to watch narrowly the proportion of young children on the works and to take immediate steps when that proportion is improperly small. Entire families to be brought on works.

CHAPTER I.

Section III.—Duties of the Medical Officer.

I. As far as circumstances permit, the Medical Department should arrange for attaching a hospital assistant to each large work. If no other shelter is available for the medical officer, a tent or other accommodation will be provided on application.

II. One or more hospital sheds should be erected as quickly as possible in a convenient locality, and provided with a sufficient number of mats, blankets, and ordinary medical comforts. An adequate supply of common medicines should be furnished by the Medical Department. The cost of the hospitals will be charged to the works, but indents should first be passed by the Deputy Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department. Care should be taken to keep the hospitals dry and clean, and the requisite nursing and sanitary establishment will be supplied by the officer in charge of the work. Hospital sheds

III. The medical officer will be held responsible for proper arrangements for conservancy, latrines, surface drainage, and water supply at the camps and hospitals, and he should report to the officer in charge his requirements in these respects. Drinking water should be carefully guarded from contamination. Conservancy arrangements.

IV. It will be the duty of the medical officer to inspect the camps every morning. No one should be allowed to live in the camps who is not upon the works. Inspection of camps.

V. The gangs of labourers will also be inspected daily, and the medical officer will point out any persons belonging to Classes I. and II., who in his opinion require hospital or special treatment, paying particular attention to nursing mothers, young children, and weakly adults who are not old, decrepit, or constitutionally infirm. The inspection of Class III., those under special treatment, must be done more carefully, and separate instructions regarding this will be found in Chapter IV. of this Code. Selection of special cases.

VI. The sanitary Inspector of the district will regularly visit D. P. W. and civil relief works, and submit a special report to the Additional Secretary, Famine Department, on each work visited.

APPENDIX I.

No. 5, dated Bangalore, 11th September 1877.

The Chief Commissioner, after consultation with the Famine Commissioner and the Chief Engineer, is pleased, in supersession to all former orders, to lay down the following scale of rates of wages on relief works, and of rates of food in relief camps, for the guidance of all officers in the Mysore Province.

A.—Rates of wages on P. W. D. Relief Works.

Adult male	-	-	value of	1⅓	lb. of grain, plus	9	pie for condiments.	
„ female	-	-	„	1	lb. „	9	„	„
Child above 7	-	-	„	⅔	lb. „	6	„	„
Child under 7	-	-	„	¼	lb. „			

B.—Rates of Wages on Civil Relief Works.

Adult male	-	-	value of	1⅓	lb. of grain, plus	3	pie for condiments.	
„ female	-	-	„	1	lb. „	3	„	„
Child above 7	-	-	„	⅔	lb. „	2	„	„
Child under 7	-	-	„	¼	lb. „			

By grain is meant grain of medium quality and of the description in ordinary use at the time of payment among the labourers on the works. The price to be taken at the retail price of the grain ruling at the head-quarters of the taluk on the previous week.

C.—Rates of cooked food in relief camps for all persons, except those who are in hospital or treated as special cases as being too infirm to labour or as being children under 7 years of age—

Adult male or female	-	1 lb. of grain, plus 3 pie worth of condiments.
Child over 7 years old	-	½ lb. of grain, plus 2 „ „

N.B.—Ordinarily ragi is to be taken as the staple grain. When ragi is not procurable, rice may be given. The same quantity is to be given in either case, whether of rice or ragi flour. The ration described for food in relief camps is the quantity of raw ragi flour or rice which each person is to get; and the officer in charge of every camp will be held responsible for seeing that the ration distributed is the quantity which the one pound or the half pound will produce after baking, or boiling, as the case may be.

The sliding scale of prices attached to this Resolution shows the amount of money wage to be given, according to the varying prices of grain, on Public Works Department or civil relief works. No wages will be given and no work exacted on any relief work on Sundays. The rate of wages laid down is intended to make provision for the Sunday's food.

A. Or Higher Sliding Wage-scale for Relief Works.

Rate of Grain per Rupee.	Adult Male.			Adult Female.	Child over 7.	Child under 7.
	P. W. D. Relief Work.			P. W. D. Wage.	P. W. D. Wage.	
	Cost of 1⅓ lbs.	Condiment.	Daily Wage.			
14 lbs.	0 1 6	0 0 9	0 2 3	0 1 11	0 1 3	0 0 4
13½ lbs.	0 1 7	0 0 9	0 2 4	0 1 11	0 1 3	0 0 4
13 lbs.	0 1 8	0 0 9	0 2 5	0 2 0	0 1 4	0 0 4
12½ lbs.	0 1 8	0 0 9	0 2 5	0 2 0	0 1 4	0 0 4
12 lbs.	0 1 9	0 0 9	0 2 6	0 2 1	0 1 4	0 0 4
11½ lbs.	0 1 10	0 0 9	0 2 7	0 2 1	0 1 5	0 0 4
11 lbs.	0 1 11	0 0 9	0 2 8	0 2 2	0 1 5	0 0 4
10½ lbs.	0 2 0	0 0 9	0 2 9	0 2 3	0 1 6	0 0 4
10 lbs.	0 2 1	0 0 9	0 2 10	0 2 4	0 1 6	0 0 5
9½ lbs.	0 2 2	0 0 9	0 2 11	0 2 5	0 1 7	0 0 5
9 lbs.	0 2 4	0 0 9	0 3 1	0 2 6	0 1 8	0 0 5
8½ lbs.	0 2 6	0 0 9	0 3 3	0 2 8	0 1 9	0 0 6
8 lbs.	0 2 8	0 0 9	0 3 5	0 2 9	0 1 10	0 0 6
7½ lbs.	0 2 11	0 0 9	0 3 8	0 2 10	0 1 11	0 0 6
7 lbs.	0 3 1	0 0 9	0 3 10	0 3 0	0 2 0	0 0 7
6½ lbs.	0 3 3	0 0 9	0 4 0	0 3 2	0 2 1	0 0 7
6 lbs.	0 3 7	0 0 9	0 4 4	0 3 5	0 2 3	0 0 8

B. Or Lower Sliding Wage-scale for Relief Works.

Rate of grain per Rupee.	Adult Male.			Adult Female.	Child over 7.	Child under 7.
	Civil Relief Work.			Civil wage.	Civil wage.	
	Cost of 1⅓ lb.	Condiments.	Daily wage.			
14 lbs.	0 1 6	0 0 3	0 1 9	0 1 5	0 0 11	0 0 4
13½ lbs.	0 1 7	0 0 3	0 1 10	0 1 5	0 0 11	0 0 4
13 lbs.	0 1 8	0 0 3	0 1 11	0 1 6	0 1 0	0 0 4
12½ lbs.	0 1 8	0 0 3	0 1 11	0 1 6	0 1 0	0 0 4
12 lbs.	0 1 9	0 0 3	0 2 0	0 1 7	0 1 0	0 0 4
11½ lbs.	0 1 10	0 0 3	0 2 1	0 1 7	0 1 1	0 0 4
11 lbs.	0 1 11	0 0 3	0 2 2	0 1 8	0 1 1	0 0 4
10½ lbs.	0 2 0	0 0 3	0 2 3	0 1 9	0 1 2	0 0 4
10 lbs.	0 2 1	0 0 3	0 2 4	0 1 10	0 1 2	0 0 5
9½ lbs.	0 2 2	0 0 3	0 2 5	0 1 11	0 1 3	0 0 5
9 lbs.	0 2 4	0 0 3	0 2 7	0 2 0	0 1 4	0 0 5
8½ lbs.	0 2 6	0 0 3	0 2 9	0 2 2	0 1 5	0 0 6
8 lbs.	0 2 8	0 0 3	0 2 11	0 2 3	0 1 6	0 0 6
7½ lbs.	0 2 11	0 0 3	0 3 2	0 2 4	0 1 7	0 0 6
7 lbs.	0 3 1	0 0 3	0 3 4	0 2 6	0 1 8	0 0 7
6½ lbs.	0 3 3	0 0 3	0 3 6	0 2 8	0 1 9	0 0 7
6 lbs.	0 3 7	0 0 3	0 3 10	0 2 11	0 1 11	0 0 8

Appendix II.

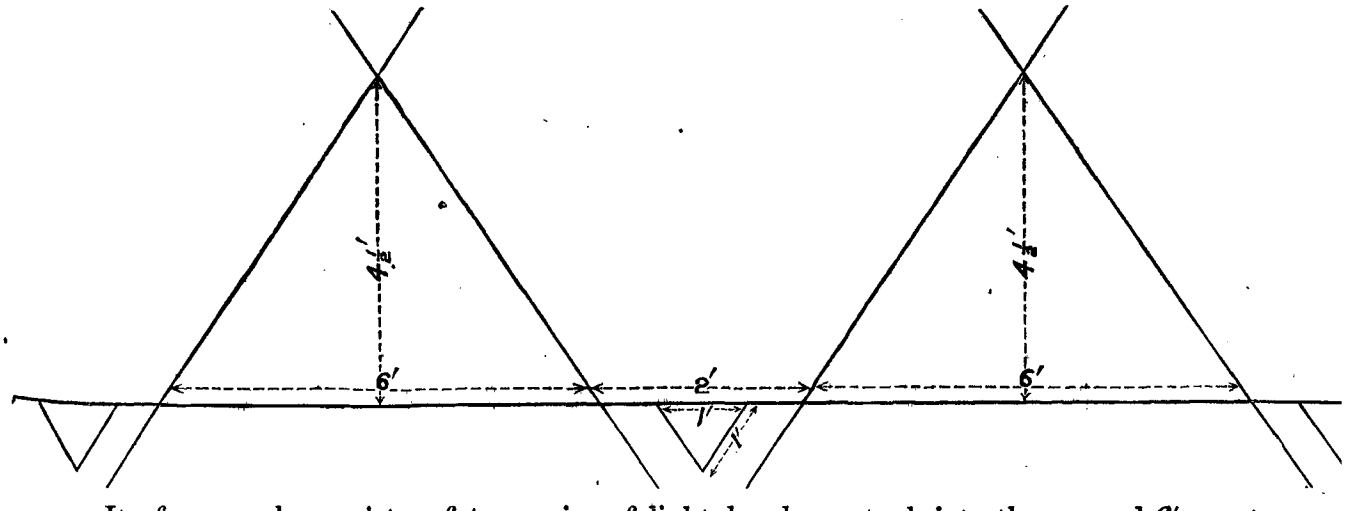
CIRCULAR 19.—For the Guidance of Officers in Charge of Poor Relief Works.

Mysore Public Works Department, Central Office,
Bangalore, 17th September 1877.

The first day's work for the poor-relief party must be hutting themselves. We do not want palatial residences such as the inhabitants never had in their own villages, nor any contractors to build huts and send in large bills. The workpeople must hut themselves; all that should be supplied being the materials that they could not readily procure.

2. The designs of these huts may vary largely. Executive engineers will probably have their own ideas about them; and within certain limits of economy, convenience, and sanitation, there is no reason why they should not follow these ideas. The following is suggested, not ordered, as a form of hut which after experience has been found to answer well.

The hut is 9′ × 6′ ground area; 4½′ high at the ridge.



Its framework consists of two pairs of light bamboos stuck into the ground 6′ apart and tied together where they cross, and a fifth bamboo used as ridge pole. The sides consist each of a bamboo matting 6′ × 5½′. A third matting of the same size is bent over the top. The upper portion then is double, the lower single matting. The latter may be tarred, or covered wattle and dab fashion with a mixture of earth and cowdung.

3. If the site of the camp is soft or cultivated soil, the flooring of the hut should be raised one foot, but if it is hard untilled land this will not be necessary; only precautions

must be taken to keep the camp drained, and the huts dry. Each hut of this description should hold a family (say man, woman, and three children), or, if the labourers are not in families, three adults. They should be placed two feet apart, and arranged in regular streets 50 feet wide, with cross streets at intervals. Between two parallel streets there would always be two rows of huts back to back, with about 15′ to 20′ between them. Each hut should cost about Rs. 3. The camp should be of course near the work, and with people so weakened, we must give them every chance by selecting a good site for it.

4. The Executive engineer is begged to remember that our object is twofold: to get some return for the money Government does not grudge to lay out on saving human life, and also to raise a people demoralised by long pauperism and idleness, and to rally them back into the ranks of working men and women. He must not, therefore, hesitate to enter into little particulars, and to bestow accurate attention on matters that in an ordinary way would never come before him.

5. The water supply must be carefully seen to. Wherever possible it should be from above not below the camp, and wells must be sunk in convenient situations should there be no tanks or streams available for drinking purposes. Conservancy must be closely attended to. The best form for latrine is merely a long trench for each sex, dug daily one foot deep, and daily filled in, at a distance of not less than 500 feet to leeward of the camp, and well removed from the water supply. It will be very difficult to make the people use these trenches, but every effort should be made, and if necessary police stationed to enforce it.

6. Colonel Sankey's design for hospitals should be adhered to, and one or more built at every camp of above 500 people. Executive engineers must use their best judgment in selecting good sites for these. Where it is possible a medical subordinate will be attached to each large camp. Further instructions will be issued as to the special treatment of the more weakly ones who are sent to the works.

7. In anticipation of large works beginning, Executive engineers should look out for suitable head coolies fit to take charge of gangs of say 50 labourers. Over four such gangs there should be a mustering officer able to keep a nominal roll in vernacular, which is a necessary part of this system. Over every four or five of these mustering headmen there should be a sub-overseer. In beginning any new work the payments must be made daily, although, perhaps, only for the first few days. Executive engineers must see that suitable cashiers are present.

C. S. MONCRIEFF, Major R.E.,
Officiating Chief Engineer of Mysore.

Appendix III.

Rules for the Information and Guidance of those entrusted with the Sanitary Arrangements in the Famine Districts.

1. As soon as it is decided to concentrate a large body of labourers at any one place, a site for their encampment should be immediately selected. The points to be remembered in selecting a site are the following:—

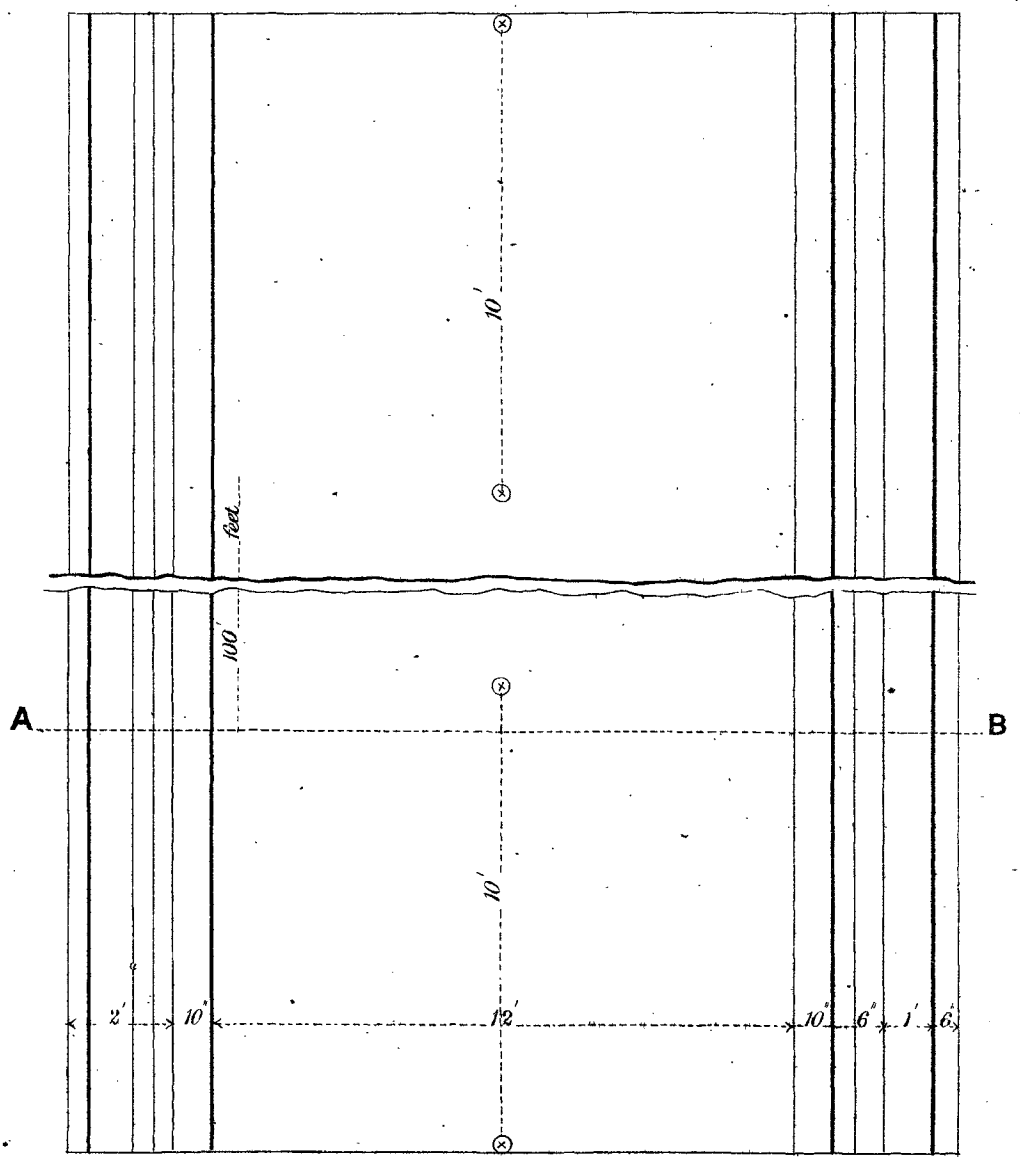
Proximity to drinking water-supply;
Do. to the works where the men will be engaged;
Facilities for procuring fuel and provisions;
Do. for making field latrines;
Do. for surface drainage and provision, that the site, if epidemic disease breaks out, will not be a source of danger to villages in the neighbourhood.

2. The site must be in every case below, and not above, the source of drinking water-supply, to which it should not approach nearer than 300 yards. Elevated ground at a distance from nullahs should, if possible, be chosen. If there is a grove of trees in the neighbourhood, the encampment may be made under them. If there is only an open plain, arrangements, according to the material available, must be made to hut the people. Grass for tatties may not be procurable, but it may be possible to make open sheds with branches of trees. If no other means are at hand, cumbly tents must be rigged up, supported (if there is no wood to make uprights) by stones. One man should give his cumbly for this purpose, and his comrade should reserve his for covering both at night. These temporary habitations should be erected in straight lines, and the

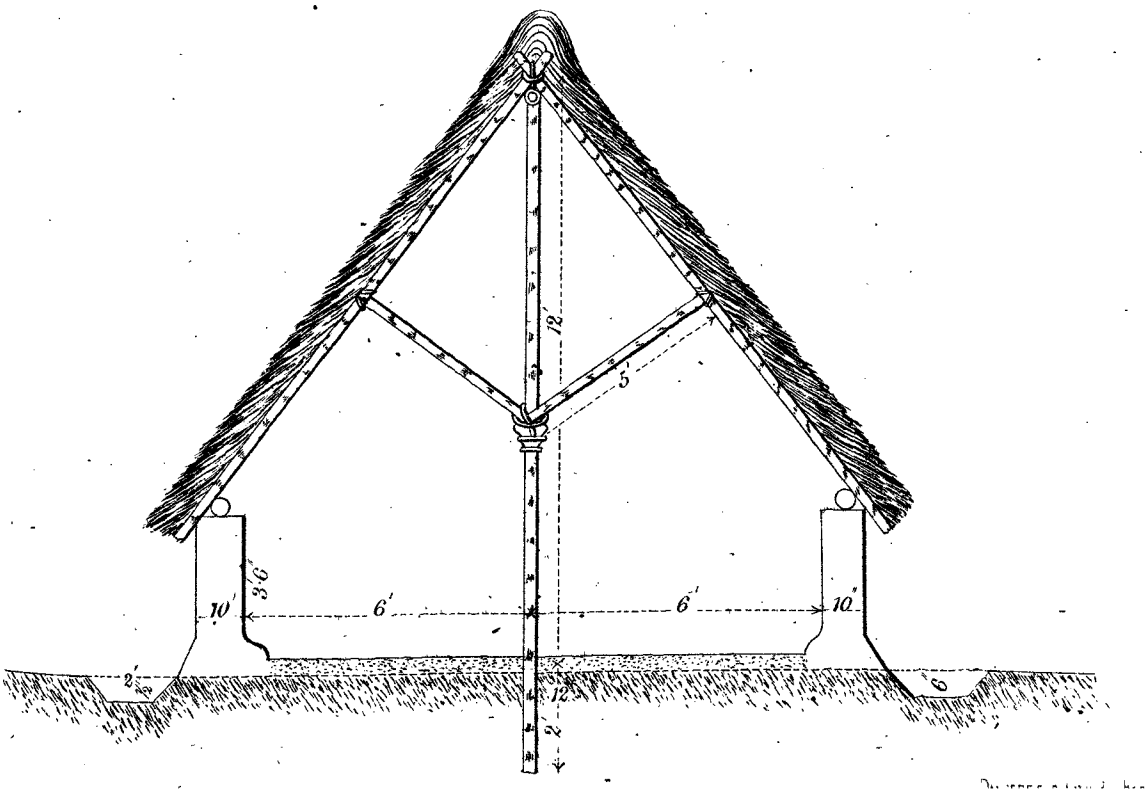
RELIEF CAMP SHED

SUITABLE FOR A HOSPITAL.

Scale 4 feet to an Inch.



Section on **A.B.**



greatest care must be taken to prevent aggregation of too great numbers together in one spot, or in huts. There should not be more than 20 individuals in one block, and no encampment should be allowed to contain more than 500 individuals all told. If a second or a greater number of encampments are necessary they should be in the same line as each other, but separated by at least a quarter of a mile from one another.

3. The accompanying diagram shows how an encampment for 5,000 person should be laid out. In the front line there are five blocks, in each of which 20 individuals are to be located; this number of blocks should not be exceeded. Each block is separated from the next block in the same line by 50 feet, and by 100 feet from the next line, which, however, is not located exactly behind it, but the first hut in the second line is placed opposite the open space, intervening between the two huts in the front line, and so on. The huts should face north and south. There should be also two huts erected on the flanks of the lines, one for the storage of grain, the other for storage of fuel. Of course, these should be under a guard.

4. If it is possible, a raised platform about 1 foot high and consisting of stones below and well-rammed earth above, should be provided for the huts, or cumbly tents to be pitched upon. A surface-trench should be cut along the front and rear of each row. Fireplaces should not be allowed within the lines for fear of the huts catching fire, but should be placed at the head of each line to leeward, and at a distance of 100 feet, and to economise fuel the food for the occupants of each line should be cooked at one time.

5. A site at a distance from any well or water-supply, and not nearer than 300 yards, should be chosen to leeward of the lines for the latrines. Whenever the soil will admit of it, a trench more than 6 inches deep should be dug every day in a straight line. For 500 men there should be two trenches of 100 feet each. The men should be ordered after defæcation to throw some of the earth excavated from the trench into it, but a bildar must be constantly in attendance to cover the ordure with earth. Nullahs must on no account be used for latrines. If the soil is rocky and will not permit the excavation of a trench, or if there is not sufficient earth for the purpose, the people must be allowed to ease themselves in a selected spot to leeward of, and not nearer than, 400 yards to the lines. The ordure must be collected and thrown into a pit dug as deep as may be possible, and covered every day with ashes procured from the *chulas*, or from the burning of *cutçhra* collected in the lines.

6. The medical subordinate's first care should be to place a guard over the drinking water-supply; to allow no person to go down into it; to allow no washing of vessels, persons, or animals near it; to see that there is an efficient drain to carry away the wastage water, which should be preserved for the use of animals, which, however, should not be allowed to approach nearer than 200 feet of well. Every effort must be made to economise the supply of water. If it runs very short, the people must be put on an allowance. "In health, an adult requires about 70 to 100 ozs. ($3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 pints) " of water for nutrition, but about 20 or 30 ozs. of these are contained in the bread, " meat, &c. of the food, and the remainder is taken in some form of liquid"—(Park's Hygiene). Oxen usually drink about 5 gallons of water, but they should not be allowed to drink from the same source as the men. Great care must be taken to see that the ground all round the well is kept scrupulously clean. If there is no pavement, it can be roughly paved with loose stones if such are found in the neighbourhood. If the encampment is likely to be permanent for some months, drawing wheels with iron buckets and iron chains might with advantage be fixed round well, instead of allowing the people to use ropes.

7. The medical subordinate should get the men from one village hutted together in the lines, each of which should be named according to the village. He must make arrangements for serving out water, fuel, provisions, and, if necessary, clothing, to the occupants of each hut. It is feared that there will be a great scarcity of fuel; but gangs of labourers must be told off to collect what is obtainable, and to bring it to the hut for storage, and the medical subordinate must arrange for serving it out in allotted quantities. The greatest care must be taken to economise it. Another gang of men should be organised for the purpose of keeping every individual hut, its surroundings, and the lines clean. All surface filth must be swept up not later than by 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. every day. This work should be superintended by a peon. The latrines should be placed in the charge of the Mukadam, with a peon under him. All ordure must be covered in as soon as passed. The trenches should be made for one day in advance of what is required, but each day's ordure must be covered in before nightfall. Any person easing himself in any other than the allotted place should be summarily dealt with and punished.

8. A burial ground must be selected at least half a mile to leeward of the lines, and care must be taken to see that there is sufficient soil to bury bodies at a depth of 6 feet.

9. Every morning the medical subordinate should go round himself and inspect the encampments, and find out if any person had been taken ill during the night, and arrangements should be made to give medicine at once.

10. The medical subordinate should live as near as possible in the centre of his encampments for facility of administration, and near his habitation should be erected the hospital, which should be calculated to afford accommodation for at least 7 per cent. of strength.

11. He should indent for chlorodyne, cholera mixture with and without opium; for hospital comforts, *extractum carnis*, which may be required in large quantities; for a large supply of disinfectants, besides other drugs and surgical appliances. He should also have a large supply of clothing.

12. Should epidemic disease, such as cholera, break out, the patients should be treated, not in the general hospital, but in a temporary hospital built to leeward of the lines in which the sick man is, but at a distance from the latrines. The bodies of patients who have died from cholera must be buried speedily in the clothes in which they have died, and the earth from the place where the patient was ill should be dug up and sprinkled with disinfecting powder and buried. If more than three cases occur in the encampment, it must be abandoned, and the people who live in it must march at right angles to the wind to a fresh encampment, which must be prepared for them to leeward of the other encampments. They should, if possible, be put to work in another place at some distance from which the other labourers either work or are encamped.

13. The hospital subordinate should arrange a place on one of the flanks of the encampments for all the carts that may bring in grain, &c. The carts should be ranged in rows, and the bullocks tethered in lines. Similar arrangements regarding water-supply, fuel, fodder, and latrines will be required for the cartmen and animals.

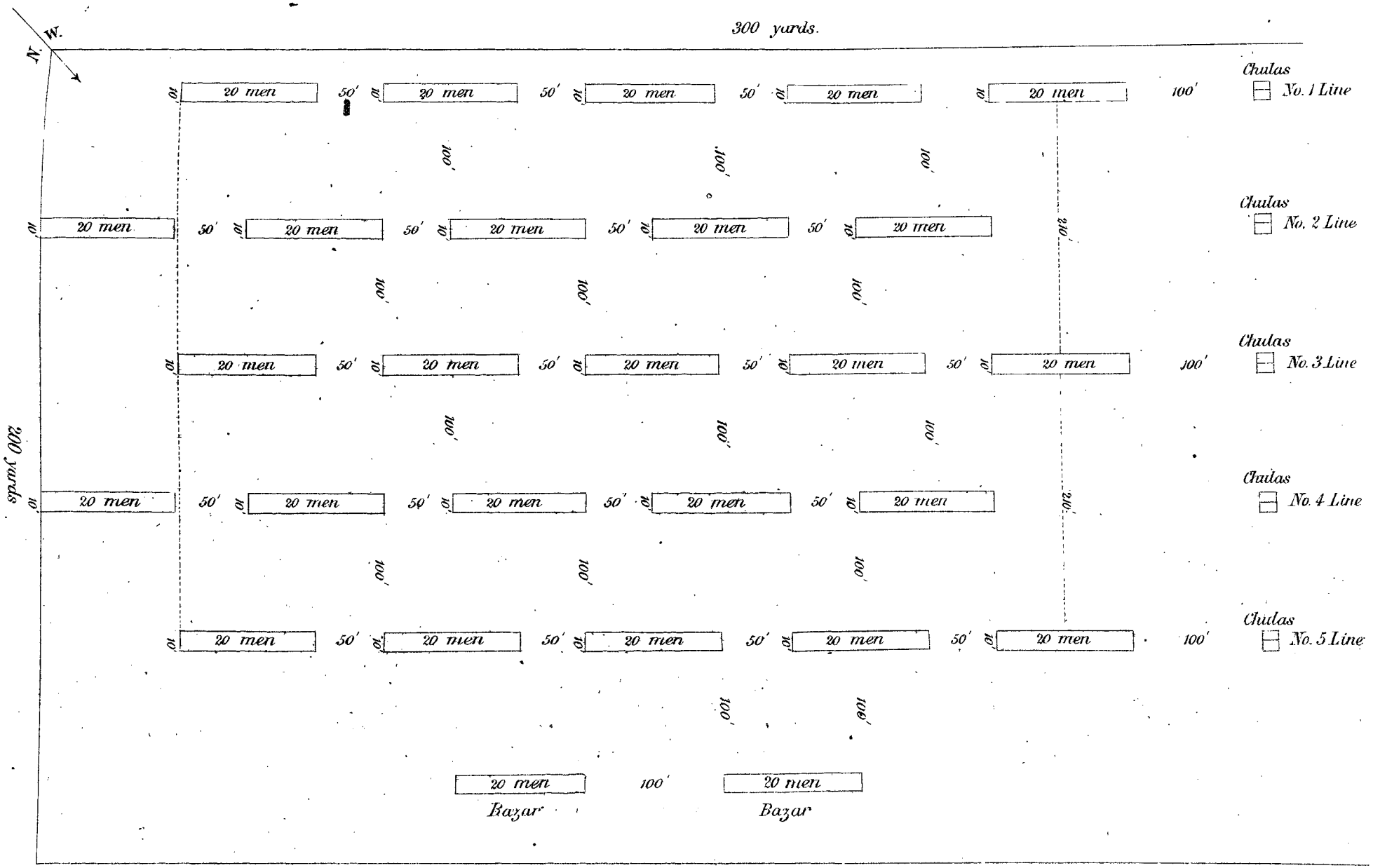
14. If there are any animals to be slaughtered, a place should be selected half a mile to the leeward of the encampment, and care should be taken to bury the offal, blood, and bones.

(Signed) T. G. HEWLETT,
Acting Sanitary Commissioner.

APPENDIX IV.

Division Sub-division or Range Labour Report for the Week ending Saturday the of .

Taluk.	Name of Work.	No. employed last week.	Average Number employed this week.					Price of Staple Grain.	Rate of Wages.	Expenditure during week.	Total Expenditure to date.	State of Weather.	State of Health.	General Remarks.
			Men.	Women.	Children.		Total.							
					Over 7.	Under 7.								


N.
W.
300 yards.
220 yards
20 men
10
50'
100'
100
Chulas
No. 1 Line
Chulas
No. 2 Line
Chulas
No. 3 Line
Chulas
No. 4 Line
Chulas
No. 5 Line
Bazar
Bazar

CHAPTER II.

Civil Relief Works.

I. Civil relief works are intended to be used under three circumstances—

When civil relief works are to be used.

(1.) When the applicants for labour are numerous, and there is no relief works under the public works department available for sending them to.

(2.) When the relief work is a long way off and the applicants are unaccustomed to labour, it may be advisable then to employ them for a time on a civil relief work not too far from home, and when they are organized into gangs and accustomed to the system of work, then to march them off to the larger relief work.

(3.) As a means of giving light out-of-door work to the old and decrepit and those who are too infirm to be included in Class 2 and sent to the Public Works Department.

Standard for civil relief works.

II. No work is suitable to be used as a civil relief work unless it will employ 300 people for at least a month; each project of this class must receive separate sanction, a brief report of its character and estimate of its cost being sent up by the Deputy Commissioner; and special sanction must be given before work is begun upon it. But on any emergency or sudden rush of labour, Deputy Commissioners have authority to open works of this kind which have been previously sanctioned, reporting the same at once to the Additional Secretary, Famine Department.

Supervision.

III. Each work of this class must be placed under a responsible and well paid civil officer holding a permanent appointment, and not lower in rank than an inspector of police or peshkar, who will reside permanently on the spot and will be personally responsible for seeing that the labourers are properly treated and paid and tasked as far as their strength goes.

Organization.

IV. The rules laid down for the organization of a P. W. D. relief work apply generally to the organization of a civil relief work. There should be one register-keeper or mutsaddi over the work, who should keep a nominal roll of the labourers and take the daily attendance. They should be divided into gangs of about 40 or 50 under one head cooly (an office which may with advantage be given to a Brahman or Lingayat or other high-caste man in distress). They should be hutted on the work, and the huts and camps be of the pattern directed by the chief engineer. Their rate of pay will be the lower or B scale, and will be paid them as a rule twice a week, unless it is found necessary to pay three times a week or even daily. The civil officer will see that there is a sufficient bazar for them to procure supplies at, and will be responsible generally for their condition as in Chapter I. No medical officer will ordinarily be attached to a civil relief work. But the sanitary inspector will visit the work, and any who fall sick will be sent in to the nearest hospital, which will generally be the one attached to the Taluk relief camp. Task work to the amount of at least 50 per cent of an ordinary task will be exacted from all able-bodied labourers who may be sent to the relief work under the circumstances described in para. I. clauses (1) and (2), and the condiment portion of their wage may if, necessary, be cut as a punishment; but this must be done with great caution and after much patience, and should at once be reported by the officer in charge to his superior relief officer. From the old and decrepit labourers described in para I., clause (3), no task can be exacted.

Inspection by superior officers.

V. The amildar of the taluk will visit the relief work at least once a week; and the superior relief officer in charge of the sub-division should visit it as often as possible and at unexpected times, should count the men on the works and compare them with the nominal register, should see them paid, and inquire if they have any complaints; and both these officials should record the results of inspection in their diaries.

Special treatment.

VI. The rules for special treatment are applicable in their entirety to civil relief works.

Weekly returns.

VII. The officer in charge of the relief work will draw up every Sunday a statement (Appendix No. V.) for the week ending the preceding Saturday, showing the number of persons and the expenditure on the work, and will forward it in duplicate to the amildar, who will send one copy to the Additional Secretary, Famine Department, direct, and one copy to his district or sub-division officer.

Appendix V.

Report on Civil Relief Works for the Taluk of for the Week ending Saturday the of 1877.

Name of work.	Total Amount sanctioned for Work.	Amount expended to date of last report.	Total Number of Labourers employed during week.			Rate of Daily Payment.	Price of Grain on which Wage is calculated.	Total Expenditure on Labour.	Establishment on work.			Materials bought and employed.		Number of children under 7.	Number of women taking care of them.	Expenditure on children and women in columns 15 and 16.	Total expenditure during the week.	Name of Officer in direct local charge.	Remarks.
			Men.	Women.	Children above 7.				Nature of Office.	Rate of Pay.	Cost.	Description of Materials.	Cost.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
						A P Men Women Children			Writers Accountants, &c.										

N.B.—In columns 4, 5, 6, 15, 16, the gross total numbers for the 6 days are to be given; the averages will be struck in the Secretariat Office.

CHAPTER III.

Relief Camps.

I. The relief camp is intended to provide temporarily for those who are able to work; and permanently (that is as long as they require it) for those who are sick and unable to do any considerable amount of work through old age and infirmity.

Temporary population.

II. The temporary cases are those where applicants come for labour, and the relief officer is not able at the time to provide them with labour; he must not turn them away, but must relieve them in the camp and work them there till he can draft them on to a relief work. The relief camp may also be used as a rest-house for gangs on their way to a relief work, who come with an order from the relief officer entitling them to food and shelter for the night. There is further the case of the emigrants' rest-houses which will be treated separately.

Resident population.

III. The permanent cases are those who are not so decrepit and bedridden as to require village relief; but who are not fit to be sent on to a relief work, or to look after themselves and cook for themselves. They are the least efficient portion of those who are not fit to be put into Class II. They include those who are in bad health, but not ill enough to be put into hospital, and those who are convalescents, and have just left hospital.

The ration of food.

IV. Nothing but cooked food is given at relief camps, the ration being 1 lb. of rice or of ragi flour plus 3 pie worth of condiments for an adult, and half the quantity for a child over 7 plus 2 pies. The chapter on Special Treatment applies equally to special cases in relief camps. No raw rations are permitted. The daily food is given in two meals, morning and evening, at about 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

V. The two conditions on which food is given at a relief camp are residence and work. For this reason the camp must be enclosed, and admission or exit only be possible by a gate at which a guard is constantly posted. Sufficient accommodation must be provided inside for the usual population of the camp, with a margin over for any exceptional influx. Every person in the camp must be put to some work however slight, except those who are actually sick. The feeblest old woman can spin a little thread, and others can carry a light basket of sand to throw on the floor, or card cotton, or pick wool, and those who are a little stronger can collect and break stones. For the sake of their own health and spirits and self respect, it is better they should do this than that they should sit idle all day. Conditions of relief.

VI. The establishment should consist of paupers as far as possible. The only paid officials should be the superintendent, the accountant, and the hospital assistant; but 1 rupee per month may be paid to the overseers and to the head cook in addition to food. Carpenters and blacksmiths if required may be called in and paid in cash; but all other servants of the camp should be paid in food, or in raw grain if their caste requires it, and should, as far as possible, be appointed from among the paupers themselves, not from outside. Established.

VII. The duty of the superintendent is general supervision. He is responsible for examining the supply of grain received from the contractor, testing its quantity and quality, and entering it in the stock register; also for seeing that it is securely kept in a safe chamber under a good lock or sufficient guard. He is bound to be always present at feeding time, to see that the food is well cooked and the amount of it correct; to see that the paupers are properly oragnized into gangs and parties, are set to work at labour suitable to their capacities and do a sufficient quantity of the work; and that all members of the establishment do their duty punctually and thoroughly. He will muster the establishment every day and record their attendance in a register, the form of which will be found at the end of this Chapter. He will also receive daily from the taluk relief officer all new admissions, will assort them into gangs, and see that their names are entered by the overseer on his muster roll. The superintendent.

VIII. The accountant must always be a member of the amildar's permanent establishment, and must be selected for this work because of his special qualifications, a temporary officiating man filling his place. He has to keep up the returns and registers, the forms of which are given in the Appendix at the end of this Chapter. They consist of— The accountant.

(1.) The stock register of rice, &c. detailed.
(2.) The daily register of paupers fed in the relief camp.
(3.) The daily abstract statement of paupers fed in the relief camp.
(4.) The pay register of establishment.
(5.) The cash book and register of contingent expenditure.

The manner in which each of these statements is be prepared is explained in a note at the foot of the statement.

IX. The overseer will keep the nominal register (the form of which is given at the end of this Chapter) of the paupers in the camp. If there are more than four hundred a second overseer may be appointed. He should ordinarily be a respectable literate inhabitant of the taluk, Muhammadan or Brahman or of other good caste, who is in distressed circumstance and is glad to do the work for a payment of one rupee, plus half as much again as the daily ration, which may be given raw. He will marshal the people in the morning to the early meal, and will take the roll call while it is being eaten. When it is taken he will write out a slip in the following form and make it over to the accountant. The Overseer.

Attendance morning of the of .

Name of gangsman.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.	Total No. of lbs. of grain.

During the day he will supervise the work of the gangs, either generally or any particular set of gangs, as the superintendent may direct. In the evening he will again marshal the people to the evening meal, and take the roll call and give a slip to the accountant in the same form as in the morning.

Organization of gangs.

X. The gangs are to be organised according to their capacity for work, and also, where necessary, according to their caste, provided they are not thereby split up into too small numbers. If the numbers are small, persons of good caste can be allowed to sit a little apart in working and eating from the other members of the gang, and can have a portion of the shed walled off for them, while still continuing to be numbered in the gang. The number of a gang should usually be about 40 or 50; when the work is sedentary, like spinning or stonebreaking, it may be more; when the labourers are scattered over a large space, as on stone collecting, it should be less. The gangsman or head cooly should ordinarily be a respectable illiterate resident of the taluk in distressed circumstances, who is glad to accept the post for the wages of a ration half as large again as the ordinary one, *i.e.*, 1½ lbs. of grain, which may be given raw. The organization of the gangs should be kept as uniform as possible, so that people may know their work and their place and each other; they should sleep in the same shed, eat meals in the same place, and after meals go together to the same work in the same place, as nearly as possible.

Menial establishment.

XI. This establishment, which consists of cooks, water-carriers, rice-cleaners or grinders, guards, and sweepers, should be kept down to a moderate strength, and should, as far as possible, be recruited from the paupers of the kitchen, or from respectable people of the taluk who are in distressed circumstances. As a rule they should be paid in grain, which may be given raw if desired, at the rate of 1½ lbs., or for the most onerous task 2 lbs. a day; but where the numbers are large the head cook may in addition receive Re. 1 per mensem. The number of each class of servants should be arranged on a sliding scale in proportion to the number of paupers to be attended to. The number of cooks should probably be about 1 per cent., but more may be required where rice is cooked than where ragi; and where the resident population is very feeble more persons must be entertained to carry and distribute the cooked food than where there are able-bodied paupers who can be so employed. The number of water-women and of sweepers should be about the same as the cooks. But for the sick in hospital probably one sweeper will be required for 25 patients. The occupation of rice-cleaning or ragi-grinding is one that can be suitably given to women of respectable castes; two women in good health should easily grind 30 seers of ragi a day, or enough for 60 adults; but if they are enfeebled, then two relays of two women each should be allowed for each mill. It is not intended in these rules to tie officers down to a too rigid uniformity, but every superintendent and taluk relief officer is expected to do all in his power to combine efficiency with economy.

Orphans.

XII. The orphans and children deserted by their parents should be formed into a separate gang (or, if necessary, two gangs of boys and girls separately) and clothed in a distinct uniform. As soon as preparations can be made to receive them they should all be sent in to the relief camp at the district head-quarters and not kept in outlying camps. The disposal of these orphans is in the hands of government, and no officer is entitled to make any of them over to any society or private person without the special sanction of the Famine Commissioner.

Reception of applicants for relief.

XIII. In front of and near the door of each relief camp an enclosure shall be railed off in which all fresh applicants for relief shall be received, whether they present themselves voluntarily, or are sent in by the circle inspectors or other relief officers. In this place some superior relief officer shall attend at a fixed hour every day, either the special relief officer of the taluk, or the village relief officer, or the amildar, or in the absence of all of these the peshkar, to receive the applicants and either forward them to a relief work or admit them into the relief camp.

The medical officer.

XIV. There shall be a medical officer attached to each relief camp. He will be responsible for seeing that all the requirements of a hospital are provided, and that the sheds are dry and ventilated. He will send in to the superintendent a daily return showing the number of sick in hospital, the daily admissions, discharges, and deaths. He will constantly go round and inspect the residents in the camp, and carry out in regard to these all the instructions contained in the chapter on special treatment.

Travellers' rest-houses.

XV. On certain roads along which emigrants travel to and from the coffee districts it is considered necessary still to keep up places at which they can be fed. At these places the conditions of residence and work will not be insisted on. Two meals will be cooked a day, morning and evening; those who arrive in the evening will receive a meal, and shelter in a shed for the night, and will be sent on next day after receiving a second meal in the morning. The superintendent is responsible for seeing that they eat the meal in his presence and do not carry it away, and that this indulgence

is granted only to *bonâ fide* travellers who are in want. The taluk relief officer will pay a special attention to the dining-places; will endeavour to dissuade feeble and emaciated persons from emigrating, and offer them employment on a relief work; and if the number becomes at all considerable, he will report the facts to the Deputy Commissioner of the district. The superintendent will add to his daily abstract register a note showing number of people going to the coffee districts and number of people returning from the coffee districts.

XVI. An inspection book will be kept up at each relief camp, in which inspecting officers will record remarks and orders. Inspection book.

Superintendent's Statement.—I. Attendance Roll of Establishment.

No.	Name of Official.	Office.	Attendance. 1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	10th.	11th.	12th.	13th.	14th.	15th.	16th.	17th.	18th.	19th.	20th.	21st.	22nd.	23rd.	24th.	25th.	26th.	27th.	28th.	29th.	30th.	31st.

Accountant's Statement I. Stock Register. Relief Camp.

Date.	——	Ragi.	Rice.	Dál.	Salt.	Tamarind.	Chillies.	Coriander.	Turmeric.	Garlic.	Pepper.	Cummin seed.	Mustard.	Ghee.	Onions.	Vegetables.	Wood.	Signature of Superintendent.
	Balance in hand - -																	
	Issued - - -																	Enter here to whom issued.
	Balance in Store - -																	
	Received from Contractor																	Enter here fromwhom received.
	Total in Store - -																	

The Accountant will each day in the evening enter the quantity in lbs. of each article issued and received, and the balance in store at the end of the day. The issues and receipts will be attested by the signature of the Superintendent.

Accountant's Statement II.—Detailed Daily Return of Paupers fed in Relief Camp.

Date.	Name of Gangsman.	Nature and Employment of Gang.	Adults. M.		Children.	Total.	Total Number of lbs. of food.	

One page to be given to each day.
This statement gives the details by gangs, and at the bottom the total should be struck.

Accountant's Statement III.—Daily Abstract Return of Paupers fed in

Date.	Adults.		Children.	Total.	Total Number of lbs. of food.	
	M.	F.				

One line for each day. The figures will correspond with the daily total of Statement II.

Accountant's Statement IV.—Pay Register of Establishment.

No.	Name.	Office.	Rate of Pay.	No. of Days employed in Month.	Amount.	Total.	

This will be made out on the 1st of every month. It will contain only the names of those who receive cash wages.

Accountant's Statement V.—Cash Book of Receipts and Contingent Expenditure.

Date.	Particulars.	Amount received.	Amount disbursed.	Total.	From whom received and by whose order expended.	

All unusual expenditure will be entered here as well as all receipts from the sale of any manufactured article, &c.

Overseer's Nominal Roll.

Name of Gangsman.	Name of Labourer, with father's or husband's name.	Residence.	Caste.	Attendance.														
				1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.	7th.	8th.	9th.	10th.	11th.	12th.	13th.	14th.	15th.

Overseer's Nominal Roll.

Name of Gangsman.	Name of Labourer, with father's or husband's name.	Residence.	Caste.	Attenda nce.														
				16th.	17th.	18th.	19th.	20th.	21st.	22nd.	23rd.	24th.	25th.	26th.	27th.	28th.	29th.	30th.	31st.

CHAPTER IV.

I. The selecting from the ordinary labourers, and the setting apart of those who are reduced by prolonged innutrition, is a most important part of the relief system. The duty of making the selection belongs (Chap. I., sec. II.) to the civil relief officer, or, in his default, to the P. W. D. officer. But either officer in performing the task should act in concert with and under the advice of the medical officer, whose part it is to indicate what treatment he considers necessary.

Special treatment ordinarily the duty of the civil relief officer.

II. The following are the principal classes into which the cases under special treatment may be divided:—

Classification of cases.

(*a.*) Nursing mothers who are themselves weak, or who have weakly or very young babies, may get the higher rate of pay (scale A) and light work.

(*b.*) Thin babies may, in addition to their usual nourishment, be supplied with milk once or twice a day.

(*c.*) Young children, *i.e.*, those under 12 years of age, who are emaciated may—

(1.) be fed instead of being paid. They will, in this case, become out-patients of the hospital.

(2.) get a morning meal of rice and milk, or conjee, in addition to the lower wage (scale B).

(3.) for a few days be treated in any manner the officer in charge, in the exercise of a wise and cautious discretion, deems proper.

The practical difficulty in dealing with young children is that their parents sometimes neglect them, or deprive them of the food given them; hence the rule is necessary that all food given to children should be eaten in the presence of the relief officer.

The women placed in charge of the young children belonging to the special treatment class must be very carefully chosen, and the relief officer must see that they wash the children in warm or cold water, as may be most suitable, and attend closely to their feeding, comfort, and cleanliness.

(*d.*) Young and middle-aged adults, reduced or emaciated by want, may get the higher wage (scale A), and be put to nominal work for a week or so till they gain strength. As a rule, further treatment is unnecessary; if it is necessary, then the patient is probably a fit subject for the hospital.

(*e.*) Any further treatment required is provided for by the discretionary grant allowed the officer in charge of the work. All wages paid to the special treatment class should be paid daily, or three times a week.

Fortnightly Report on Special Treatment.

Name of work.	Fortnight ending Saturday, the	No. under Special Treatment.		Children.	
		Men.	Women.	Over 7.	Under 7.
1	2	3	4	5	6

Cost of Special Treatment.

Paid in wages (Cash).	Cost of food.	Total.	Remarks.
7	8	9	10

General remarks.

III. The amount of special treatment and its results should be reported upon fortnightly, in the form shown in the margin, by the officer who is responsible for the special treatment to his immediate superior, who will submit the report with his opinion to the Famine Commissioner or the Chief Engineer, as the case may be. As a rule, the Government rates of pay with light work will meet all ordinary cases of distress. But it is impossible to lay down rules for every case, and much of the success of the treatment will depend upon constant and careful selection, and upon the humane exertions of the officer in charge. On the one hand, no effort is to be wanting to relieve distress and check mortality; on the other, unnecessary indulgence should be avoided, and a due economy observed.

IV. When a hospital assistant cannot be sent to take charge of a relief work or relief camp, the duties above described must necessarily devolve upon the officer in charge of the work or camp.

CHAPTER V.

Village Inspection.

Objects of village inspection.

I. The object of a system of frequently repeated house-to-house visitation in each village is to make sure that the measures taken by Government for the relief of the famine-stricken are effectual; that the tests enforced to prevent persons not in actual need of relief getting admittance to Government works or relief camps do not produce hardship; that none are allowed to die through neglect or ignorance of the means of help; and that any indications of distress among the general population are immediately brought to notice and checked. The organization and efficiency of the village relief system will accordingly form the principal duty of all district officers, and their activity in this respect will be closely watched. They should be constantly on the move, and in their weekly progress reports give briefly the result of their experience.

Procedure in towns.

A similar system of house-to-house inspection should be adopted in all large towns. A copy of the order introducing the system in Bangalore is appended, and may serve as a guide to the proper procedure in other towns.

Village inspection by whom performed.

II. In the first instance it will be the duty of the village officers to ascertain and register the distressed poor of their respective villages; their work will be checked and supervised by specially appointed inspectors, and the inspectors in their turn will be controlled by special relief officers under the Deputy Commissioner. Where necessary village relief officers may be appointed either instead of or to assist the special relief officer. The village relief officer should be a native gentleman of a superior stamp and of active habits, holding a permanent appointment under Government, a temporary substitute being employed in his place. Assistant Commissioners may, in addition to their own duties, be made special relief officers of the whole or part of their charge.

Division of the taluks into circles, and appointment of circle inspectors.

III. The Deputy Commissioner of each district will at once divide those taluks of his district which are severely distressed into circles containing about 30 villages each. Over each circle an inspector should be appointed, to be called the circle inspector, who should visit each village once a week, or at least once in 10 days. To fill these posts of circle inspectors only officers who hold permanent appointments may be selected; as a rule the more active and intelligent of the Shekdars, and of the Gumastas of the Amildars or of Deputy Commissioners' courts, should be appointed, or officials of that description, and temporary men on Rs. 10 per mensem, should fill their places. Ten per cent. of the circle inspectors' work must be tested weekly by the special relief officer of the taluk, or, if there is none, by the village relief officer of the taluk.

District.	No. of severely distressed taluks.
Bangalore - -	9
Kolar - - -	10
Túmkúr - -	8
Chitaldroog - -	8
Shimoga - -	2
Kadur - -	3
Hassan - -	7
Mysore - -	2

All civil relief officers in charge of a taluk (whether Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioners, or special relief officers) will enter in their weekly diaries the result of their own inspections and supervision.

Treatment of persons in distress unable to leave the village.

IV. Every village officer (Patel and Shanbhog) should be again warned that he will be held strictly responsible that his village is free from persons in severe distress. The Patel, assisted by the Shanbhog, of each village must keep up a register as under of those whom the circle inspector selects as requiring relief in the village.

A. Register of Persons unable to leave the Village of , and in need of Relief.

Number.	Name of person.	Age.	Sex.	Cause of incapacity to leave the Village.	Signature of Village Officer.	Amount of grain to be given.	Remarks of Circle Inspector, and date of first entry of name.	Remarks of other Inspecting Officers.

In this Register (A) no one must be entered who is capable of doing any kind of labour on a relief work or in a relief camp, only the bedridden, the cripples, the very infirm, blind, and such cases should be on this register, which entitles these to receive relief at their home, and then only provided that they have no other means of support and no able-bodied relatives in a position to assist them. To such, 1 lb. of raw grain may be given daily to an adult; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to a child above 12; and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. to a young child. The food should usually be given in the presence of the circle inspector, the village officers, and two respectable inhabitants, and the quantity given on each occasion should therefore be sufficient to last the recipients till the next visit of the inspector. A separate Register (B) for such persons should be kept by the Shanbhog in the form given in the margin (*below*), and each entry in this should be signed by the parties witnessing the distribution. To meet this small expenditure a petty advance of money, not exceeding a month's salary, may be allowed the circle inspector. The superior relief officers on visiting a village will invariably examine the people registered and sign the Registers A and B.

Village Register B.

Name of Recipient.	No. in Register A.	Amount of Daily Ration to which entitled.	Amount given by Circle Inspector.	Date.	Witnesses.

Treatment of persons in distress able to leave the village.

V. The village Patel, with the help of the Shanbhog, should also compile a list of those very poor persons who are able to leave the village, but who have not done so. To people on this list food will not be allowed in the village, but the circle inspector will give them a ticket to present to the place fixed for applicants at the Taluk Head-quarter Relief Camp, whence they will be sent either to a relief work or to a relief camp. The circle inspector must not allow them to remain in the village. If it is a day's journey to the taluk head-quarters, the circle inspector will give them either grain or money to buy one day's food, entering the disbursement in column 6 of Register C, and procuring the signatures of two witnesses to the transaction. Ordinary able-bodied labourers will not be entered in this list, which is intended to show that the village officer is aware of any cases of special poverty in his village. At every succeeding inspection the circle inspector will inquire whether any of the people entered on this list who were sent away have returned, and whether there are any others in the village who ought to be entered on it and sent to a relief work or relief camp accordingly.

Village Register C.

Date.	Number.	Name.	Age.	Sex.	Remarks showing date on which they are sent to the Taluk Relief Officer, and whether absent or present in the Village on subsequent Inspections.
1	2	3	4	5	6

Columns 1 to 5 will be filled up by the Shanbhog. Column 6 by the circle inspector on his visits.

Deaths.

VI. The death of any person on Register (A) must be reported by the circle inspector to the special relief officer, who will enter the total number in his weekly report.

Deaths. Duties of circle inspectors.

VII. The first duty of the circle inspector or of an inspecting officer visiting a village is to go carefully through the village house by house, the inspection being made more searching in the poorer quarters and among the lower and Pariah castes. Cases of people of good position in ascertained distress, such as of pardah or high caste women, and any suffering among particular classes, should be specially reported upon to the special relief officer of the taluk. The able-bodied asking for assistance, or who appear in need of relief, should be directed to the public works, and sent with a letter to the head-quarters of the taluk for an order admitting to the works. The results of the inspection should be compared with the Registers (A), (B), (C), and if necessary the registers should be corrected by striking off names improperly entered or adding those omitted. The inspector lastly should satisfy himself that all on Register (A) really in need of relief get relief, and that none on Register (C) are allowed to return and starve quietly in the village.

Professional beggars, &c.

VIII. Professional beggars well able to earn their living, religious mendicants, and the like are not to be relieved; nor are people able to help themselves to be needlessly interfered with.

Wanderers and pauper travellers.

IX. If, when travelling, a pauper or distressed wanderer is met, the circle inspector will take him to the nearest village or have him carried there. Wanderers so brought or arriving in any other way will be fed once by the village officer in the presence of two respectable villagers, and then forwarded to the nearest relief camp under proper escort, with a report, signed also by the two villagers, giving the circumstances of the case.

Registers to be kept by circle inspectors.

X. The circle inspector must keep up two statements of expenditure, the one corresponding to Register A, and showing the number relieved in grain in each village, and in accordance with this statement he will be enabled to draw weekly on the amildar's treasury for the weekly value of grain to be distributed; the other showing particulars of the casual expenditure, advances to paupers on Register C, to wanderers, &c.

Circle Inspector's Register I.

Village.	Number of People on Village Register A.	Quantity of daily grain to which they are entitled.	Quantity distributed by Inspector during week.	Value of grain.

Circle Inspector's Register II.

Date.	Particulars of Expenditure.	Total.

Advance to village officers.

XI. To provide for wanderers Deputy Commissioners are authorised to deposit a sum, not exceeding Rs. 5, with the village officers of any village where circumstances call for the grant. As the money is spent bills should be drawn on the Amildar, after two respectable inhabitants have countersigned the vouchers.

APPENDIX.

Famine. No. 66.

To the PRESIDENT, Municipal Commission, Bangalore.

Mysore, Chief Commissioner's Office,
Bangalore, 26th September 1877.

I am desired by the Chief Commissioner to say that, after consultation with the Famine Commissioner, he has decided that the following arrangements should be made for the relief of distress in the town of Bangalore.

2. Under the orders of the Government of India, all open kitchens, at which paupers receive food which they can take away uneaten, or which they can eat and depart, must be abolished. The pettah kitchen has therefore to be closed as soon as possible, and it remains to make proper arrangements for the people who have hitherto been fed at this place.

3. Those people consist of four classes: First, paupers who have crowded in from the village and from other districts; of these the able-bodied will be removed to relief works, and the infirm and sick alone retained in the hospitals and in the Siledar lines. Secondly, the townspeople; these are (1) sick, (2) able-bodied and accustomed to labour, (3) able-bodied, but unaccustomed to manual labour and earthwork, only to some trade such as weaving, tailoring, working in leather, &c., (4) infirm and unable through old age or bodily weakness to earn their bread. The two former classes will be provided for at the hospitals and on the relief works; the two latter should be cared for by the Municipal Committee in the manner I am now to describe.

4. The town and cantonment should be divided by you into portions, the size of which must be regulated by the number of houses inhabited by members of the two classes referred to; as a rule, there should not be more than 100 of such houses in each beat or portion. These beats should then be put under the charge of some one gentleman who will undertake to perform the duty required of him, and who will be called the inspector of the beat. His duty is to make a house-to-house visitation of his beat to ascertain what persons in the beat are either infirm (Class 4) or fit for other than manual labour (Class 3), and to prepare a register of them. He will give to each person who is too infirm to labour in any way, and yet not sick so as to be a fit case for hospital, a ticket with a number on it (corresponding to the number in his register), which shall entitle that person to receive 1 lb. of rice a day from a grain-merchant in the neighbourhood, who is to be fixed on by the inspector of the beat with your concurrence. He should make out a separate register of such grain recipients in the form annexed, and will revise it every week, and every Monday he should give an order on the grain merchant showing how many lbs. of rice he is entitled to supply every day. The distribution of rice to ticket-holders should take place at a fixed time every morning. Either the inspector or some municipal officer should, if possible, be present at the distribution to see that there is no fraud, and that the infirm persons receive their dole in an orderly and seemly way.

5. The inspectors of beats will be expected to visit their beats weekly, and the tickets for grain must be renewed every week by them; or the grain-merchant will not be authorised to serve out the grain to the ticket-holders.

6. To those persons who belong to some trade and are unable through poverty to carry on their trade, the means of doing so should be given; cotton should be supplied for women to spin, yarn or wool for weavers to weave, leather for shoemakers, and so on, exacting from each of them the return of a due quantity of the manufactured article at the end of the week, which Government will buy from them at a fixed remunerative price. It seems best that this, which is a technical and difficult task, should be performed by a special official, to be called the distributor of work; one such official will probably be sufficient for the pettah and one for the cantonment. The inspectors of beats will send to the distributor of work every Monday all persons belonging to the classes above described, who are not accustomed to manual labour; giving to each a slip showing number of beat, number of house on inspector's register, and name of ticket-holder; but care must be taken to discriminate; the weavers, for instance, who have been working on the Sampangi tank have now become good labourers and should not be set to loom work again, which is much more difficult to supervise. If a volunteer can be procured for this office so much the better; if not, a paid official may be appointed. It is impossible to specify beforehand what the details of the transaction which the distributor of work will have to supervise should be; what quantity should be exacted of any kind of work; at what price it should be paid for; or how Government should dispose of it. Experience will soon provide a set of rules on these points; and,

in all probability, the Charitable Committee will be able to take the cloth woven or the shoes made, &c. off your hands, and to distribute them to orphans and to other fit objects of charity.

7. The Chief Commissioner confidently hopes that every member of the Municipal Committee will be willing to take a beat and to carry out this house-to-house inspection. In case there should be more beats than committee members you should enlist the services of volunteers, applying first to the members of the Charitable Relief Committee to see if any of them are ready to assist you, and afterwards to native gentlemen of good repute in the city. When your arrangements are complete, you are requested to report the number of beats and the names of the inspectors of each. Your own duties should be confined to testing a percentage (not less than 5 per cent.) of the houses in each beat, to see that the work of visiting is thoroughly done, and the aid given is given with judgment and discrimination.

8. When the registers are prepared and the system is ready to be introduced, a day should be fixed after which no more relief in the shape of cooked food will be given to any one who does not enter the relief camp and abide by its discipline. That day should not be more than a fortnight hence, and the Chief Commissioner relies on your energy and experience to secure the due and rapid carrying out of these orders.

9. The form suggested for the registers required for the working of this system are appended, and printed copies will be immediately supplied to you by the press.

General Register of Houses requiring relief in Beat No._____

Inspector of Beat_____

No. of House.	Name of Recipient of relief in grain.	Name of Recipient of relief in materials for work.	

Grain Register.

No. of House.	No. of Ticket.	Name of Recipient.	Daily Amount of Grain.			
			Week 1st, Oct. 1 to 7.	Week 2nd, Oct. 8 to 14.	Week 3rd, Oct. 15 to 21.	Week 4th, Oct. 22 to 29.
		Total Amount payable by Bunniah				

Weekly Order on _____, Grain-dealer, from Inspector of Beat No. _____

Pay to _____ ticket-holder No. _____, lbs of rice from _____ to _____ 1877.

Signed _____

Register of Relief to Professional Artizans.

(A.) Cotton yarn for weaving.

Week, October 1st to 7th.

No. of Beat.	No. of House.	Name of Recipient.	Quantity of yarn given out.	Quantity of cloth given out.	Value paid for cloth.	

Register of Relief to Professional Artizans.

(B.) Cotton, raw, for spinning.

Week from to 187 .

No. of Beat.	No. of House.	Name of Recipient.	Quantity of Raw Cotton given out.	Quantity of Thread given in.	Value paid for Thread.	

Register of Relief to Professional Artizans.

(C.) Leather for shoemaking, &c.

Week from to 187 .

No. of Beat.	No. of House.	Name of Recipient.	Quantity of Leather given out.	Quantity of Work given in.	Value paid for Work.	

Incl. in No. 271.

No. 258.

No. 2329 A., dated Naini Tal, the 4th October 1877.

From C. Robertson, Esq., Offg. Secretary to Government, N.W. Provinces and Oudh, to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

In continuation of my letter No. 1754 A., dated 22nd August, and with reference to your No. 749, dated 27th idem, I am now desired by his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner to submit a further report on the condition and agricultural prospects of the North-western Provinces and Oudh.

2. The hot west wind, which sprang upon on 6th August, continued to blow until near the end of the month. On the 25th the east wind returned, and on the 27th there was a general but not heavy fall of rain in several districts of the Rohilkhand Division, and showers fell elsewhere.

3. On the 31st of August and 1st September, a severe storm, originating in the Gházipur District of the Benares Division, passed over the Benares, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, Allahabad, and Fatehpur Districts, and the south-east of Oudh. It then crossed the Jumna and went through Bánda, Hamírpur, and the Jhánsi Division. The fall of rain which accompanied did great good to the districts visited by the storm, but unfortunately it did not extend to the Duab, Rohilkhand, and western part of Oudh, where it was urgently needed.

4. The wind changed again to the west on the 8th September, and has continued since to blow with great violence and with damaging results to the crops throughout the provinces.

5. The meeting of the western and eastern currents led, however, to a heavy fall of rain, which was general over the greater part of the eastern districts on the 10th and 11th September; but since the latter date there has been almost no rain anywhere, and the whole of the Provinces have been devastated by a hot dry wind.

6. The following statement, which gives the average rainfall for each district from 1st June to this date, as compared with the average rainfall in the same period for the five years 1870–75, will show how scanty the fall everywhere has been, and that literally in many districts there has been no rainy season. The total fall is much less than in the worst years 1860 and 1868, of which we have records, and the failure has been more general throughout the Provinces:—

Districts.	Average Rainfall of Five Years, 1871–75, June to September.	Average Rainfall from 1st June to 14th September, 1877.	Remarks.
			Varying at different Tahsíls, from—
Dehra Dún - -	80·2	23·4	18·5 to 29·1
Saháranpur - -	34·7	7·4	5·0 to 10·3
Muzaffarnagar - -	32·3	6·7	3·7 to 9·9
Meerut - - -	28·4	4·4	2·3 to 7·8
Bulandshahr - -	30·5	3·4	2·0 to 6·2
Aligarh - - -	27·5	3·0	1·7 to 5·3
Kumaun - - -	53·2	23·2	18·2 to 33·9
Garhwál - - -	33·1	14·5	12·5 to 16·5
Tarái - - -	51·4	16·4	12·9 to 22·3
Bijnor - - -	45·9	7·6	5·1 to 9·3
Moradabad - -	45·1	8·9	3·3 to 14·9
Budaun - - -	38·8	6·7	3·7 to 11·5
Bareilly - - -	52·6	11·0	6·5 to 19·7
Sháhjahánpur - -	41·7	8·2	6·1 to 12·7
Muttra - - -	26·4	4·3	·8 to 11·9
Agra - - -	30·6	2·8	·6 to 4·75
Farukhabad - -	34·3	3·5	1·6 to 6·2
Mainpuri - -	36·1	2·9	1·25 to 6·6
Etáwah - - -	38·9	4·1	1·1 to 8·4
Etah - - -	31·1	4·3	2·8 to 5·4
Jalaun - - -	34·9	7·0	5·0 to 9·7
Jhánsi - - -	38·2	10·7	9·8 to 13·0
Lalitpur - - -	40·0	12·2	9·8 to 13·5
Cawnpore - -	33·6	4·8	2·9 to 8·3
Fatehpur - -	39·3	11·2	8·6 to 14·3

Districts.	Average Rainfall of Five Years, 1871–75, June to September.	Average Rainfall from 1st June to 14th September, 1877.	Remarks.
			Varying at different Tahsíls, from—
Bánda - - -	43·0	14·8	9·9 to 19·9
Allahabad - -	41·5	11·4	9·4 to 15·7
Hamirpur - -	36·6	10·6	6·9 to 13·9
Jaunpur - - -	42·3	16·9	12·0 to 23·1
Gorakhpur - -	46·1	12·9	7·3 to 16·8
Basti - - -	51·9	11·3	7·2 to 15·1
Azamgarh - -	39·4	11·9	8·7 to 14·3
Mirzapur - -	43·9	18·1	13·5 to 23·7
Benares - - -	41·1	21·2	15·3 to 26·35
Gházipur - -	37·7	11·0	8·7 to 14·1
Sultanpur - -	43·7	9·0	7·1 to 11·4
Partabgarh - -	35·3	9·1	7·6 to 11·3
Fyzabad - - -	40·6	11·9	8·5 to 16·0
Kheri - - -	43·0	15·6	13·0 to 18·1
Lucknow - -	38·7	4·6	4·0 to 5·0
Bara Banki - -	39·1	4·9	2·0 to 7·2
Bahraich - -	43·6	17·0	11·6 to 22·4
Rae Bareli - -	36·5	6·9	4·5 to 11·1
Sitapur - - -	35·0	8·15	5·8 to 11·3
Gonda - - -	42·8	10·9	7·4 to 16·8
Unao - - -	31·4	6·9	5·0 to 9·1
Hardoi - - -	31·4	6·8	5·4 to 8·4

7. The consequences of this disastrous failure of the usual rains are most deplorable for man and beast. The full effect cannot yet be determined, but it is now certain that in the Meerut, Agra, Rohilkhand, Sitapur, and Lucknow Divisions, and in parts of the Allahabad, Jhánsi, Rae Bareli, and Fyzabad Divisions, the unirrigated kharif crops are entirely destroyed. In Benares and greater part of Allahabad and Fyzabad it was hoped after the rain of the 10th and 11th, that from five to eight annas would be saved. but these hopes it is now known cannot be realised. The hot wind that has raged since the 11th has irretrievably damaged much that survived, and threatens to destroy all, A speedy fall of rain would yet save some; and in part of the Jhánsi Division there is also a little which is not yet utterly ruined.

8. Detailed statements were called for from every district of the condition of the crops when an extensive failure of the rains was seen to be inevitable. These were prepared in the end of August or the beginning of September, but give a more favourable estimate of the probable outturn than could now be made. An abstract of them is appended, but I am to refer you rather to the reports* from the Commissioners of Agra, Rohilkhand, Lucknow, Fyzabad, and Benares, which are herewith forwarded for fuller information on the condition of their respective Divisions.

* From Commissioner, Agra, No. A., dated 21st September 1877.
Ditto ditto Rohilkhand, No. 64, dated the 5th September 1877.
Ditto ditto Fyzabad, No. 2295, dated the 7th ditto 1877.
Ditto ditto Benares, No. 171, dated the 15th ditto 1877, and enclosures.
From Commissioner, Benares, No. 173 A., dated the 22nd ditto 1877, and enclosures.
From Commissioner, Lucknow, No. 2958, dated the 25th ditto 1877.

9. The general result is, as stated above, that except in parts of Benares, Fyzabad, and Allahabad, the outturn of the unirrigated kharif will be nil. Unfortunately the area of irrigated kharif is very small. Canal irrigation exists chiefly in the Meerut and Agra Divisions, and there the crops on irrigated lands are principally sugarcane, indigo, and cotton. Food-grains and fodder are generally grown on lands that depend on the periodical rainfall, and at the sowing season the cultivators could not foresee the terrible drought that was to prevail, and did not avail themselves of canal water for this class of crop.

10. At present the prospects of the rabi crop are as gloomy as the condition of the now ruined kharif. As far as appearances go the monsoon is over, and there is no indication of coming rain. Unless within 15 or 20 days there be a general heavy fall, the cold season crops can be sown only where irrigation is practicable. To the east of Allahabad the rain which fell on the 10th and the 11th would, it was expected, permit the rabi to be sown, but the effect of the hot winds since that date has been such as to render it very doubtful if even there unirrigated lands will be sown. The fate of the

rabi crop will in a great measure be decided by the 15th of October, and on that date district officers have been directed to submit a return in the annexed form.

11. One of the most deplorable consequences of the failure of the kharif is the inevitable great mortality among cattle for want of fodder, and that too at a time when the need of cattle for well-irrigation is most pressing. Already in the Agra Division the cattle are being fed on the leaves of trees. Loss of cattle from starvation has been reported, and there is no means of providing sustenance for them.

12. Endeavours have been made to ascertain what supply of food-grain is stored in these Provinces, and how far it must be supplemented by importation, but great difficulty has been experienced in getting trustworthy information. It has been with some certainty ascertained that what grain there is in the Provinces is chiefly in the hands of dealers, and that the stocks held by cultivators and others are low. Generally the crops in these Provinces during the last two years have been good, but there were large tracts which each year did not share in the general abundance. The last rabi harvest in Rohilkhand and the northern part of the Provinces generally was deficient owing to heavy rain at the time the crop was ripening. Throughout great part of the Provinces also the grain was so wetted when lying on the threshing-floors that it was not fit to be stored, and was sold off for exportation. The demand for exportation to Madras and Bombay has also been great, and has drained the stocks in the Provinces considerably. The result of the detailed inquiries will be reported hereafter, but at present it may be said that the result, as far as can be ascertained up to date from data which must from the nature of the case be more or less imperfect, is that in Rohilkhand the grain locally available will suffice for about three months' consumption, while in the rest of the Provinces it may last for six months or more. But it is right to add that the crisis has already caused large importations from both the Panjab and Bengal, which have had the effect of arresting the rise in prices; and if these sources can continue to be relied on, we shall not be in want of food, although we shall have to find works to enable the poor to obtain money to buy it. But, notwithstanding this aid, the following statement will show the great advance which has taken place in prices since the 1st of July:—

	Wheat.					Barley.					Rice (common).					Bajra (Millet).				
	30th June.	31st July.	15th August.	31st August.	15th September, or later date.	30th June.	31st July.	15th August.	31st August.	15th September, or later date.	30th June.	31st July.	15th August.	31st August.	15th September, or later date.	30th June.	31st July.	15th August.	31st August.	15th September, or later date.
Meerut	25½	21	17	16¼	11½	38	31	23	21½	15	14	13	12	12	9½	20	20	18	17	13
Bareilly	18½	17½	14½	14½	9½	28¾	27½	20	20	13	13½	13½	12	10¼	8½	16¼	16¼	11¼	5	9
Sháhjahánpur	22½	19½	16½	15¾	10¼	40¼	34½	23½	22¼	13	16	14¼	12½	11½	7½	—	—	—	—	—
Agra	20	18	16	14¼	10	27¾	25	21½	17¾	11	13	12	11	9¾	7½	19	19	17¼	16½	11¾
Allahabad	17¾	16	16¼	14¼	14	29½	27	27¼	22	19¾	16	14	13½	12	10½	24¼	20	18½	18¾	17½
Lucknow	20½	18¾	17¼	15¼	10½	29½	27¼	26	20	15¼	13½	13¾	12	11	9½	18½	16	15	15¼	—
Fyzabad	19½	17¼	17	14¼	12½	28½	24	24	20	17¼	14¼	12¾	12	9¾	8½	16	16	—	—	11¾
Benares	17	15	18	12½	12½	28	24½	28¼	19½	17½	16	13	14¾	12	11¾	—	19	19½	—	14¾
Basti	21½	19¾	17¼	15	9½	32½	30½	30	20	12¼	15½	14	13¾	11	9½	—	—	—	—	—
Jhánsi	21	20	19½	15¾	13	29	28	27¼	19½	18	16	16	15	14	12¼	—	—	—	—	—

Prices are now in the worst places more than double what they were three months ago, and are higher than they were at a corresponding period in 1868. They verge on famine rates.

13. Under the combined influence of high prices and stoppage of field work great distress has appeared among the labouring classes, which has compelled this Government to sanction the opening of relief works. The measures taken in this way have already been reported in my letter No. 2074 A., dated 14th instant. As then stated Colonel Fraser, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, and Mr. C. Anderson, Chief Engineer, Irrigation Branch, were deputed to the head-quarters of divisions to decide, in consultation with commissioners and district officers, on what works labourers should be employed. A copy of the reports of their proceedings,* and of the orders issued thereon,

* Minutes of a meeting held at Agra on the 14th, 15th, and 17th September 1877.

To Commissioner of Agra, No. 2233 A., dated 29th September.

Minutes of a meeting held at Meerut on the 18th, 19th, and 20th September 1877.

To Commissioner of Meerut, No. 2238 A., dated 29th September.

From Colonel Fraser, on special duty, No. 13 B.R.T., dated the 9th September 1877, and enclosure (minutes of meeting at Bareilly).

To Commissioner of Rohilkhand, No. 2030 A., dated the 13th September 1877.

Minutes of meeting held at Lucknow on the 10th and 11th of September 1877.

is herewith submitted for the information of the Government of India. It will be observed that the expenditure from provincial funds already sanctioned amounts to—

	Rs.
Rohilkhand - - - - -	1,64,196
Sitapur - - - - -	Small amounts not yet reported.
Lucknow - - - - -	
Rae Bareli - - - - -	
Fyzabad - - - - -	
Benares - - - - -	
Allahabad - - - - -	
Agra - - - - -	3,63,257
Meerut - - - - -	1,53,704
Jhánsi - - - - -	28,000

Distress has increased so much since the middle of September that in every division works must be opened almost immediately.

14. There have been numerous grain riots or dacoities in most of the distressed districts, to repress which vigorous measures have been taken, and which should cease now that relief works are or will be provided. There has also been some emigration from parts of the Agra, Rohilkhand, and Jhánsi Divisions, which the measures taken to provide relief are expected to check. It is trifling compared with the enormous exodus reported to have taken place from Gwalior, Dholpur, and other native states, partly into the Duab, but chiefly through Jhánsi to the south and west. Had the emigrants been able to find their way to a land of plenty, their going from one district to another might have been regarded with indifference, but when the whole of the provinces are almost equally unfortunate, the influx of homeless wanderers is only embarrassing.

15. Many of these wanderers were so emaciated, and many of those who live on charity were so reduced by want of food, that it has been imperatively necessary to authorise the opening of poor houses in the districts of the Rohilkhand and Agra Divisions and elsewhere. His Honour has directed that they shall be conducted on the system followed so successfully at Moradabad in 1860–61 and enjoined in the famine of 1874. His Honour has also directed that where they are opened an appeal be made for their support to the liberality of the wealthier sections of the community, undertaking to give on the part of Government a grant for initial expenses, and the equivalent of all sums raised by subscription. His Honour has also sanctioned the grant of takávi for the digging of wells in places where they can advantageously be made and good security be given, and for the purchase of seed grain should rain fall and otherwise the lands remain unsown. The amounts yet sanctioned have have been as follows:—

	Rs.
Meerut Division - - - -	50,000 for wells.
Agra ditto - - - -	90,000 for wells and seed grain.
Bánda District - - - - -	10,000 for seed grain.
Jhánsi ditto - - - - -	3,000.

The amount required for other divisions cannot yet be stated.

His Honour trusts that his orders will be confirmed by the Government of India.

No. 259.

Telegram, dated 5th October 1877.

From Viceroy to Secretary of State.

Season telegram, 25th September to 3rd October. Madras.—Continuous good rain everywhere, except part of Coimbatore and Madura. Good freshes in rivers; crops thriving; north-east monsoon not yet appeared on coast. Works, 628,259, decrease 70,000; gratuitous 1,603,721, decrease 2,000. Madras revised orders for administration relief issued 24th September. General but slight fall in prices; imports fully maintained. Bengal and Burmah daily grain despatches to Madras ports 5,454 tons, besides from Peninsula Railway 900 tons. Railway working from Madras meagre.

Bombay.—No appreciable rain in Gujerat, where needed; rest of Presidency good general rain. Temple telegraphs: General situation markedly better. Works 219,910, decrease 23,000; gratuitous 163,008, increase 3,000.

Mysore.—Good rain continues; crop prospects good; prices slightly cheaper; supply of sufficient railway imports; reduced people returned to field pursuits. Works 54,000, gratuitous 162,000. Deaths in Bangalore temporarily increased from rain. Famine Commissioner telegraphs that effect of putting paupers on works is marked improvement in health and spirits; they crowd to works.

North-West Provinces.—No rain save showers in Ghazipore; drought and heat continue; distress felt in Agra and Rohilkund Divisions.

Condition in Oudh less serious; prices stationary but high; grain being imported from Nerbudda Valley; October rain would save spring crop; cloudy weather reported on 4th from several districts; suitable relief work arrangements in forward state.

Punjab.—No rain save in Rawul Pindi and frontier; no improvement except Multan Divisions; dear prices; distress not yet reported.

Rajputana.—Partial showers in Ajmere and Marwar; no rain elsewhere; drought increasing in Eastern States; prices not yet excessive; relief works arranged on three sections of railway.

Indore.—No rain, except at Neemuch. Malwa crops beginning to wither; Gwalior condition bad. Great emigration from Northern and Eastern States southwards. Relief work open on three railway sections near Gwalior, Neemuch, and Rutlam.

Hyderabad.—Moderate showers; crop prospects favourable.

Bengal.—Prospects good in Bengal proper. Anxiety about South Behar, where rain holds off.

Burmah.—Prospects favourable; floods subsided; rice being replanted.

Assam.—Prospects good.

Central Provinces.—Protracted break in rains causes some loss of crop, and anxiety in rice-growing tracts; rabi (?) crops good. Large number of immigrants from Central India States, for whom relief works provided.

Encl. in No. 271.

No. 260.

Telegram, dated 6th October 1877.

From Governor of Bombay, Ahmednagar, to Viceroy, Simla.

Bombay Chamber of Commerce have telegraphed urgently to me. Message begins:—

"Markets in famine districts being amply supplied, and prices daily declining and lower than Bombay; all reason for preference to famine traffic ceased. Holders of grain in Nagpur, other stations, will continue to book it in order to clear stocks owing to preference given, and despatch to Bombay will continue closed, thereby inflicting continued great loss on Bombay trade and merchants."

Message ends. Your Lordship best judge of necessity for preference to twelve hundred tons daily for places beyond Bombay Presidency, namely Hyderabad and Madras. I apprehend that you consider this is still necessary, but I shall be obliged by instructions to make sure. Please reply to Ahmednagar.

No. 261.

Telegram, dated 7th October 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to Secretary of State.

Within past fortnight good rain fallen all over Bombay Presidency, excepting Khandesh and Sind. Autumn crop considerably though not entirely saved. Guzerat cotton crop improved, but short yield feared. Sowing for next spring crop everywhere good. Quantity of grass and fodder for cattle; prices falling. Numbers of people on relief works largely decreasing; numbers on gratuitous relief slightly increasing, as usual towards end of scarcity.

Encl. in No. 271.

No. 262.

No. 914, dated Simla, 8th October 1877.

From C. Bernard, Esq., Additional Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement enclosing printed copies of the instructions published by the Madras Government and their proceedings, No. 2847 of 24th September, and in reply I am to express the satisfaction with which his Excellency in Council regards the steps now taken to carry out in detail the line of policy determined on by the Madras Government during the Viceroy's visit to that Presidency.

2. As these instructions have the concurrence and approval of the Government of India, it is unnecessary to comment on them in detail, but I am to say that his Excellency in Council observes with special satisfaction the beneficent arrangements contained in the paragraphs noted in the margin, which provide that in effecting the necessary transfer from gratuitous relief to public works, every possible precaution shall be taken so as to guard not only against loss of life, but against overtasking, against injury to health, and against the separation of families.

23, 24, 31, 32, 37, 45, 48, 51, and 53.

3. His Excellency in Council confidently anticipates that with the loyal co-operation of the district officers, and under their zealous supervision, the measures now taken will have the best results in enforcing economy, in checking peculation, in improving the health and condition of the people, in providing the Presidency with useful communications and increased protection against drought, and in reducing to a minimum the dangers of demoralisation.

No. 263.

Encl. in No. 271.

Telegram, dated 8th October 1877.

From VICEROY, Simla, to GENERAL KENNEDY, Madras.

Temple has represented urgent demand of Bombay Chamber of Commerce for cessation of preference now given to grain consignments for Madras districts on all Peninsula stations. Chamber urges that famine districts are fully stocked and that their prices are below Bombay prices; also that consignors send to famine stations only because preference enables them thus to work off stocks. Temple asks if preference rule can be withdrawn. Duke recently telegraphed prices easier and supplies sufficient in Ceded Districts. But Madras Railway working short from Madras end. I much want to relieve Bombay export trade from pressure at earliest possible moment. Still famine needs are paramount, and I fear difficulties might arise on Madras line and in Ceded Districts by sudden cessation of supply. Does Madras Government consider it safe to reduce the preference waggons now allotted to famine consignment by one half from the 15th October, and to hold out hopes of withdrawing preference order entirely by 1st November, provided improved prospects continue? If so, then Madras Railway could arrange its engines accordingly. Early reply requested.

No. 264.

Encl. in No. 271.

Telegram, dated 8th October 1877.

From VICEROY, Simla, to RESIDENT, Hyderabad, Deccan.

Obligation on Peninsula Railway to deliver daily 300 tons grain at Hyderabad causes inconvenience. Governor Madras telegraphs that new grain from Hyderabad is coming into Khurnool, and your prospects seem favourable. Can Hyderabad afford to reduce her obligatory famine demand on railway by one half from 15th October, and to withdraw it altogether by 25th October. Of course ordinary trade consignments would take their turn as in ordinary times.

No. 265.

Encl. in No. 271.

Telegram, dated 8th October 1877.

From VICEROY, Simla, to GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY, Ahmednagar.

Your message regarding cessation of preference to famine consignments. I am anxious to meet wishes of Bombay trade at earliest possible moment. I have telegraphed to Kennedy to ascertain views of Madras Government. I hope an early reduction of number of preference waggons may be possible.

Encl. in No. 271.

No. 266.

Telegram, dated 9th October 1877.

From Major-General Kennedy, Madras, to Viceroy, Simla.

Duke thinks that at this period, with present still excessive range of prices, no change should be made likely to lessen quantity of grain sent to Madras district. The character of coming season north-east monsoon will be known in a few days, and may affect the question either way.

Encl. in No. 271.

No. 267.

Telegram, dated 9th October 1877.

From Resident, Hyderabad, Deccan, to Viceroy, Simla.

Nizam's Government assents to reduction of obligatory famine demand on railway for Hyderabad to 150 tons from 15th October, but solicits two or three days for consideration as to its entire relinquishment from 25th October, the Government tenders its best thanks to your Excellency for your personal interest in this matter on its behalf, and for great facilities so afforded to grain importations for Hyderabad.

Encl. in No. 271.

No. 268.

Telegram, dated 10th October 1877.

From Viceroy, Simla, to Sir R. Temple, Bombay.

Have consulted Madras Government, who consider that during continuance of excessive prices of food no change should be made to lessen quantity of grain sent to Madras districts. Character of coming season and of north-east monsoon will be known, and matter can be re-opened. Resident, Hyderabad, agrees to reducing the obligatory deliveries and preference wagons for Nizam's line by one-half from 15th October, and he will telegraph in three days whether preference can be wholly withdrawn. I have asked Madras Government to watch supplies and prices, and to inform me directly preference can be reduced or foregone.

Encl. in No. 271.

No. 269.

Telegram, dated 10th October 1877.

From Viceroy, Simla, to General Kennedy, Bombay.

Please inform the Duke that I have telegraphed to Temple, we cannot at present agree to withdraw preference order. Hyderabad has agreed to reduce its obligatory deliveries by one half from 15th October. I am aware Madras Government watches prices and supply closely, and I trust early intimation will be sent when preference order can safely be reduced or withdrawn. Private source in Madras telegraphs that stocks there are rapidly accumulating, prices are falling, and demand from interior is weak. I am anxious to relieve the Bombay trade as soon as famine requirements permit from the temporary inconvenience under which it suffers. So, pray, keep the matter before Madras Government.

Encl. in No. 289.

No. 270.

No. 2401A, dated Naini Tal, 10th October 1877.

From the Secretary to the Government of North-western Provinces and Oudh to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, North-western Provinces.

The Lieutenant-Governor having had under consideration the question of the suspension of the land revenue demand for the kharif kists, in consequence of the failure of the crops, desires me to communicate the following remarks, and to request that the Board will issue instructions in accordance with them, unless good cause can be shown for any modification.

2. It is almost unnecessary to observe that the principle on which settlements have been made in the North-western Provinces is to fix a moderate average demand for a long course of years, the Government agreeing to relinquish the excess in a good year, and expecting that the deficiency of a bad year shall be made good from the accumulated surplus of past or anticipated surplus of coming years. Notwithstanding, therefore, the great deficiency of assets in the present year, his Honour considers that with reference to the character of the settlement, and the urgency of the demands on Government, remission of revenue ought not to be sanctioned except in very special cases. On this subject I am to forward for the information of the Board a copy of a letter No. 886, dated 4th instant, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, with its Enclosure.

3. It may, however, in many quarters be necessary to suspend the demand, and it is with reference chiefly to the extent to which suspension should be granted that it is desirable that instructions be communicated to collectors. The demands on Government for funds are at this moment so pressing that it is impossible to authorise a general suspension, nor, great as the failure of crops in some districts has been, is a measure of this sort imperatively called for. In most districts a portion of the crops will be saved, and owing to the rise in prices, the deficiency of produce will be compensated for by the increase in the value of the crops saved.

4. His Honour must therefore direct that zemindars who are well off capitalists, who have other sources of income, and those whose tenants have saved a portion of their crops, and generally all who can pay up, should be required to do so. In particular the revenue ought to be realised without hesitation from those zemindars who have failed to help their tenants in the hard times they have come through, though they had the means of doing so. Such landlords deserve no indulgence.

5. On the other hand, suspension must be granted to those who could not be made to pay up without reducing them to such straits as would render them unable to incur the necessary expenditure on the cultivation of their lands in the cold season. It is to be borne in mind that owing to the large area now lying fallow in consequence of the kharif crop not having been sown, landowners will have the means of meeting any suspensions which may now be granted them by bringing this area under cultivation for the rabi. Some indulgence might also be shown to those who in the past have already helped their tenants, and who are prepared to continue this help during the cold season until the next harvest ripens, if not compelled to pay up the revenue.

6. In regard to these, a large discretion must be allowed to collectors. His Honour is confident that it may safely be given, and that while every effort is made to realise what is urgently required by the necessities of the State, undue pressure will not be put on those who ought to be treated with indulgence.

No. 271.

No. 38 of 1877.

From the Government of India, Public Works Department, to the Most Honourable the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Famine.

Simla, the 11th October 1877.

In the Viceroy's letter of 26th September your Lordship was informed of Lord Lytton's return from the famine-stricken districts in the south of India. In his previous letter dated Bangalore, 20th September, the transfer of the Famine Department to the personal management of his Excellency the Viceroy had been notified, but the office remained a branch of the Department of the Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce. On Lord Lytton's arrival at Simla it was decided that the administration of famine relief should be a branch of the business of the Public Works Department, and Mr. Bernard, who had accompanied the Viceroy on his tour as Additional Secretary for Famine Business, was accordingly transferred from the Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce Department to be additional Secretary in the Public Works Department.

2. The transfer was a necessary corollary to the principle already laid down by the Government of India, that the employment and payment of the destitute on useful public works, supervised by departmental agency, was to be the backbone of the relief system, and as this principle has been acted on in Bombay from the beginning, and more recently in Madras, conformity to it required that under the Government of India also the Famine Department should be deemed to be a sub-division of the Public

Works Department. And all questions relating to relief works and their administration will now be considered and determined in that Department.

3. The initiative in all general matters concerning the Famine Department remains, however, in the Viceroy's hands; and to assist him in the work of the Department his Excellency has been pleased as a temporary measure to appoint Mr. S. C. Bayley to be his personal assistant.

4. The Viceroy desires to take the opportunity afforded him by the notification of these changes to your Lordship of placing on record the deep obligation he is under to his colleague Sir A. Arbuthnot, both for his general management of the Famine Department during the last 10 months, and especially for the loyal assistance which he rendered during the recent journey to the south of India. It was a matter of regret to his Excellency that for that journey the services of Mr. Hope, who, as additional Secretary in the Famine Department, had conducted the anxious duties of the Department in complete accordance with his Excellency's views, and entirely to his satisfaction, were not available; Mr. Hope, who represents the Bombay Presidency in the Legislative Council, having previously at his own request resigned the office of Additional Secretary. The Viceroy thinks it due to Mr. Hope to acknowledge in this place his careful and efficient performance, from the beginning of the famine down to August last, of the additional and burthensome duties undertaken by him in the Famine Department.

5. Taking the several provinces affected or threatened with famine in the usual order, we have the honour to report the facts and transactions of the week, as follows:—

6. The Madras Government has issued revised rules for the administration of relief, with a view of giving effect to the decisions taken by the Viceroy and the Governor in Council at the end of August. There was some, apparently needless, delay in issuing these orders. But now that they are issued, and that the prospects of the season are favourable, we have every hope that the due execution of them will secure the systematization of relief, the prevention of fraud, the stoppage of much needless expenditure, and the employment of relief labour on properly supervised works of permanent usefulness. The revised rules together with a letter conveying our approval of their scope, will be found in Enclosure No. 1 of the present letter. Full care has been taken to provide against overtasking persons who may be in a reduced condition of body; and the special treatment of weak persons is enjoined until such time as they shall be fit for full work. We anticipate that the operation of these rules, acting concurrently with the very favourable change in the season, will cause a very great reduction in the number of relief recipients throughout the Madras Presidency. A table showing the useful public works opened for relief labourers in each district has been prepared and sanctioned by the Government of Madras. But as the papers on the subject have not yet reached us, we reserve our remarks on that subject for a future letter.

Madras.

No. 250.

7. We cannot conceal from ourselves that many native subordinate officials are personally interested in the continuance of unnecessarily lavish relief expenditure in Madras, and that it is by no means easy to close the doors kept open by them to peculation and illicit gains. Such persons will no doubt contrive to throw discredit on the recent reforms; and they will, it may be feared, take care that some really necessitous people shall remain unrelieved, in order that their complaints may gain hearing. A paper received to-day from the Madras Government (Enclosure No. 2) shows in a melancholy way how subordinate officials sacrifice the interests and the lives of the poor, in order to procure the continuance of a system whereby they can make illegitimate profit. We have taken great pains, and so also has the Madras Government in the present revised rules, to guard against the occurrence of such disasters. But we are convinced that it is right, even though such cases should unhappily happen, to persevere in the only course which will prevent the pauperisation and demoralization of the people, and check the needless expenditure of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

No. 84.

8. The latest intelligence from each province will be found in the last paragraph of this letter. On the 5th current the Governor of Madras telegraphed that prospects were everywhere improved by the rain; that prices were falling in the Ceded Districts, into which supplies of new grain were coming; and that the Madras Railway was carrying smaller quanties of grain into the interior. At the same time the despatches of grain from Bengal and Burma to Madras ports fell to 2,124 tons daily during the week ending on the 3rd, as compared with 5,454 tons daily during the previous week. We at the same time learnt from Calcutta that grain despatches were likely to become even smaller, because dealers were uncertain whether further importations would be required after the large stocks now in Madras had been worked into the interior. We have informed the Madras Government how matters stand, at the same time we are not

apprehensive of any shortness in the food supply. The Chief Commissioner, Mysore, telegraphs that the railway supply to Bangalore, though much short of the demand previously estimated, suffices for all requirements. Small crops are daily being harvested. And, if the favourable weather continues, no one will store grain so long as prices remain high. A telegram has to-day reached us from a private source in Madras stating that "business has been overdone, prices are daily falling, demand for the "interior is very weak, and stocks in Madras are rapidly accumulating." This intelligence has not yet been confirmed officially, but its purport is borne out by the general course of the trade, and agrees with our anticipations that old stocks would come out, and that the demand for importations would slacken as soon as the prospects of next harvest were assured.

The Governor of Madras has himself gone southwards to visit Salem, Coimbatore, and Madura; regarding which districts only is there ground for present anxiety.

Bombay.

9. Until the 5th current there was anxiety about the crops in Guzerat, where rain was much needed. But heavy rain has now fallen all over Guzerat, and the crops there are quite safe. Sir Richard Temple telegraphs that crop prospects throughout the Presidency are favourable; that prices are falling steadily; and that the situation is decidedly better, although more rain is still wanted in parts of the Khandesh and Násik districts. The numbers on relief works have fallen to 183,613, showing a decrease of 36,121; the numbers on gratuitous relief are 162,348 or nearly the same as in the preceding week.

10. The supply of food grain in the Bombay districts is sufficient; it is expected that consignments from Central and Northern India by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway will decrease, partly in consequence of the cheaper prices in the Deccan and partly in consequence of the demand arising in the North-west Provinces, where dearth was already felt and famine was threatening. Since the 25th September grain consignments, from railway stations as far east as Bhosawul Junction, have been going northwards towards Cawnpore and Agra. In view of the lessening demands of the famine districts and of the inconvenience caused to Bombay trade by the partial stoppage of consignments to Bombay for export, the Chamber of Commerce earnestly requested that the preference shown to famine traffic at stations on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway might cease. The Government of Madras has been consulted; and it has been decided to reduce the number of preference waggons for the Nizam's country by one half from the 15th October, but to await the burst of the north-east monsoon before withdrawing the preference order in favour of grain consigned to Madras districts.

The telegrams which have passed upon the matter will be found in Enclosure No. 3. The Government of India is anxious to meet the wishes of the Chamber of Commerce as soon as the paramount requirements of the famine districts permit a material reduction of grain importations. Before leaving this subject, we desire to record our sense of the loyalty and care with which the Government of Bombay has, notwithstanding much pressure from local interests, carried out the instructions of the Government of India, and secured a regular delivery of grain from the north to the Madras Railway.

Nos. 261, 263 to 269.

Mysore.

11. Great improvement in the season prospects have continued throughout the province of Mysore. During the last 10 days an average of three inches has fallen; even the central dry tract west of Bangalore, where rain has hitherto been withheld, has shared the recent rain. The irrigation tanks are filled; such of the early millet crops as had not withered have revived beyond expectation; irrigated millet and rice are being cut; the late millet crop looks as well as possible, and the sowing of spring crops is proceeding under favourable conditions. Markets are well supplied with grain, and prices continue to fall slowly but steadily. The latest returns (dated 29th September) from Bangalore show 57,274 persons on relief works, which is an increase of about 12,000; and 161,892 on gratuitous relief, as against 208,683 persons in the previous week. The latest weekly report from Mysore forms Enclosure No. 3*a* to this letter. That report says:—

No. 255.

"The decrease is partly due to the improvement in the prospects of field employment, and would have occurred in any case. It is partly due also to the enforcing of the conditions of residence and labour, and to the efforts made to relegate the paupers to works. Of the numbers in the relief camps of the Bangalore Municipality, which have fallen by 19,000 in the last fortnight, over 5,000 have been put on the State Railway and the adjacent embankment; about 2,000 on the embankment of the Alsur lake; and about 1,000 more on different projects, the waterworks, and two lines of road. The improvement in the condition of the labourers is already obvious; they are cheerful, healthy,

and contented; and those who a fortnight ago were thought hardly able to lift a pickaxe are now doing a fair day's work. Of the rest, some have left for their villages, some prefer to beg about the town, but these will be collected and brought in by the police. To every applicant either labour or food is offered; if labour cannot be provided, then food is given till the applicant can be set to work."

12. In the beginning of the month of September there was some increase in the number of deaths reported from Bangalore town as due directly or indirectly to famine. On inquiry it appeared that, during the month of August, the daily average of such deaths was 30; from the 1st to the 10th of September the average was 41; from the 11th, the day on which Mr. Elliott, Famine Commissioner, took charge of his duties, until the 19th the number was 25; from the 30th to the 30th the average was 35. The Famine Commissioner attributes the increase of deaths to the cold rain which fell on several successive nights; he reports that deaths in the relief hospitals have diminished, and he anticipates improvement in the outside death-rate. These deaths occurred among the poor wanderers who came into Bangalore from outside; additional precautions are now being taken to find such persons and bring them under treatment, before they succumb to want or to diseases engendered by want.

13. Revised rules for the management of relief works have been issued, under the Chief Commissioner's orders, thus giving effect to the instructions of the Government of India. In these rules the wage scale provided for a rest on Sundays, and for the Sunday wage being distributed over the six days of the week. We have directed that, while the Sunday remains a non-working day, the wage scale be arranged so as to give full seven days' subsistence wage for the week.

Hyderabad.

14. These are now the crop prospects in the Nizam's country:—Rain has fallen in sufficient quantity; prices are cheaper, and the demand for imported grain is slackening. In Berar, where rain has fallen during the last few days, prospects are good.

Central Provinces.

15. The break in the rains had continued so long in the Central Provinces, that the position of the rice crop was critical; in some places part of the rice crop had actually withered. The millet and pulse crops were still in good condition, but rain was wanted for the spring crop sowings. Rain has now fallen in sufficient quantity at Nagpore, Hingunghat, and Saugor; and the Chief Commissioner reports that, if this rain is general, the prospects of the autumn crop will be everywhere improved. As Chutteesgurh and other districts of the Central Provinces are off the telegraph line, we are unable to write with certainty about those tracts. Into the northern districts of the Central Provinces there came daily, during the last 10 days of September, thousands of immigrants from the drought-stricken Native States and British districts lying in the basin of the river Chumbul. The number of these immigrants is now about 40,000, and for them the Chief Commissioner has provided relief employment on the road leading from the Jhansi border through Saugor and Damoh to Jubbulpore. We have agreed that the Government of India shall meet one half the expenditure on this relief work up to the 30th March, as most of the labourers will be immigrants; the remainder of the cost will be met from the ordinary provincial resources.

Rajputana and Central Indian States.

16. Up to the 5th October the drought and consequent distress had gone on increasing in Northern and Eastern Rajputana, and in most of the Eastern States under the Indore Agency. The price of wheat was 14 lbs. per rupee at Gwalior, and 17 lbs. at Ajmere; pasture for cattle had everywhere failed; tens of thousands of people were pouring through Neemuch, through Goona, through Jhansi, down into Malwa where the condition of the crops was becoming critical. Most of these emigrants were from Native States, but some came from British districts on the right bank of the Jumna. Among some of these poor people, on the great road between Seepree and Goona, cholera broke out. Relief houses were opened at Goona and other places on this road. But from all sides it was reported that severe famine would be felt all over the basin of the Chumbul river, if rain did not come. There was then (end of September) little hope of rain; and by way of providing relief employment for the immigrant poor, we sanctioned the immediate commencement of earthwork and ballast collection on the railway lines from Ajmere through Beawur to Dasori on the north, and on the line from Neemuch to Rutlam in the centre, of the threatened tract. In the east, work on the Gwalior and Agra Railway had previously been opened. Telegrams of the last three days have informed us of seasonable rain all over Central India and Rajputana, from Gwalior on the east to Mullanee and Palee on the west, and from Indore on the south up to Jeypore on the north. We have not yet had tidings from

the Bikaneer and Jeysulmeer deserts. But it appears certain that the rain which has fallen, and which was continuing up to the 8th current, will provide pasture everywhere, and in many places will suffice for the spring crop sowings. If this favourable change continues, the danger of actual famine will have passed away, though scarcity and high prices must continue until the spring crop is secure. We shall not be able to counter-order the commencement of the railway relief works in these countries, until prospects are more assured.

North-west Provinces.

17. In previous letters and telegrams we have informed your Lordship that the unirrigated autumn crop had been lost over the greater part of the North-west Provinces and Oudh, and that the failure of crop had been most marked in the Rohilkund and Agra divisions. Until the 5th October rain held off, fodder for cattle was not to be had; there seemed no hope of more rain, and it was certain that unless plentiful rain fell within the month of October, the spring crop would be lost, and severe widespread famine would be inevitable. Happily there were a number of large useful public works, new canals, extensions, and rectifications of old canals, drainage channels, railway extensions, and railway projects, most of which were ready for commencement, and on which very large numbers of people could be usefully employed. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-west Provinces had sent his chief engineer round all the threatened districts with a view to settling with the local officers a scheme for relief works. Some such works had already been begun, and we had ordered a contingent of engineer officers from other provinces to aid in completing the preparations for a system of provincial light railways which the Lieutenant-Governor, in concert with our colleague Sir John Strachey, who had visited Naini Tal, proposed as relief works in parts of the North-west where canal schemes were wanting. At Enclosure No. 4 will be found a letter from the North-west Provinces, dated the 4th October, describing the situation as it then stood. It will be observed that the rainfall had been less, that prices were higher, that crime, due mainly to want, was more rife, that panic among the people and the grain dealers was greater, and that emigration was more general than had been the case at the same season in the famine years of 1860 and 1868. No. 258.

18. Happily this has all changed. Rain has fallen from the 5th to the 8th all over the provinces; we have not yet learnt full particulars from all parts of the country. Up to the morning of the 8th three inches had fallen at Agra, where the need was worst; and that the Native States to the west have received bountiful rain. We shall have the honour of informing your Lordship by telegraph of the exact condition of affairs. But at any rate the outlook is entirely changed; Sir George Couper has telegraphed that he does not require any more engineers, and that the project for light railways will not be necessary.

Punjab.

19. The condition of the Punjab was less critical than that of the North-west by reason of the heavy downpour of rain in August. Still there too most of the unirrigated autumn crop was lost; and the spring crops could not be sown unless rain came. The large stocks of grain in the province had kept prices below famine rates; no actual distress had been reported; and no relief operations had been undertaken, nevertheless the position was extremely anxious and critical. The rainfall of the past three days has happily extended to parts of the Punjab; six inches have fallen at Delhi, from one half an inch to two inches have fallen at Amballa, Jullunder, Lahore and Rawul Pindi; there has been half an inch at Amritsir. The Lieutenant-Governor writes that "this rain has been a great relief "to our anxiety; that there will now be great sowing of spring crop all over the "country where rain has fallen, but that prices will keep dear until the fate of the "spring crop is assured."

Bengal.

20. The only part of Bengal, regarding which there was anxiety, namely Behar, has shared the general rain. Three inches of rain were gauged at Patna on the 6th October. We have not yet received particulars; but the rain which fell both at Patna and Benares must have been general over Behar, and cause for anxiety there is past.

21. If the rainfall of the past week should have fully wrought the favourable change which we hope no time will be lost in stopping, as soon as matters are clear, the "extraordinary" undertakings which we have sanctioned for relief purposes. When the need for relief has passed, all such works will be considered and dealt with on their own merits, and with reference to the financial needs of the Government. We invite attention to a paper (Enclosure No. 5) in which the Bombay Government has declined to authorise any measures that will tend to keep up the numbers on any relief work. The Bombay Government has directed that every unfinished relief work shall, when famine

needs are over, be considered and treated under the ordinary rules of the Public Works Department. We consider that in so deciding the Bombay Government has acted loyally to the Imperial Government and for the benefit of the Imperial treasury.

22. We cannot conclude this letter without expressing our deep thankfulness for the rain which has thus come just in time to save the whole of Northern India from a famine which threatened to be both widespread and severe.

23. Up to the time of this letter going to press, namely, the evening of the 10th October, we have received intelligence of rainfall in Northern and Central India since the 4th October as follows:—

Punjab	Peshawar	None.
	Rawalpindi	1 inch.
	Lahore	½ an inch.
	Jullunder	1 inch.
	Amballa	1⅓ of an inch.
	Delhi	6 inches.
North-western Provinces and Oudh	Agra	4½ ,,
	Bareilly	7 ,,
	Lucknow	2½ ,,
	Meerut	6 ,,
	Allahabad	4 ,,
	Benares	2½ ,,
Rajputana and Central India.	Jeypore	1½ ,,
	Ajmere	2 ,,
	Neemuch	7 ,,
	Bhurtpore	7½ ,,
	Gwalior	2 ,,
	Indore	3 ,,
	Rutlam	1¼ ,,
Central Provinces	Saugor	1⅓ ,,
	Jubbulpore	1 ,,
	Nagpore	4¼ ,,
Bengal	Patna	5½ ,,
	Durbanga	7 ,,

We have, &c.

(Signed) LYTTON.
F. P. HAINES.
E. C. BAYLEY.
A. J. ARBUTHNOT.
A. CLARKE.
E. B. JOHNSON.
W. STOKES.

Encl. in No. 289.

No. 272.

No. 792A, dated Naini Tal, the 11th October 1877.

From the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

I am directed to state, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, that his Honour has learnt from the Accountant-General that the cash balances in the North-western Provinces and Oudh have fallen from 270 lakhs on the 1st of September 1877 to 162 lakhs on the 1st of October 1877, and that, unless the treasuries are replenished, there will not from the middle of November 1877 be funds to meet the liabilities of this Government.

2. His Honour deems it necessary to state for the information of the Government of India that, owing to the general and nearly complete failure of the kharif crops throughout the provinces, there is on the one hand very little prospect of the early realisation of any thing but a very small part of the land revenue demand for the kharif, while on the other the Lieutenant-Governor has been compelled to sanction a large expenditure for the relief of the distressed, and the grant of takavi for wells and seed-grain. Since the Accountant-General's letter was received, there has been a general fall of rain, which will permit the rabi to be sown, and has made the prospects

of the provinces brighter, but nothing can restore the ruined kharif, or prevent a large suspension of the revenue demand.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor is well aware of the straits to which the Government of India is put at the present time for money, and it is with the utmost reluctance that he makes a report which must necessarily temporarily add to their burdens. But he sees no other course to adopt. If the village communities who form the great mass of our revenue payers be pressed now, they simply will be ruined, whereas, if we allow temporary suspensions there is every reason to believe that by the end of the agricultural year we shall recover all that we forego now from the proceeds of the additional area which the people will be able to bring under cultivation in consequence of the kharif not having been sown and the land being therefore available for the spring sowings. But if we press for immediate payment the people will not have the means of doing this, and they will be reduced to such a state that it is highly probable that the rabi instalments themselves will only be realised with great difficulty.

4. His Honour knows that our revenue theory is that the people should meet the losses of a bad year from the gains of a good one. But as a matter of fact these prudential considerations are unknown to them. They never save. When they have a good harvest they spend the proceeds on marriages or in other ways, and they have moreover been very seriously affected by the present scarcity. Cattle are reported to be dying or sold to the butchers in hundreds in consequence of the want of fodder, and this will add very materially to the agricultural distress and difficulties if they are called on at once to meet their State obligations.

5. Well-to-do zemindars and the owners of tracts in which there has not been a total failure of the autumn harvest will, of course, be made to pay up, but, as has already been stated, well-to-do landlords are the exception in these provinces, and it is quite certain that the tracts which have escaped the calamity are few and far between.

No. 273.

Telegram, dated 13th October 1877.

From Viceroy to the Secretary of State.

Season telegram 4th to 11th October :—Madras, moderate rain general everywhere ; prospects of standing crops favourable ; yield of crops just harvested moderate ; agriculture briskly prosecuted ; prices falling. Importation from outside much reduced ; north-east monsoon not yet due. On works 587,228, decrease 41,031 ; gratuitous 1,531,255, decrease 72,466.

Bombay, excellent rain in Guzerat, good rain and generally good crop prospects in rest of Presidency, except Sind, where rainfall is deficient and prospects poor ; prices falling ; sowing of spring crops progressing ; on works 182,158, decrease 37,752 ; gratuitous 162,348 ; decrease 660.

Mysore, moderate rain everywhere ; crops flourishing ; prices falling ; on works, 69,693, increase 15,693 ; gratuitous 126,204, decrease 36,706 ; decrease due to work in fields.

North-West provinces, good rain everywhere, two to ten inches, heaviest in Rohilkund and Oudh, and very good in Agra ; preparations for spring crop everywhere progressing ; apprehensions of famine removed ; prices falling everywhere though still high.

Punjab, general rain as far north as Jhelum, heavy in Delhi, and Umballa ; spring crop sowings secured ; now no fear of famine.

Rajputana, general rain over all States ; heavy in Neemuch and some other parts ; pasturage and spring crops secured ; some pressure still in Marwar.

Indore, good general rain over all States ; prospects much brighter ; emigrants beginning to return.

Hyderabad, prospects continue good ; prices falling.

Bengal, good rain over Behar, where it was much wanted ; rest good.

Central Provinces, seasonable rain over whole country ; small breadth of rice withered ; all else good.

Assam and Burmah ; condition good.

No. 274.

Encl. in No. 288.

Proceedings of the Government of Madras, Revenue Department (Famine Relief), dated 15th October 1877, F. R. No. 2,331.

The Governor in Council has, by a telegraphic order of the 13th instant, called the attention of collectors to the importance of utilising to the utmost the present favourable

change in the season. The recent rainfall has materially restored the condition of growing crops; many crops are being now harvested; land is nearly everywhere in a fit state for cultivation; and the rains of the north-east monsoon may be shortly expected. Prices have been gradually declining. In this state of the country it is of the utmost importance to its future prosperity that every exertion should be at once made to induce, encourage, and facilitate the return of people to their own homes and ordinary occupations. There may not unnaturally exist some feeling of hesitation amongst many, especially amongst those who have wandered from their own districts, to leave their present shelter, but the interests of the country demand that every available hand shall be turned to agriculture, and every exertion used to increase and expedite the growth of the newly-sown crops, on which the people must rely to restore the prices of food-grains to a normal state.

2. That this necessity is appreciated by the people is evinced by the fact that large numbers have already, of their own accord, left works and camps for agricultural employ, and that in many districts the area cultivated is larger than usual at this period. Yet in these districts more, and in others much, can be done, and no divisional officer should feel satisfied while any available land in his division remains uncultivated.

3. The Governor in Council desires also to impress on collectors the urgent necessity for reducing, as rapidly as may be, the numbers who are receiving State charity on relief works, in relief camps, &c., and consequently of diminishing the heavy drain on current expenditure.

4. The general principles on which relief is to be administered are already laid down in G. O. of 24th September, No. 2,847. The Government have spared no pains to relieve and sustain and also to provide employ for the people; now, however, agricultural or other usual employment is obtainable, and district officers must take care that the measures which were necessary for relief of the famine-stricken are not converted into a prolonged demoralising and pauperising charity.

5. A judicious but firm application of the tests and limitations laid down in the Government Order referred to will prevent the danger while meeting any necessity; but laxity or indecision in any district may not improbably result in the continued dependence of a large pauperised population on State aid through another year.

6. Where the numbers on relief works are materially diminished, proportionate diminution should be made in the establishments, and labour should be consolidated so as to economise supervision. When the numbers in camps are materially diminished, subordinate establishments should be also diminished, or otherwise utilised, permanent officers of the districts being allowed to resume their ordinary work. The general relief organisation of a district, however, is not to be reduced or broken up until further instructions from the Government, the nature of which will be regulated by the advent and extent of the monsoon rains.

7. The Governor in Council has had before him applications for sanction for many new works of a petty and local character, the possible benefit to arise from which can only be of a purely temporary character. He considers such works undesirable, but does not, however, desire to fetter the discretion of collectors, and therefore will not generally refuse to sanction works recommended by them; but the sanction will only be accorded upon the distinct understanding that collectors, before recommending any works for sanction, satisfy themselves that such works are essential to the proper extent of relief, and are not urged from motives of purely local interest, or instigated by subordinates who hope for an opportunity to make an illicit gain from the relief expenditure.

Encl. in No. 288.

No. 275.

Telegram, dated 16th October 1877.

From VICEROY, Simla, to SECRETARY OF STATE, London.

English newspapers received by mail show misapprehension about mortality in Madras Presidency. Actual returns for nine distressed districts including Madras town during six months, November to April, give results; total population 13,765,165 or 13¾ millions, deaths 373,993, of which 182,114 were reported due to cholera, which raged terribly during January, February, and March. During 1866 when famine visited

northern districts of Madras, 200,000 cholera deaths were reported; monthly total deaths of past seasons were:—

November	28,385
December	56,725
January	82,672
February	76,745
March	70,328
April	59,136

By April cholera had greatly abated. Figures for subsequent months will be furnished hereafter. Death rate was thus 27 per thousand for the half year, 12½ per thousand being due to cholera. Madras Presidency reported death rate of 1875 was 21 per thousand; yearly death rate in India believed to be ordinarily not below 28 per thousand. The reported deaths of the half year thus exceed the reported death rate of 1875 by 16½ per thousand, or 227,123 cases, and they exceed the supposed normal death rate by 13 per thousand or 188,945 cases. This latter number somewhat exceeds total of cholera deaths. Impossible to say how much additional mortality due to famine. Rural registration of deaths not fully trusted. We propose to take census of selected areas in Mysore at end of famine and thereby ascertain actual losses of population. This was done in Bengal in November 1874. We shall recommend same course to Governments of Bombay and Madras.

No. 276.

Telegram, dated 17th October 1877.

From Governor of Bombay to Secretary of State.

Rain generally sufficient, Bombay Presidency; prospects, autumn and winter crops good; fine weather now wanted in Deccan. Numbers on relief works decreasing. Gratuitous relief still maintained for short time longer. Trade, both internal and external, continues active.

No. 277.

Encl. in No. 288.

Nos. 944, 945, and 946, dated Simla, the 17th October 1877.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India to the Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras, the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Public Works Department, and the Additional Secretary to the Government of Mysore.

As there must be some doubt about the accuracy of the returns of deaths, furnished from the distressed districts during the past season, I am directed to suggest that at the end of the famine, steps should be taken to take a census of selected taluks in different parts of the famine country. This course was taken in Bengal during November 1874, and it was found that with the help of the extra famine establishments and of the village officials, the business could be done without any heavy expenditure, beyond the cost of lithographing a sufficient number of forms.

2. It is very desirable to ascertain how far the numbers of the rural population may have been affected by the famine; and it would be necessary, for this purpose, to count the people in some of the most distressed and also in some of less distressed taluks. If possible the counting should be postponed until the very end of the famine, when all the wanderers will probably have returned to their homes.

3. I am to ask you to let me know whether the * consider it practicable to carry out this suggestion.

* Government of Bombay.
„ Madras.
Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

No. 278.

Encl. in No. 289.

No 2427A, dated Allahabad, 18th October 1877.

From the Secretary to Government of North-western Provinces and Oudh to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

With reference to your letter No. 886 (Famine), dated the 4th October 1877, I am directed to submit, for the information of his Excellency the Governor-General in

To the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, North-western Provinces, No. 2401 A of the 10th instant.

Council, a copy of the letter marginally noted, showing the instructions issued by this Government in regard to the suspension of the kharif kists in consequence of the failure of the crops.

2. I am also to forward a copy of a letter No. 792 A, dated the 11th of October 1877, which has been addressed to the Government of India in the Financial Department.

Encl. in No. 289.

No. 279.

No. 6,276, dated 19th October 1877.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I am desired by his Excellency the Governor in Council to report, for the information of his Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, the following information regarding the realization of the land revenue of this Presidency in the year 1876–77, exclusive of the Province of Sind, where there was no drought.

2. The land revenue to be collected amounted to Rs. 2,62,99,590. Out of this the sum of Rs. 2,33,40,250 was collected on the 31st August 1877. The amount of remissions granted up to the same date on account of failure of crops through drought amounted to Rs. 2,15,110. As regards the residue, the subject was carefully considered by his Excellency the Governor in Council, and it was finally determined that all the outstandings should be treated as recoverable balances and so entered in the accounts.

3. Many of these balances are owing by people who are tolerably well off, and these will be gradually recovered with care and judgment when the ripening crops are brought to market. In other cases the monsoon of 1878 will be awaited. Should that prove abundant, and should a plentiful harvest be the fortunate result, it is confidently anticipated that these remaining arrears may, for the most part, be collected in 1878–79.

4. As regards those remissions which have been granted, his Excellency the Viceroy in Council may be assured that the utmost care and vigilance were exercised before granting them, and the Governor in Council is convinced that the liberality of Government has been very seldom misplaced, considering the enormous number of claims which had to be investigated. At the same time he can unhesitatingly assert that the large revenue which, in an exceptionally distressing time, has been collected, has been realised without any harshness or undue pressure.

5. A further report will be made in due course showing how the out standing balances are being recovered.

Encl. in No. 288.

No. 280.

No. 952, dated Simla, 19th October 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF MYSORE.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, forwarding copies of the Mysore Famine Code, drawn up, under the Chief Commissioner's orders, by Mr. C. A. Elliott, the Famine Commissioner.

2. I am to express the satisfaction of the Governor-General in Council with the completeness of this code, and the promptitude shown in its preparation and issue. The preface, and Chapters I. to IV., are all excellent. It remains for the Famine Commissioner, and the Divisional Commissioners, to see that these orders are fully and systematically carried out. The rules (pages 6, 7, 11, and 12, and Chapter IV.) provide sufficiently for the treatment of persons who, from age, illness, or emaciation, are unfit for hard work. Such persons, who were crowding the relief camps at the time of the Viceroy's visit to Mysore, will, if these rules be properly carried out, have every possible chance of recovering health and strength.

3. The wage-scale (Appendix I., page 13) was approved by the Viceroy and Governor-General at the time of its issue. But instructions have since been communicated to you, desiring that the wage-scale should be re-arranged, so as to give seven distinct

days' wage. At present the wages of the whole week are arranged as six days' wages. The rules which direct that *ad interim* wages should be given to new comers, and that wages should be paid thrice a week until the people get strong and the system becomes known, will prevent evils, such as have, on occasions, arisen from the system of weekly payments.

4. Chapter V. of the Code, regarding village relief, appears to lay upon the village officials duties which may be beyond the powers of some of them. But the expenditure on village relief in Mysore has hitherto been small; and now that the famine is drawing to an end, no harm, it is to be hoped, will result from the imperfect obedience which in some villages may be given to the provisions of Chapter IV.

5. The appended papers regarding the house visitation in Bangalore town, the hutting of labourers, the shape of relief hospitals, and the sanitary arrangements at relief camps and works, are all useful and worthy of a place in the Famine Code.

6. Many of the provisions, and all of the principles embodied in Chapter I.–IV. of the Code, have been in operation for the last four weeks. And the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council has been glad to hear that the inmates of relief kitchens near Bangalore have improved greatly in health and spirits after 15 or 20 days on the relief works where they were well treated and regularly paid. His Excellency in Council has also learnt with pleasure that, under the present arrangements, the lamentable mortality in and near Bangalore town has gradually and steadily diminished. The Government of India will await with interest the reports of the village inspections to be effected under Chapter V. of the Code.

7. I am to request that you will, with the Chief Commissioner's permission, convey to Mr. C. A. Elliott an expression of the interest and approval with which the Mysore Famine Code of 1877 has been perused by his Excellency the Governor-General in Council.

No. 281.

Telegram, dated 20th October 1877.

From VICEROY to SECRETARY OF STATE.

Season telegram, 12th to 18th October.—Madras: rainfall in all districts, averaging 1½ inches. Prospects of standing crops everywhere good. Autumn harvests yield moderate. Prices falling in Bellary, Kurnool, and Cuddapah. Quotations about 20 pounds per rupee for dry grain. On works 550,299, decrease 36,929. Gratuitous. 1,283,966, decrease 247,289. Regular burst of north-east monsoon not yet reported Grain importation slack, but supply sufficient, and large accumulations in Madras itself.

Bombay: Good rain in Deccan and Concan. Prices falling. Crop prospects good everywhere, except Sind, where gloomy. North-east monsoon reported from Dharwar. On works 119,881, decrease 62,277. Gratuitous 152,055, decrease 10,295.

Mysore: Heavy showers. General crop prospects good. Grain 19 pounds the rupee. Prices still falling. On works 62,506. Gratuitous 103,750, decrease 22,554. Mortality slowly decreasing, but still very high all through Mysore.

North-western Provinces: Cold weather set in. No rain. Spring crop sowings progressing everywhere. Prices high. Prospects generally good.

Punjab: Good rain Rawul Pindee; Moderate showers elsewhere. Spring crop cultivation progressing hopefully.

Rajputana: Spring crop cultivation progressing. More rain wanted in parts. Prices falling in places; steady elsewhere.

Indore: Prospects in Malwa and Bundelkund generally good. Some rain at Gwalior. Relief works being maintained for destitute immigrants.

Bengal: Central Provinces, Assam, Burmah; prospects generally good.

Hyderabad: 4 inches of rain. Prospects good. Prices falling.

Reduction of 356,790 during week on relief numbers in Bombay and Madras; causes decrease of 11 lakhs in monthly famine expenditure.

Encl. in No. 289.

No. 282.

From the Additional Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government, North-western Provinces.

No. 957, Dated Simla, the 22nd October 1877.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 792 A., dated 11th October, to the address of the Financial Department. With reference to your first paragraph, I am to thank the Lieutenant-Governor for the early warning he has given; and to say that measures will be taken by the Comptroller-General, in communication with the Accountant-General, for the supply of funds to meet the requirements of the public service in the North-western Provinces and Oudh.

2. The Viceroy and Governor-General in Council, however, directs me to address you more at length on those parts of your letter which state that only a very small part of the autumn land revenue instalment can be punctually realised; that a large suspension of the revenue demand is unavoidable; and that heavy expenditure has been necessary for the relief of the distressed, as well as on advances for land improvement and for the purchase of seed grain. A subsequent telegram from the Accountant-General intimates that he expects 99* lakhs of land revenue, namely, 33 lakhs in November and 66 lakhs in December, to be collected during the last two months of the year; so that the prospects of collecting the land revenue may have improved much during the 10 days after the despatch of your letter under acknowledgment. The Governor-General in Council hopes that the collections will be even better than the Accountant-General anticipates. It is understood, moreover, that the timely rainfall of the 6th to 11th of October has obviated the need for any considerable expenditure on relief works in the North-Western Provinces or Oudh.

Note.—The average receipts of the North-western Provinces and Oudh for these two months, during the last four years, have been 147 lakhs.

3. In the event of its being proposed to issue orders for granting any general suspension of the land revenue demand in the North-western Provinces and Oudh, the Government of India desire to make the following observations. In the first place the failure of the autumn crop, though grievous and extensive, has not been universal. Over the greater part of the Benares and Allahabad Divisions, and over some of the south-eastern tracts of Oudh, the autumn crop has escaped. The yield may perhaps be short, but at present high prices the short crops will fetch more than a full crop would do in ordinary years; and in those tracts, at any rate, the land revenue can be punctually paid.

4. On the irrigated lands, again, the land revenue ought to be collected. It may be that many zemindars and ryots abstained from taking canal water for their autumn crops till it was too late. But it is clearly not the interest of the country, or of the public treasury, that such short-sighted policy should be encouraged. One great function of the irrigation canals is to insure the country against famine; if people, who live by the canal, do not take its water until too late in a year of drought, the efficacy of such an insurance is much impaired. And the Government cannot encourage such waste of opportunity by suspending the land revenue due on lands which were unproductive because the landowners failed to make timely use of the water brought to their doors.

5. But, apart from the specially favoured tracts, where the autumn crop was, or might have been, saved, the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council greatly doubts whether, according to the principles and practice of the revenue system of Northern India, the present circumstances are such as to warrant any general suspension of the land revenue demand. One crop only, and that not the greatest crop of the country, has failed on unirrigated lands.† There is every prospect of a good spring crop over an unusually broad area. This failure has come after two or three years of plenty; and years, moreover, when prices were higher than usual. It may be that great part of the profits from the high prices of the past season did not benefit the landholders and ryots, but went into the pockets of the village bankers and the grain-dealers. But these people have, as has been stated in recent correspondence, an interest in the produce of the soil, and in the due payment of the land revenue.

† Note.—In some of the lower districts of the Doab from 25 to 50 per cent. of the cultivated land is returned as protected by well irrigation.

6. The experience of past famines and droughts in the North-western Provinces, moreover, warrants the belief that wholesale suspensions of the land revenue are not required, for—

In 1860 the land revenue collections of the North-western Provinces during November and December were - - -		128 lakhs.
In 1861 they were, for both Oudh and the North-western Provinces - - - - - - - - -		162½ „
In 1868 when the autumn crop failed over a great part of the country, and the spring crop was deficient, the land revenue collections of November and December were—		
North-western Provinces - - -	73 lakhs.	
Oudh - - - - - -	72 „	
	——	145 „

It would thus be a new feature in the revenue administration of the North-western Provinces if the Government were to direct general suspensions of the autumn land revenue instalment because there had been an extensive failure of one crop only.

7. The Government of India does not, as at present advised, share the apprehension that the people will restrict their spring crop sowings, if they are pressed to pay punctually the greater part of their autumn instalment. The reports published in the Gazette show that cultivation for the spring crop is as yet making favourable progress. And it is not understood from your letter that recent reports have reached his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the stoppage of cultivation, or of lack of seed grain, over any considerable areas of the North-western Provinces or Oudh. The spring sowings will be nearly over before the land revenue instalments fall due; and the village bankers will, in the ordinary course of business, make advances on the crop in the ground.

8. The practice of neighbouring provinces may be adduced in support of what has in former years been the practice of the North-western Provinces. The districts of Behar are in the same case with the permanently settled districts of the Benares division; yet in the more general failure of 1874 not a rupee of the Behar land revenue was suspended in November and December 1874. During the present season the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab has directed that the November instalment shall be collected in full, reserving the grant of any necessary suspensions for the December instalment; yet the failure of the autumn harvest in the Hissar, Delhi, Amballa and Jullundur divisions has been considerable.

9. As your letter points out, the settlement in the North-western Provinces and in Oudh is with superior landholders, to whom a liberal margin of rent is left to meet the chances of bad years, and not with field occupiers as in Madras or Bombay. And therefore the landholders have, as of right, no claim to a suspension of the autumn instalment due from them. In districts like Agra, for instance, where the failure of crops and pasturage has been excessive, and in tracts where single villages are held by cultivating brotherhoods, there may be necessity for partial, but considerable suspensions of revenue. But it would be introducing a new principle into the revenue system of the North-western Provinces, and it would be a direct encouragement of the unthrift described in your fourth paragraph, if the Government were to suspend its demand on any great scale during the present autumn.

10. The Viceroy and Governor-General in Council does not desire to hamper the legitimate discretion of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-western Provinces and Oudh; he does not counsel, indeed he would not approve, harsh and rigorous measures to extort the autumn instalments from people who really cannot pay; but he wishes that the collectors and their establishments should be allowed to collect the land revenue, with caution and consideration for the people, in the ordinary way; special cases or special tracts being admitted to special concessions. The Government of India considers that this course may, with the excellent and experienced revenue officers under the Lieutenant-Governor's command, be taken with safety both to the people and to the public treasury. It seems desirable that no general order advising or directing wholesale suspensions of land revenue should be issued, unless matters turn out to be more generally unfavourable than the Government of India is at present aware.

11. With this general expression of the views of the Government of India, the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council would leave the matter to the discretion of the Lieutenant-Governor, in the confidence that the great bulk of the autumn instalment

of land revenue in the North-western Provinces and Oudh will be collected at the ordinary season, and that suspensions will be granted only in cases where they are absolutely necessary.

P.S.—Since the foregoing letter was in type, your letter, No. 2,427A., dated 18th October, has been received. The instructions of the Revenue Board, enclosed in that letter, in the main accord with the views expressed in the present orders of the Government of India. But there may be risk that, under those instructions, suspensions may be granted to deserving landholders not absolutely in need of such concessions. If, however, the injunction at paragraph 4 of your letter to the Board be obeyed, that "all who can pay up, should be required to do so," then the views of the Government of India will have been carried out. It will, doubtless, be understood by collectors that landholders who have credit, and can raise the necessary funds from their bankers, are to be reckoned among those "who can pay up."

Encl. in No. 289.

No. 283.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

No. 973, dated Simla, the 24th October 1877.

In my letter No. 856, dated 20th September last, was conveyed an expression of the hope entertained by the Government of India, that much of the arrears of land revenue due for the year 1876–77 would be collected if the season turned out favourably.

2. Since that letter was written there has been a very great change for the better in the prospects of the crops throughout the Madras Presidency. During the whole of September and October rain has in moderate but sufficient quantity fallen in almost every district. In some districts the irrigation tanks are fuller than they have been for years. In parts of the Godavery district the supply of river water for irrigation may have been short; and the early autumn crop has not yielded a good outturn by reason of the failure of rain during August;—still, so far as the weekly reports go, there seems every prospect of full winter and spring crops, provided the north-east monsoon is favourable.

3. The Viceroy and Governor-General in Council gathers from the returns of "area "cultivated and revenue collected," that in most districts the area sown this year is larger than the average of previous years, though the revenue collections have been lamentably (and perhaps unavoidably) short. If, however, this large area of crop turns out well, the Government of India would hope that the arrears of last year, and also the full demand of the current year, may be collected without fail. And I am to suggest that some expression of the views of the Government of Madras on this important subject might be conveyed to the Board of Revenue.

4. The punctual collection of the land revenue of the current year is of the utmost importance to the general finances of the Empire; for the expenditure and loss of revenue during the famine, probably not less than eleven millions in all, has very seriously reduced the cash balances of the Empire.

5. The Viceroy and Governor-General in Council does not desire, and he is confident that the Government of Madras would not adopt, harsh measures to compel the people to pay land revenue when they have no money and no credit. But his Excellency in Council believes that, with the crops now on the ground, and with moderately high prices, the Madras ryots will this year, unless the season prospects change, be able to bear their proper share of the country's burden.

6. In order to show that the Government of India is not asking of Madras more than it asks and receives from other provinces, I am directed to forward copies of the letters marginally noted. From these papers it will be seen that, notwithstanding the very extensive failure of the autumn crop of 1877, the Governments of the Punjab and North-western Provinces are expected to collect punctually the greater part of the autumn instalments of land revenue, and that not a rupee of the demand will be remitted, unless circumstances change greatly for the worse. In the Bombay Presidency also, where the land revenue is collected directly from petty occupiers (ryots), as in Madras, 88 per cent. of the land revenue demand of 1876–77 (the famine year) had been collected by the end of August, and less than one per cent. had been remitted. An assurance has also been received from the Bombay Government that, if the winter and spring crops of the present season are good (as it appears they

No. 282. Famine Department letter No. 957, dated 22nd October, to the Government, North-western Provinces.

No. 279. Bombay Government letter No. 6,276, dated 19th October, to the Famine Department.

will be), the whole land revenue demand of 1877–78 will be collected as in ordinary years.

7. The Viceroy and Governor-General in Council would ask that, as soon as the Government of Madras is able to form an estimate of the season, he may be favoured with an estimate of the amount of land revenue that will probably be collected in the Madras Presidency before the 1st June next, both on account of—

(*a.*) The arrears of the year 1876–77;

(*b.*) The current demand of the year 1877–78.

No. 284.

Encl. in No. 289

Telegram, dated 26th October 1877.

From the CHIEF SECRETARY, Bombay, to MR. BERNARD, Simla.

Your telegram of to-day. Demand for the districts, which yielded Rs. 2,33,40,250 this year, as per my letter of 19th October, was for 1874–75 Rs. 2,59,85,640, collections were Rs. 2,58,25,619, balance Rs. 1,60,021; for 1875–76, demand Rs. 2,60,32,735, collections Rs. 2,58,70,222, balance Rs. 1,62,513.

No. 285.

Telegram, dated 26th October 1877.

From the VICEROY to the SECRETARY OF STATE.

Season telegram, 19th to 25th October. Madras: Rain general in all districts; average over 2 inches in Madras, Trichinopoly, Salem, Coimbatore. Duke telegraphs to-day that north-east monsoon set in on 16th, but wind unsteady; heavy and partial storms, frequent and general, except near Madras; prospects generally improved, except Godavery Delta, Ganjam, and part of Madura. Message ends.

Weekly report of crop prospects good; prices nowhere dearer than 19 or 20 pounds per rupee for common grain. No fear for Ceded Districts, but some anxiety about irregularity of monsoon in coast districts. Importations by sea and rail average 1,500 tons a day. Demand from interior slack.

On works 484,365, decrease 66,924; gratuitous 1,060,034, decrease 223,932. Administrative arrangements of August working well.

Bombay: General prospects good, save Sind, where no improvement; some damage by excessive rain in some parts of Concan, Deccan, and Dharwar. On works 98,773, decrease 26,108; gratuitous 139,594, decrease 12,641. Preference in favour of grain consignments on Peninsula Railway withdrawn, and traffic to Bombay for export free.

Mysore: Weather showery, crops flourishing, health improving, but mortality still high. Price of common grain 20 pounds per rupee. On works, 72,202, gratuitous, 88,757.

North-west: No rain save partial showers.

In Punjab, spring crop sowings progressing well, prices high, but steady.

Rajputana and Indore: Relief provided for immigrant poor near Ajmere and Neemuch on railway works, also near Gwalior and Rutlam, and road work near Goona. Special relief arrangements made for returning emigrants and wanderers on Agra and Indore road, where distress reported. Other provinces prospects good. Satisfactory report of land revenue collections from Bombay. Relief expenditure decreasing rapidly.

No. 286.

Encl. in No. 288.

No. 979, dated Simla, 26th October 1877.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department (Famine), to the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS, Revenue Department.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that his Excellency the Viceroy in Council has received a copy of the proceedings of the Madras Government in the Famine Department, No. 2,331, dated the 15th instant.

2. The favourable change in the season which is described in your first paragraph is most hopeful, and his Excellency in Council is glad to learn by a telegram received last night that the north-east monsoon has at length arrived to supplement and complete the hopeful prospects for the future.

3. The orders of his Grace the Governor urging all district officers to take the fullest advantage of this satisfactory change in the prospects of the season by inducing people to return to their ordinary avocations, are most judicious and opportune, for, as he justly observes, "the interests of the country now demand that every available hand "shall be turned to agriculture," and no less necessary is the caution conveyed to district officers to "take care that the measures which were necessary for relief of the "famine districts are not converted into a long demoralising and pauperising charity."

4. The returns received during the past three weeks show that with the returning prospects of agricultural prosperity, the orders issued by the Madras Government on the 24th September have already borne good fruit, the numbers of people receiving Government aid having diminished during the current month by $6\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs, or by more than one fourth of the whole number; and his Excellency in Council doubts not that with the continued improvement in agricultural prospects and with the steady fall in the price of food which should be the natural consequence thereof, the admirable orders now issued by the Madras Government will have the effect of speedily restoring the province to its normal state, will foster the habitual self-reliance of its people, and will relieve the imperial finances from the severe strain which during the past season they have undergone.

Encl. in No. 289.

No. 287.

From the ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY. No. 983.

Simla, the 29th October 1877.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 6,276, dated 19th October, reporting upon the collections of land revenue in the distressed districts of the Bombay Presidency, on account of the demand of the famine year 1876–77.

2. The Government of India gather from your letter that out of the whole land revenue demanded of the year 1876–77, 88 per cent. had been collected up to the end of August last; that as yet only one per cent. of that demand has been remitted; that the greater part of the unremitted balance (Rs. 27,44,230) will be gradually recovered, as the people are able to pay; and that the "large revenue which, in an exceptionally "distressing time, has been collected has been realised without any harshness or undue "pressure."

3. The Viceroy and Governor-General in Council desires to congratulate the Bombay Government and its revenue officers most cordially on the result which has thus followed the policy adopted by his Excellency the Governor in Council in February last, and subsequently carried out by the present Government of Bombay. The Imperial treasury, on which such heavy demands have been made for relief expenditure, has benefited greatly by the careful regard which has been paid in the Bombay Presidency to the interests of the public revenue. It is specially gratifying to the Government of India to learn that no harshness or undue pressure has been exercised in realising the State dues. The diligence and success with which the Bombay ryots have set themselves to make the best of the present favourable season, are good evidence that the payment of the Government revenues did not press too hardly upon the people. This result is, the Government of India believe, in great part due to the care with which Bombay revenue officers investigated every individual case, in which suspension or remission of land revenue was claimed.

No. 288.

No. 39 of 1877.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Public Works Department (Famine), to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 30th October 1877.

No. 271. In our letter No. 38 (Famine), dated 11th October, we had the pleasure of reporting to your Lordship the very favourable change caused in the prospects of the season by the rainfall in Northern, Western, and Central India, during the second week of the present month.

2. Since the date of that letter matters have gone on satisfactorily. Taking the several provinces in order we have to report as follows:—

Madras. Favourable rain has fallen regularly throughout the Presidency of Madras, gauging, on an average, about two inches a week up to the 22nd October. The north-east monsoon (or latter rains), on which the crops in the districts of the Coromandel Coast and the Carnatic greatly

depend, did not burst with its usual vigour. But the change of wind from S.W. to E. set in on the 16th; and since then partial but heavy storms have fallen in most parts of the Presidency. Up to the 26th the monsoon was unsteady and variable; the latest telegram, dated 30th October states that the—

"Monsoon burst in Kistna, Nellore, Kurnool, Bellary, Cuddapah, Madras, Chingleput, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Tinnevelly. Not yet reported burst in Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot; failed at present in Ganjam, where crops withering; in Vizagapatam and Godavery bursting doubtful."*

Successive weekly reports have shown that the early crops which suffered much from the drought during August had revived greatly from the September rain, and have yielded an outturn averaging more than half of a full harvest. The winter crop is almost everywhere in good condition; cultivation and sowings for the spring crops are making satisfactory progress.

3. Prices have fallen steadily both at Madras and in the interior; at Bellary and Kurnool in the north, and at Tinnevelly and Madura in the south, the quotations of the cheaper food grains range from 19 lbs. to 20 lbs. per rupee. Importations of grain by sea and by railway have decreased considerably; the despatches of rice from Bengal and Burmah to Madras ports averaged during last week 1,095 tons daily, as compared with 5,454 tons daily during the corresponding week of September. Consignments to the Madras districts by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have fallen to about 350 tons a day; this decrease is due not to any failure in the railway working, but to the backwardness of consignors. There are in Madras town accumulations of grain, which are estimated by the Local Government to suffice for six weeks. Despatches of grain from Madras into the interior now average about 1,100 tons a day; dealers at Bellary and Bangalore are stopping their consignments; and the Madras Government report that holders are speculating on the failure of the north-east monsoon. For the present there is no fear as to the sufficiency of the supply of grain.

4. We reported to your Lordship, in our letter quoted above, the substance of telegrams which had passed regarding the cessation of the preference shown by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to grain consignments to the famine districts of Madras. We explained that though we were most anxious to meet the wishes of the Bombay merchants who urged a withdrawal of the preference, yet we considered that the requirements of the famine districts were of paramount importance. The Governor of Madras telegraphed on the 24th October that—

"The preference given failed to bring at present any large quantity, that the traffic was very small, and that the Madras Government therefore, although prices were still high and imports needed, did not see any objection to the Bombay order for preference being now held in abeyance."

We accordingly (on the 25th October) informed the Bombay Government by telegraph that the preference granted on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in favour of grain consignments to the famine districts, might cease for the present; and we at the same time explained that the north-east monsoon had not yet burst at Madras, and that therefore the withdrawal of the preference could not as yet be final and permanent.

5. The combined result of the revised relief rules,† and of the favourable change of the season, has been to reduce considerably the numbers in receipt of State receipt in the Madras Presidency. The numbers have been—

† See paragraph 6 of our letter, No. 38, above quoted.

For the Week ending.	On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.	Total.
29th September -	628,259	1,603,721	2,231,980
6th October -	587,228	1,531,255	2,118,483
13th „ -	550,299	1,283,966	1,834,265
20th „ -	484,365	1,060,034	1,544,399

The reduction during the last three weeks has thus been 687,589, or about 30 per cent. So far as we have learnt the people who have thus ceased to be recipients of relief have gone back to their homes and their fields, to the great advantage of themselves and of the country, as well as to the benefit of the public treasury. The shortening of the administrative chain in famine matters has certainly conduced to efficiency and economy in relief operations; and so far the arrangements made by the Viceroy and the Governor of Madras on the 31st August are working well, though there was at the

* A later telegram received since this letter was struck off reported that the monsoon had burst well everywhere except in Ganjam.

first some delay in giving effect to those arrangements. Subsidiary instructions have been issued by the Government of Madras on minor points and local details outside the scope of the revised relief rules; these instructions all tend to prevent waste of public money and demoralization of the people on the one hand, while on the other they provide that people in real distress shall not be left to starve. A copy of one of the more recent of these instructions, with our letter approving its principles, will be found in Enclosure No. 1 to this letter.

Nos. 274, 286.

6. Throughout the Bombay Presidency there has been sufficient rain; and Sir Richard Temple telegraphed (on the 21st October) that "a new form of anxiety is arising from excessive rain in "parts of Sholapore, Sattara, Kaladgi, Belgaum, and Dharwar, where fine weather is "much needed, as damage is caused by wet to autumn and winter crops." Later telegrams dated the 28th and 30th say that excessive rain continues to retard harvest and threatens to reduce the yield, and that "no favourable change has occurred in the "weather save in Sattara and Sholapore," where it is now dry.

Madras.

On the whole the prospects of the autumn and winter crops throughout the Bombay Presidency continue to be good. Prices are falling, and they now range from 24 lbs. in Khandesh to 13 and 16 lbs. per rupee in Dharwar, Belgaum, and Kaladgi. The numbers in receipt of State relief were—

For the Week ending on the—	On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.	Total.
29th September - -	219,734	163,008	382,742
6th October - -	183,613	162,348	345,961
13th „ - -	119,881	152,055	271,936
20th „ - -	98,773	139,594	238,367
27th „ - -	70,617	128,307	198,924

So that during the last four weeks the reduction in the number of relief recipients has been 187,818, or about 48 per cent. The Bombay Government has from time to time issued orders providing that, while all who can leave the relief works should be encouraged to do so, destitute persons and wanderers who are unable to labour or who cannot get employment should be carefully looked after and relieved. We are satisfied that relief is not being withheld from any who are really in want.

7. In Mysore there has been moderate rain throughout the fortnight. The condition of the winter crops is good, and the prospects of the spring crops are most favourable. Prices have fallen, and are now quoted at 20 lbs. per rupee in Bangalore. Markets are everywhere sufficiently supplied; new grain is being brought for sale; and dealers are reducing their importations from Madras and the seaboard.

Mysore.

8. Detailed instructions for the administration of relief of all kinds have been drawn up, on the basis of the orders issued by the Viceroy at Bangalore on the 8th September. These instructions have been thrown into the shape of a Famine Code for Mysore copy* of which will be found as Enclosure No. 2 to this letter. The Code has been drawn up by Mr. C. A. Elliott, the Famine Commissioner, under the orders of the Chief Commissioner. It is an excellent compendium of instructions suited to the present state of affairs in Mysore; many of its provisions founded on the orders of the Government of India, will be found applicable to famine relief administration elsewhere. In our Secretary's letter (see Enclosure No. 2) acknowledging the Code, we expressed our special satisfaction with the clauses, which carefully provide for the humane treatment of those who are unable to do a full day's work, or who are in need of medical care and special food.

No. 257.

* Other copies will be sent hereafter, only one is available now.

No. 280.

9. During the past month 25 relief officers (five of whom were native officers of the Bengal Army) 20 engineers of different grades, and 34 medical subordinates have been sent to Mysore. Much has been done to systematise and improve the arrangements at relief works and relief camps, to secure the proper treatment of the suffering poor, and to prevent peculation and mismanagement.

10. Up to the latest reports, deaths, mainly due to famine, are still occurring in and near Bangalore, whither had congregated tens of thousands, for whom adequate relief was not available in their villages. The poor creatures,—who thus wander in search of charity, grow weaker and weaker, and at last die during the cold rainy nights,—mostly come from the distressed tracts in the centre and north of the province; and they are said often to pass by relief works and relief houses, where they could at once obtain relief. A special organisation has been arranged for finding these wanderers, before

they are past recovery, and bringing them forcibly into relief hospitals and relief camps. The reported famine deaths in and round the town and cantonment of Bangalore were—

during August - - - - -	20 per day.
during 1st to 10th September - - - -	41 „
during 11th to 30th September - - -	35 „
during 1st to 13th October - - - -	26 „
during 14th to 17th October - - - -	23 „
during 18th to 20th October - - - -	16 „

The deaths in relief camps and relief hospitals were—

during August - - - - -	84 per day.
during 1st to 10th September - - - -	95 „
during 11th to 30th September - - -	70 „
during 1st to 13th October - - - -	55 „

The numbers fed in the relief camps in and around Bangalore from the 1st August up to the 10th September were about 36,000, of whom barely one sixth were permanent inmates of the camps. From the 11th September to the 30th October the average number of persons relieved at the camps was about 20,000, of whom from one half to three quarters were permanent inmates. The good done by the changes in the relief system, and by the improvement in the season, is apparent from the reduced mortality in Bangalore town and cantonments generally. The number of deaths, exclusive of reported famine deaths and of the deaths in relief hospitals, is returned at—

In Bangalore town and cantonment	884	for the month of	July.
	1,185	„ „	August.
	225	„ „	September.

11. We have not yet received detailed reports, but we learn that the Famine Commissioner fears that the mortality from famine in the Tumkur district and other parts of Central Mysore has been very large. A recent telegram from the Famine Commissioner, who is still journeying through the distressed districts, informs us that the condition of the people in the north-western districts of the province is better than he had expected, and that additional relief operations there are not now needed. At Enclosure No. 3 will be found the relief reports of the province for the last three weeks. The changes in the numbers in receipt of relief has been as follows:—

During the Week ending—	On Relief Works.	On Gratuitous Relief.
15th September- - - - -	53,745	208,683
22nd „ - - - -	56,551	161,892
29th „ - - - -	58,693	126,204
6th October - - - -	62,506	103,750
13th „ - - - -	73,202	88,757
20th „ - - - -	78,478	72,838

It is satisfactory that the numbers on relief works now form a much larger proportion of the total numbers in receipt of relief. The reports state that the paupers gain much in health and spirits within a few days of their being drafted from gratuitous relief at camps or kitchens to relief works.

12. Major Moncrieff, the Acting Chief Engineer of Mysore, has returned from a journey to the district of Coorg. He reports that at the present season there is no need for extensive relief works, as the coffee gardens, now and for the next three months, will furnish ample labour. His detailed report has not yet been received, but we gather that there was ground for the representations made to the Viceroy on his visit to Mysore, regarding the need for relief operations in Coorg during the summer and early autumn months.

Hyderabad.

13. There has been a heavy fall of rain in the Hyderabad country; the crops are in good condition, prices are cheaper, and relief operations are being closed. In Berar the prospects of the crops are excellent.

Central Provinces.

14. In the Central Provinces there has been some loss of the rice crop in the districts of Saugor, Damoh, and Sumbulpore, owing to the shortness of the September rainfall. But, for the rest, the prospects of the winter crops, and the progress of the spring crop sowings, are everywhere good. Immigration into Saugor from the Central India States has now ceased, and the immigrants have begun slowly to return. As yet they return in parties of only

50 to 200 a day; and many thousands are still in Saugor and Damoh, for some of whom relief employment has to be provided.

15. Though the condition of affairs in Rajputana was very greatly improved by the rainfall reported in our letter of the 11th October, yet there were tracts where no autumn crop had been saved, and where spring crops never grow. These tracts were situate principally in Marwar and the desert States north and west of the Aravelli hills. Emigrants from these parts were reported to be still thronging Ajmere; and therefore, whilst postponing the preparation of railway work beyond the Sendra pass towards Erinpoorah, we have directed that our sanction to the prosecution of railway work in the pass shall hold good, in order that relief employment may be provided for destitute immigrants. In Central India, though the prospect of the Malwa crops is good, and though there has been further rain in Gwalior, yet there is not sufficient agricultural employment for the many thousands of immigrants, who have come into the country between Neemuch and Indore. On the representation of the agent, Sir Henry Daly, we have directed that the earthwork on the Neemuch and Rutlam section of the Central India Railway shall be commenced at both ends. In this way employment will be provided for immigrants into the Western States of Central India. But in the South-eastern States also there is need for relief to the immigrant poor, who were flocking down the great road from Agra to Indore. Though the emigrants are beginning to return home northwards, yet all have not the means of supporting themselves on their homeward journey, and deaths among them from cholera and even from hunger are reported. Goona is the only place where British officers are quartered on the whole length of road from Gwalior to Indore. The officers there have, partly from private subscriptions and partly with the help of a grant from the Madras Relief Fund, opened relief houses, and have given food and clothing to many thousands of destitute wayfarers. The Maharaja Scindiah has engaged to maintain and indeed has maintained relief houses as far as Seepree on the Indore road, and arrangements are being made for opening relief places between Seepree and Goona. The recipients of relief are subjects of native States, and the relief houses will be in Native territory. The cost of these operations ought not properly to be a charge on the British Indian taxpayer; but the relief is being given, and if the money for its cost cannot be had elsewhere, the British treasury will have to bear the charge. Effort will be made, however, to procure the necessary funds from the native States interested. For those immigrants who require relief employment near Goona, work is being commenced on a cross road from Goona to Oojein, for which funds are available in the Central India Agency budget of the current year.

Rajputana and Central India States.

16. There has been no further appreciable rain in the North-west Provinces, but there has been a good fall of rain at Rawul Pindee in the Punjab, which had not shared in the rain of the second week of October. Over the whole of the North-west Provinces, the Punjab, and Oudh, preparations for the spring crop are making good progress; an unusually broad area is being sown with spring grains, and prices have fallen somewhat. We have not yet heard whether all the proposed relief works can at once be forgone. But the schemes for extensive relief works in the North-west Provinces have been laid aside, while in the Punjab no need for special relief works had been represented by the local Government.

North-west Provinces and the Punjab.

17. The crop prospects are now good over Bengal and Assam. In the Bassein and Henzada districts of British Burmah, serious floods destroyed (see Enclosure No. 4) large breadths of the young rice crop. But most of the flooded lands have been or will be replanted. The latest advices from Rangoon and Moulmein show that merchants expect a very large rice crop in Burmah, and their estimate is that the exportable surplus will reach 800,000 tons.

No. 256[a].

Bengal, Assam, Burmah.

18. At paragraph 3 of your Despatch No. 53, dated 26th July, it was mentioned that a further report from Dr. Lewis and Dr. D. D. Cunningham, respecting the fevers recently prevalent in Bombay and Madras, would be awaited. We have now the honour to forward (Enclosure No. 5) a short report in which these officers state their opinion that the fevers prevalent in Bombay during the earlier part of the year 1876 were of the ordinary "intermittent" and "continued" types, and were not famine fevers. They state also that, in the Madras Presidency, fevers, "so far from being exceptionally severe during the early months of 1876, were decidedly in abeyance." The mortality returns of the Madras distressed districts for the six months, November 1876 to April 1877, show that cholera and smallpox were the most prevalent diseases from December to March.

No. 231.

No. 275.
" 68.

19. In Enclosure No. 6 will be found copy of a telegram despatched to your Lordship on the 16th current, regarding the death rates of the Madras Presidency, also a table

showing the reported deaths in each of the distressed districts during the six months, November 1876 to April 1877. The net result is that, in these districts, containing a population of 13¾ millions, the reported deaths of the half year were 373,993 (or 27 per thousand), being 227,123 (or 16½ per thousand) above the reported deaths of previous years for the same area and the same period, and 188,945 (or 13 per thousand) above what is believed to be the normal death rate of an Indian population. 182,114 deaths from cholera were reported during the six months; this latter number is nearly equal to the excess of the reported deaths above the supposed normal death rate. It is not possible to say how many of the excess deaths were due to famine. The Madras Government have been asked to furnish tables of the reported deaths in districts which are not distressed for the same six months, and also to send tables for subsequent months as soon as they are ready. The results which these tables may show will be reported to your Lordship. The rural registration of deaths is not as yet very complete or trustworthy anywhere, so far as our Sanitary Commissioner is able to judge (see pages 107–8 of his Annual Report for 1875); and the latest report of the Sanitary Commissioner for Madras (pages 53 et seq.) would show that the registration of deaths in that Presidency is still capable of improvement. Accordingly we have preferred not to trust to the returns of births and deaths alone, but we have proposed a partial counting of the people in the distressed districts as soon as the famine is over, so that we may ascertain approximately what the loss of population may have been. At Enclosure No. 6 will be found a circular letter in which we have issued instructions for a census of selected tracts in the famine-stricken country of Southern India. No. 277.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON, &c.

No. 289.
No. 40 of 1877.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

FAMINE.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Simla, the 30th October 1877.

With our letter No. 27, dated the 25th June 1877, we forwarded to your Lordship papers submitted by Sir Richard Temple, describing the differences of practice between the several provinces of India in regard to the collection, suspension, and remission of the land revenue during a year of drought. We had previously decided in February that we would not interfere with the discretion of the Local Governments of Madras and Bombay in this matter; but we forwarded the papers to the Government of Madras for an expression of their views after the present crisis was over. The Madras Government has not yet had leisure, from the more pressing duties of famine relief administration, to consider and report upon those papers. Until the views of the Madras Government have been received, we shall not trouble your Lordship with any discussion of the general question whether land revenue ought to be remitted or suspended in a time of drought.

2. But, although we wait an expression of the views of the Government of Madras before submitting to your Lordship a final expression of our opinion on the important general question, we have now the honour to forward copies of papers which go far to show the need for some general ruling on the matter; while the subject of the papers has a very important bearing upon our present financial position. In Enclosure No. 1 will be found a letter from the Madras Government, forwarding a Table in which the Board of Revenue show the demands, collections, and balances of land revenue for the famine year 1876–77. It will be seen that— No. 198.

	Lakhs.
(*a.*) The land revenue current demand for the year 1876–77 was only -	355
compared with an average demand of the three previous years of	449
(*b.*) The total collections, current and arrears, for the year 1876–77 were only - - - - - - - - -	278
compared with a previous average of - - - -	449
(*c.*) The actual remissions of the year 1876-77 are - - -	3
on account of the arrear demand, no remissions having yet been granted on the current demand.	
(*d.*) The balances of the year 1876–77 are - - - -	130
compared with a previous average of - - - -	60

It thus appears that the deficiency in the year's* land revenue collections amount to 449 minus 278 lakhs, that is to 171 lakhs. This total is considerably in excess of previous estimates. If more than 45 lakhs out of the outstanding balance of 130 lakhs should be collected hereafter, then the deficiency on the year will be proportionately reduced; but if the arrear collections of the present year fall short of 45 lakhs, then the deficiency of the year 1876–77 will practically be increased above the total of 171 lakhs. The attention of the Madras Government has been drawn to the extreme gravity of the losses which the public treasury has, according to these figures, to bear; and we have expressed our hope that it will not sanction any avoidable sacrifice of land revenue, either by reduction of the demand or by remissions.

* July 1876 to June 1877, inclusive.

No. 237.

Nos. 279, 284.

3. In Enclosure No. 2 are papers concerning the demand, collections, and balances of land revenue in the Bombay Presidency for the same year (1876–77). It appears that in the Bombay Districts, exclusive of Sinde—

	Lakhs.
(*a.*) The land revenue current demand for the year 1866–67 was -	263
compared with an average current demand for the two previous years of - - - - - - - -	260
(*b.*) The total collections on account of the current demand of 1876–77 were, up to the 31st August - - - - -	233½
compared with an average for previous years of - -	259
(*c.*) The remissions granted on account of the current demand were -	2
(*d.*) The balances of the year 1876–77 were - - - -	27½
compared with an average for previous years of - -	1½

The Bombay Government report that this large proportion of the land revenue demand has been collected, even during a year of distress, without harshness or undue pressure. We have expressed our approval of these results, and our satisfaction that they should have been attained without undue pressure on the people. The results are much to the credit of the revenue officers of the Bombay Presidency. It will be remembered that the Bombay Government were in the first instance disposed to grant considerable remissions, but that they modified their orders in this respect on our forwarding Sir Richard Temple's representations of the grave but avoidable losses which a policy of heavy remissions would entail. It will be seen, moreover, from the papers forwarded with our letter of the 25th June (quoted above), that the Bombay revenue system differs from the Madras system, in that the Bombay revenue officers inquire into each ryot's claim to remission or suspension on its individual merits, while Madras revenue officers grant remissions "in block" for whole tracts, without respect to the harvests gained by or the paying power of individual ryots. The Bombay system has, so far as the experience of the past season goes, turned out to be the best for the public treasury.

Nos. 270, 272, 278, 282.

4. Enclosure No. 3 contains correspondence with the Government of the North-western Provinces respecting the extent to which suspensions of the land revenue demand should be granted during the months of November and December 1877. The Lieutenant-Governor was at first disposed to think that the greater part of the autumn instalment of land revenue (about 150 lakhs in all) would have to be suspended over the whole of the North-western Provinces and Oudh. His first letter, dated the 11th October, was, however, written before the full effect of the rain that fell all over the country between the 6th and 10th October was appreciated; and his orders to the Board of Revenue, dated the 18th October, do not authorise such extensive suspensions of the land revenue demand as we had feared might be granted. We have instructed the Lieutenant-Governor that the condition of our treasuries does not permit of any postponement of the land revenue demand beyond what may be absolutely necessary. We have pointed out that neither the terms of the land revenue settlement nor the practice of the North-Western Provinces Government in previous years of drought, nor the circumstances of the present and previous seasons, nor consideration for the well-being of the people, nor the procedure of neighbouring and similarly situated provinces, support the view that very extensive suspensions of the land revenue demand are necessary in the North-Western Provinces during the present quarter.

5. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab proposes to collect the November land revenue instalment in full, and to grant suspensions, only where absolutely necessary, on the December instalment of land revenue.

6. The papers now forwarded to your Lordship show that the loss of land revenue in the year 1876–77, on account of the drought, was—

	Lakhs.	
In the Madras Presidency - -	171	or 38 per cent.
In the Bombay Presidency - -	25½	or 10 per cent.
Total - -	196½	

The difference is due in great part to the difference of revenue practice in the two Presidencies. In the Deccan and Southern Mahratta country the famine and the failure of crops was, if the price of food is fair index of such severity, as severe as in any part of the Madras Presidency, for in Dharwar, Kaladgi, Sholapore, and Belgaum the price of food ranged for months dearer than in any district of Madras. The land revenue in Bombay, just as in Madras, is paid by petty occupiers (ryots) direct to Government; and, so far as recent fiscal phenomena went, the condition of the Deccan ryots seemed to be poorer than that of the Madras ryots.

7. We are as yet unable to report how far the land revenue collections of the current year (1877–78) may be affected by the recent famine. Much may depend upon the north-east monsoon (autumn rains) in the south of the Madras Presidency. If the rains are favourable then we hope that the whole of the current demand and much of the balances of last year may be collected in Madras. We have (see Enclosure No. 4) drawn the attention of the Government of Madras to the need for collecting as much as possible of the land revenue of the current year, provided the season continues as favourable as during the past two months; and we have asked for an estimate of the probable collections, on account of the current and arrear demand, as soon as the prospects of the season are clearly known. No. 283.

We have, &c.
(Signed) LYTTON, &c.

No. 290.

Revenue, No. 74.

From the Secretary of State for India in Council to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council.

India Office, London, 31st October 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency's Government, dated 20th August, No. 34 of 1877, announcing that your Excellency, accompanied by Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, proposed to visit Poona, Bangalore, and Madras for the purpose of conferring with the Local Governments and the Chief Commissioner of Mysore on the condition and prospects of those territories, under the circumstances of a renewed failure of the south-west monsoon in many quarters, has been considered by me in Council. No. 164.

2. The reports which, since the date of the letter under reply, have been received by telegraph, fully establish the wisdom of the resolution to which your Excellency came.

3. I avail myself of this opportunity to express my general concurrence in the views stated in the minute of your Excellency, dated the 12th August, which forms one of the Enclosures to the Despatch under reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 291.

Revenue, No. 82.

From the Secretary of State for India in Council to the Governor-General of India in Council.

India Office, London, 8th November, 1877.

Para. 1. I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's Despatch of the 5th September, No. 33 of 1877, giving an account of your Lordship's visit to Poona, Madras, and other places, for the purpose of conferring with the Governors of Bombay and Madras, and with other high officers on the subject of the famine. No. 215.

2. The Despatch is one of high importance, but in replying to it I am greatly embarrassed by the fact that more recent information received by telegraph has materially altered the condition of many districts through which your Lordship passed, and that therefore your observations apply in some measure to situations which have ceased to exist. It is very gratifying to me to add, that, as a rule, the prospect has considerably improved.

3. I have to express my cordial appreciation of the wisdom and public spirit which induced your Excellency to undertake this journey for the purpose of examining personally the state of the country, and of strengthening the hands of the local governments and administrations, by your sympathy and counsel, in the performance of those arduous duties which have demanded the exercise of the highest energy and judgment.

4. Your Excellency's journey extended from Simla, through Amballa, Agra, and Allyghur, to Jubbulpore; thence by Khandesh and Nassik to Poona, where you met the Governor of Bombay; thence to Bellary, before reaching which place the Resident at Hyderabad had an interview with your Lordship, and then on to Madras. On the date of the Despatch you were about to start for Bangalore.

5. Your Excellency's Despatch gives a rapid but vivid description of the condition of the territories through which you passed, and you availed yourself of the opportunity of visiting relief camps in Poona, Bellary, and Madras. It is difficult to exaggerate the advantage to the public service in all executive departments when the head of the Government thus sees for himself the terrible proportions of the evil with which he has to contend.

6. The results of your consultations with his Grace the Governor of Madras have been stated in your Despatch No. 34 of the 5th of September, to which I will give a separate reply. Two subjects are prominently dealt with in the Despatch now under reply:—

1st. The carrying powers of the railways.
2nd. Private subscriptions in aid of relief funds.

7. The anxious attention of the Governments of Madras and Bombay has been directed to the increase of the carrying powers of the railways, but it has been found almost impracticable to obtain from them the daily delivery of the number of tons which it was thought each company ought to be able to transport. Under these circumstances, application was made to me for the supply of additional engines and waggons. These indents, as modified by more recent advices, are, as your Lordship has been informed by telegraph, in process of receiving due compliance, and I trust that the railways will soon be able to meet the exigencies of the exceptional demands made on their resources.

8. With respect to private subscriptions in aid of relief funds, I understand your Lordship's view to be this. That the Government is responsible, as far as may be practicable, for the saving of life by all the available means in its power, and that for this purpose an official agency has been organized; that it is not desirable that another agency, or the same agency under another name, should be employed on the same lines in the distribution of private charity; that such an interference would only impair the efficiency of the arrangements of Government, while the subscriptions could hardly make any appreciable difference in the expenditure of the State. At the same time, your Excellency was perfectly alive to the fact that there were objects to which the efforts of private charity might well be directed, such as the extension of relief to women of the respectable classes, of aid to persons of very small fixed incomes, and to others who were struggling if possible to remain in their homes and not to resort to relief camps. Similarly, your Excellency was also of opinion that arrangements by grants to orphanages and to individuals, for the support of those children who had lost their parents through the famine, might reasonably be the work of private charity, and you had requested the Governor of Madras to consider the specific objects to which the operation of such private charity should be directed, and the agency by which it should be distributed and superintended. If I have thus interpreted rightly the views of your Excellency they have my concurrence.

9. I approve of your instructions to the Resident at Baroda to be cautious as to the opening of petty works and the commencement of gratuitous relief. The long and exceptional prosperity of the ryots in Guzerat should render the necessity for the adoption of such measures a distant contingency. Your instructions to political officers in the neighbouring States to Baroda, to urge on the Chiefs the propriety of admitting

free passage of grain from and to tracts threatened to scarcity, were also, I consider, very judicious.

10. The condition of Mysore is a subject of great anxiety to your Excellency. You have strengthened the famine organisation in that province by the deputation of some selected officers, an arrangement which has my full approval. As it appears that the invested funds of the Mysore State, amounting to upwards of forty-six (46) lacs of rupees, have been exhausted by the famine expenditure, I sanction the grant of a loan of fifty (50) lacs, which your Excellency proposes to make in four instalments to that State.

11. The general conclusion which I draw from your Excellency's Despatch is that, terrible as is the calamity which has visited the greater part of India, it has everywhere been met with unsparing energy and devotion by the public service in all Departments, and conspicuously by your Excellency and the Governors of Madras and Bombay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 292.

Revenue, No. 83.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 8th November 1877.

Para. 1. Your Excellency's Despatch, dated 20th September, No. 35 of 1877, relative to the famine administration of the Mysore Province, and giving an account of your Lordship's visit to Coimbatoor, Coonoor, and Ootacamund, has been considered by me in Council. No. 239.

2. I regret that your Excellency should have found the administration of relief in Mysore in so unsatisfactory a condition, and I approve of the arrangements which you at once ordered for its improvement. It is gratifying to find that in 10 days, under the able superintendence of Mr. C. A. Elliott and Major Moncrieff, your Lordship was able to report that there was most satisfactory evidence of the beneficial results of the new system.

3. I consider that your Excellency acted with judgment in sanctioning a contribution of Rs. 30,000 towards the laying out and metalling of a road in the Wynad as a relief work for the numerous labourers wandering from Mysore to that district in search of employment. The sum thus advanced is hereafter to be recovered from the Mysore State, and the rest of the estimated expenditure on the road will be provided by the Madras Government and the Planters' Association. On other requests and suggestions made to your Lordship by the Wynad planters, and deputations from various municipalities, I shall await the results of your Excellency's deliberations.

4. The statements made to your Excellency as to the mineral resources of the Wynad and the adjoining country, and especially as to the auriferous character of the soil, are of high interest, and are well deserving of the attention which your Lordship proposes to devote to them.

5. I approve of your Excellency's intention to depute either Mr. Elliott or Major Moncrieff to ascertain personally the wishes of the coffee planters of Coorg on the subject of relief works, and as to the manner in which their co-operation can be most beneficially employed.

6. In the last paragraph of the Despatch under reply, your Excellency was able to give a more cheering view of the general state and prospects of the season than I have received by any previous mail, and it is a source to me of heartfelt satisfaction that subsequent communications by telegraph have shown that the improvement has been progressive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 293.

Revenue, No. 85.

From the Secretary of State for India in Council to the Governor-General of India in Council.

India Office, London, 22nd November 1877.

No. 216. Para. 1. Your Excellency's Despatch of the 5th September, No. 34 of 1877, describing the arrangements concluded for systematising the policy and strengthening the administration of State relief throughout the famine-stricken districts of the Madras Presidency, has been considered by me in Council.

2. Your Excellency, in the 4th, 5th, and 6th paragraphs of the report, states with great clearness the peculiar difficulty of the problem presented for solution. The famine in the Madras Presidency had assumed such dimensions, both actually and in prospect, as to become one of the most serious disasters with which, as your Lordship says, the Supreme Government has ever had to deal. While the executive responsibility, at least in the first instance, rested with the Local Government, the financial responsibility rested, as always, with the Government of India. The wide extent and severity of the famine rendered the duty imposed on the Supreme Government one of anxious gravity, but one of which it could not efficiently acquit itself without, in a great degree, interfering with the action of the administration which had on the spot to provide for the mitigation of the calamity.

3. It was not deemed expedient, and I think rightly, to transfer for the time the seat of the Supreme Government to the Madras Presidency, and thus to bring the executive and financial responsibilities into such immediate contact as to prevent all administrative delay. It was, therefore, necessary to devise some plan by which the Supreme Government would be justified in relaxing its control over the Local Government, and by which the action of the latter would be rendered more prompt, direct, and efficient.

4. Your Lordship first laid down in the "Gazette of India Extraordinary" the principles by which famine policy should be guided. These are briefly summed up in the 10th paragraph of the Despatch:

1st. An abstinence by Government from all measures which might interfere with the activity of private trade.

2nd. The initiation of a large scheme of public works as the essential portion of the relief system, other forms of relief being subsidiary. The large works to be under the direction and control of the Public Works Department.

3rd. All gratuitous relief to be as far as possible temporary, and all relief camps to be maintained only for receiving and supporting the starving and the infirm, and for getting them into a condition to labour.

These principles appear to me to be sound and judicious. At the time when these arrangements were being matured, I called your Lordship's attention by telegraph to the importance of guarding from undue pressure, under the piece-work system, the large numbers of those who would not, as wholly infirm, be consigned to gratuitous relief, but who had become so enfeebled by privation as to be incapable of performing the ordinary task. I find that full provision has been made against this danger.

5. Your Lordship then proceeded to arrange that the Supreme Government should be represented by a carefully selected agent. For this most important duty you nominated Major-General Kennedy, the Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the Public Works Department, who had gained great distinction by his successful superintendence of relief operations in the Bombay Presidency.

6. You then determined that, by rules passed under the India Council's Act, the Governor of Madras should take the famine business into his own hands, as was done by Lord Northbrook during the famine of 1874 in Bengal; that Collectors and executive officers should correspond with the Government on famine matters direct, and not through the Revenue Board as heretofore; and that Major-General Kennedy, acting as the accredited agent of the Government of India, should be appointed personal assistant to the Governor in all famine affairs. These measures, by which, in your Excellency's words, the Governor of Madras became virtually a dictator in famine affairs, as far as the constitution permitted such an arrangement, were settled between the Governor and yourself, and have been loyally accepted by the other members of the Madras Government.

7. The arrangements appear to me to have been well calculated to secure the objects which your Excellency had in view. I have to communicate to you, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, their high appreciation of the judgment with which your policy has been conceived, and the energy with which it has been carried into execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 294.

Revenue, No. 86.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 22nd November 1877.

Para. 1. Your Excellency's Despatch of the 27th September, No. 37 of 1877, which gives a concluding account of your visit to the famine-stricken districts in Southern India, has been considered by me in Council. No. 253.

2. The great improvement which a reformed system of superintendence had in a few days introduced into the Bangalore and Kolar districts of Mysore is highly satisfactory. I share your Lordship's regret that a delay has occurred in the manifestation of a similar improvement in the districts of Madras; but I trust that the new code of instructions drawn up by his Grace the Governor, with the assistance of General Kennedy, for the guidance of officers engaged in famine relief will at once lead to the introduction of the necessary reforms.

3. I have read with attention the correspondence alluded to in the 8th paragraph of the Despatch under reply, relative to the plan of operations proposed for adoption by the General Relief Committee at Madras, and I am of opinion that, under all the circumstances, your Excellency was justified in giving your sanction to the issue of a notification directing local officers to give their best assistance to the Committee. The matter is one of considerable difficulty, but I do not doubt the Government of Madras will be able to indicate the objects to which the operations of the Committee can be directed, without interfering with the general action of the Government, and without imposing too heavy a burden on the Revenue establishments.

4. At the date of the Despatch your Excellency had completed your tour, and expected to arrive at Simla on the following day. Your Lordship places on record your obligations to several high officers for assistance given during the exceptional work which has engaged your personal attention, and it is a source of sincere gratification to me to state my opinion that, in the performance of this arduous duty, your Excellency has rendered a real and important service to the State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 295.

Revenue, No. 88.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 29th November 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 11th October, No. 38 of 1877, reporting on the present condition and prospects of the various provinces in India either affected or threatened with famine, has been considered by me in Council. No. 271.

2. The Despatch passes rapidly in review the situation in Madras, Bombay, Mysore, the Nizam's Country, the Central Provinces, Rajputana, and Central India States, the North-west Provinces, the Punjab, and Bengal.

3. The substance of the statements relative to all the provinces is the same, "general improvement." The calamity with which India has been visited will leave traces which may for some time cause anxiety and involve further expenditure, but I think I may now, without presumption, entertain the hope that the crisis of the famine has passed, and congratulate your Excellency's Government on the improved prospects before you.

4. I approve generally of the orders which have been issued under your Lordship's direction, as reported in the Despatch under reply, in relation to the present state of affairs. But I take for granted that, if the favourable anticipations as to the future are realized, your Excellency will avail yourself of the earliest opportunity to reduce the extra establishments which you have found it necessary to create. I trust that the precautions now taken by the Madras Government may have the effect of checking the peculation which, I regret to be informed by your Government, has been practised by many subordinate Native officials, and in some localities have been the cause of great mortality.

5. I note with satisfaction the testimony borne by your Excellency to the good services rendered by the Honourable Sir Alexander Arbuthnot and the Honourable Mr. Hope.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 296.

Revenue, No. 98.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL to the GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

India Office, London, 27th December 1877.

No. 288. Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 30th October, No. 39 of 1877, giving a further account of the condition and prospects of the provinces in India which have suffered from or have been threatened by famine, has been considered by me in Council.

2. The statements submitted in the Despatch are generally favourable. In Madras the north-east monsoon has broken in all the districts except Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot, Ganjam, Vizagapatam, and Godavery. The early crops have greatly revived, and a yield to the extent of more than half a full harvest is expected. The winter crops are in good condition, and cultivation and sowings for the spring crops are making satisfactory progress. Prices have fallen, and the numbers gratuitously fed and employed on relief works have decreased during the month of October from 2,231,980 to 1,544,399, a fall of 30 per cent. Efficiency and economy have been secured by the shortening of the chain of administration, and the arrangements made by your Lordship in consultation with the Governor of Madras at the end of August have been attended with success.

3. In Bombay a sufficiency of rain has fallen, but in Sholapore, Sattara, Kaludji, Belgaum, and Dharwar, more than a sufficiency, which has caused some damage to the autumn and winter crops; at the date of the Despatch improvement had been manifested in Sattara and Sholapore, and the general prospects of the crops continued to be good. Prices had fallen, and the numbers on relief works and on gratuitous relief had decreased from 382,742 to 198,924, a decrease of 48 per cent.

4. In Mysore, moderate rain had fallen, the condition of the winter crops was good, and the prospects of the spring crops favourable. Prices had fallen, and the markets were sufficiently supplied. The Famine Code, drawn up by Mr. C. A. Elliot, is a compendium of instructions which will be of permanent value.

5. The statement of the mortality in and around Bangalore is a very melancholy record, but it is satisfactory to notice that the improvement in the season and the changes in the relief system had led to a large diminution in the number of deaths during the past month. The numbers gratuitously fed had fallen from 208,683 to 72,838, while the constant drafting from this class to that on the relief works had increased, the latter from 53,745 in the middle of September to 78,478 on the 20th of October.

6. In Hyderabad the crops were in good condition, prices cheaper, and the relief operations closed.

7. In the Central Provinces there had been some loss of rice crop in Saugor, Dumah, and Sambulpore on account of the deficient supply of rain in September. In the other districts the prospects of winter crops were good, and the preparations for the spring crops were in satisfactory progress.

8. In Rajputana and the Central Indian States the general situation was greatly improved by the rainfall in the middle of October. But there were parts, principally

in Marwar, in which the autumn crops had not been saved, and where spring crops never grow; for the relief of emigrants from these parts into Ajmere, railway work had been provided. Similar relief employment had been arranged for immigrants into the Western States of Central India. I note with pleasure that his Highness the Maharajah Scindiah had opened relief houses on the Indore road as far as Seepree.

9. In the North-West Provinces, the Punjab, and Oude preparations for the spring crops were in active progress, and prices had fallen. In the Punjab no necessity for special relief works had been suggested, and in the North-West Provinces all schemes for extensive works had been abandoned. In Bengal, Assam, and British Burmah the crop prospects were very favourable.

10. I am glad to understand that, in the opinion of Doctors Lewis and Cunningham, the fevers prevalent in Bombay in 1876 were of the ordinary "intermittent" and "continued" types, and were not "famine" fevers, and that during the same period in Madras, fever, far from being exceptionally severe, was decidedly in abeyance.

11. I approve, in conclusion, of the resolution of your Excellency in Council to have a partial counting of the people in the distressed districts of Madras as soon as the famine is over, in order approximately to ascertain what the loss of the population may have been.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 297.

Revenue, No. 99.

From the Secretary of State for India to the Governor-General of India in Council.

India Office, London, 27th December 1877.

Para. 1. The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 30th October, No. 40 of 1877, relative to the suspensions on remissions of Revenue demands in the year 1876-77, has been considered by me in Council. No. 289.

2. I approve of the orders of your Lordship in Council to the Local Governments in connexion with this subject, but I will reserve the expression of my own views on the general question until the information for which you have called is before me.

3. I cannot, however, withhold the expression of my satisfaction that in Bombay so large a portion of the land revenue due has been collected at such a time, and still more, that it has been collected, as stated by the Government of Bombay, without any harshness or undue pressure. This result is highly creditable to the revenue officers, European and Native.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

LONDON:
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Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

EAST INDIA (FAMINE).

RETURN to an Address of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 18 July 1878;—*for*,

COPY

OF

PAPERS

RELATING TO THE

PARTIAL CENSUS

IN

THE FAMINE STRICKEN DISTRICTS

OF

INDIA,

To which is added an EXTRACT from a DESPATCH from the GOVERNMENT of INDIA relative to the SCARCITY prevailing at the present time in the NORTH WEST PROVINCES.

India Office,
18 July 1878.

EDWARD STANHOPE,
Under Secretary of State.

(*Mr. Edward Stanhope.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*,
18 *July* 1878.

BOMBAY BRANCH
OF THE
Royal Asiatic Society.
CLASS

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(No. 46, of 1878.)

Government of India.—Public Works Department.

FAMINE.

To the Right Honourable Lord *Cranbrook*, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

My Lord, Simla, 18 April 1878.

ADVERTING to paragraph 19 of our letter to your Lordship's predecessor, No. 39, dated the 30th October last, we have the honour to forward tables furnished by the Government of Madras, showing the mortality from various causes in all the districts of the Presidency from May to October 1877. We append an abstract of the tables. It will be observed that during these six months the number of deaths registered in the nine distressed districts alluded to in our telegram of the 16th October, and noted in the margin, were as follows:—

Nellore. Cuddapah.
Chingleput (including Madras Town). Bellary.
Madura. North Arcot.
Kurnool. Salem.
Coimbatore.

In May - - - - - - - - -	71,307
„ June - - - - - - - -	73,202
„ July - - - - - - - -	94,048
„ August - - - - - - - -	118,978
„ September - - - - - - - -	112,034
„ October - - - - - - - -	81,451

making a total number of 551,020. Adding this figure to the total of the previous six months (*i. e.*, from November 1876 to April 1877), the deaths during 12 months in the nine districts were 925,103, or 67 per mille per annum, on the total population of 13,765,165. The deaths reported in the year 1875 were 340,545, or 25 per mille, showing an excess mortality in the above-mentioned 12 months of 584,468.

2. The partial counting of the people in selected areas of the famine country, which we reported as having been arranged, has been effected by the Madras and Bombay Governments and the Chief Commissioner of Mysore.

3. From Madras his Excellency the Governor has reported to us by telegraph the results of the counting. They are as follows:—

"Famine census taken 15th March gives following results, omitting decimals—percentages are on population 1871 plus five years normal annual increase at 1½ per cent.:—Gooty taluq, Bellary district, houses minus one per cent., population minus 20 per cent.; Nandikotkur, Kurnool, houses plus 5, population minus 26; Madanpali, Cuddapah, houses plus 12, population minus 25; Gudur, Nellore, houses unchanged, population minus 20; Palladam, Coimbatore, houses minus 2, population minus 16; Pouneri, Chingleput, houses plus 2, population minus 10; in non-famine districts Gudivada, Kistna, houses plus 39, population plus 5; Museri, Trichinopoly, houses unchanged, population minus 2; Mayaveram, Tanjore, houses plus 6, population plus 1; Ambasamudram, Tinnevelly, houses minus 1, population minus 1; returns for entire district Salem not quite tabulated."

4. From Mysore the Famine Commissioner reports that the results of the partial census when generalised, and compared with the results of the census of 1871, show a decrease in population of 1¼ millions. Generalising, for the six districts marginally noted, from the results of the selected areas of the Madras Presidency, we find the difference between present figures and those of 1871 to be 759,000, while in Kistna, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and Tinnevelly, the results exceed the number of 1871. These results are attained without reckoning any normal yearly increase of population since the census of 1871. The loss of 759,000 is due to mortality, to decrease in births, of which comparatively few were registered in the famine year, and also to emigration. For, as reported in paragraph 14 of our letter No. 45 of this day's date, the Madras Government informs us that "many persons who fled the scarcity are still in Ceylon and elsewhere, and many have not returned yet to their homes from remote districts of the Presidency, whither they have wandered for work or sustenance."

Bellary. Nellore. Kurnool. Coimbatore. Cuddapah. Chingleput.

5. It will be noticed that the results of the Salem district have not been furnished yet. When complete figures for the Madras Presidency and Mysore shall have been received, further report shall be submitted to your Lordship. We shall then be in a position to report also the results of the Bombay Presidency which have not reached us yet, but which have been promised to us at an early date.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Lytton.*
F. P. Haines.
A. J. Arbuthnot.
A. Clarke.
J. Strachey.
E. B. Johnson.
W. Stokes.

ABSTRACT of DEATH RETURN *of* DISTRESSED DISTRICTS *of the* MADRAS PRESIDENCY *for the Twelve Months from November 1876 to October 1877.*

DISTRICTS.	Population.	MONTHLY MORTALITY.											Total.
		November 1876.	December 1876.	January 1877.	February 1877.	March 1877.	April 1877.	May 1877.	June 1877.	July 1877.	August 1877.	September 1877.	October 1877.	
Nellore	1,376,811	2,660	5,644	11,142	7,352	3,639	2,768	2,642	3,019	2,738	4,725	5,506	4,918	—
Madras	397,552	1,165	2,034	3,743	4,401	5,024	4,078	4,038	3,676	4,626	4,241	3,472	3,192	—
Chingleput	938,184	1,752	2,865	6,094	4,351	4,136	2,990	3,625	4,558	8,904	9,339	6,862	4,197	—
Madura	1,328,231	1,975	2,861	3,758	2,580	3,030	3,006	5,257	5,091	7,184	9,782	10,921	10,037	—
Kurnool	959,640	3,057	11,862	6,253	5,247	5,127	5,264	5,405	4,676	6,767	8,482	7,840	8,465	—
Cuddapah	1,351,194	3,298	6,612	13,360	11,431	7,685	6,602	7,864	8,440	10,344	11,872	9,242	7,773	—
Bellary	1,668,006	4,923	7,440	9,361	12,965	14,006	10,040	10,271	12,679	7,035	16,728	15,150	11,234	—
North Arcot	2,015,278	3,736	6,046	13,686	12,169	9,622	6,477	8,183	9,330	17,439	19,737	17,534	15,120	—
Salem	1,966,995	3,507	7,038	10,258	10,416	12,947	11,963	15,260	14,177	19,956	21,852	21,112	16,515	—
Coimbatore	1,763,274	2,321	4,323	5,017	5,835	5,112	6,029	8,762	7,556	9,055	12,220	14,395	—	—
TOTALS	13,765,165	28,394	56,725	82,672	76,747	70,328	59,217	71,307	73,202	94,048	118,978	112,034	81,451	925,103

ABSTRACT of DEATH RETURN of the DISTRICTS of the MADRAS PRESIDENCY from November 1876 to October 1877.

FAMINE DISTRICTS.

DISTRICTS.	Population.	Number of Registered Deaths.	Proportion per 1,000 of Deaths to Population.
Nellore	1,376,811	56,753	41
Madras	397,552	43,690	110
Chingleput	938,184	59,673	64
Madura	1,328,231	65,482	49
Kurnool	959,640	78,445	81
Cuddepah	1,351,194	104,523	78
Bellary	1,668,006	131,832	79
North Arcot	2,015,278	139,079	69
Salem	1,966,995	165,001	84
Coimbatore	1,763,274	80,625*	46
TOTAL	13,765,165	925,103	67

NON-FAMINE DISTRICTS.

DISTRICTS.	Population.	Number of Registered Deaths.	Proportion per 1,000 of Deaths to Population.
South Arcot	1,755,817	78,279	44
Tinnevelly	1,693,959	62,249	37
Trichinopoly	1,200,408	58,655	49
Tanjore	1,973,731	67,420	34
Ganjam	1,520,088	17,130	11
Vizagapatam	2,610,839	27,622	11
Godavery	1,592,939	35,900	23
Kistna	1,452,374	36,291	25
Nilgiris	49,501	3,197	60
South Canara	918,362	28,535	32
Malabar	2,261,250	47,907	21
TOTAL	17,029,268	463,185	27

* For eleven months.

(No. 50 of 1878.)

From the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India.

My Lord, Simla, 10 June 1878.

THE Government of Bombay, in their Despatch, No. 5, of the 22nd April, furnished your Lordship with tables and memoranda, showing the results of the partial census taken in selected tracts of the famine districts of that Presidency. We now have the honour to forward a table showing the results of the partial census taken in certain districts and talooks of the Madras Presidency. Sir Michael Kennedy, Personal Assistant to his Grace the Governor of Madras, has prepared a memorandum on the figures shown in the Madras table, and a copy of that memorandum will be found in the enclosures to the present letter.

2. We submit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a resolution, in which we have reviewed the results of the partial census in both Presidencies. We cannot avoid the conclusion that there has been a most deplorable diminution of the population in parts of Southern India during the past two years. But we consider that the papers now before us do not furnish means for forming a correct estimate of the famine mortality over the whole of the famine-stricken and partially distressed areas.

We have, &c.
(signed) *Lytton.*
Frederick Haines.
Alexander J. Arbuthnot.
John Strachey.
W. Stokes.
Rivers Thompson.

(No. 1299.)

EXTRACT from the PROCEEDINGS of the Government of India, Famine Department, dated Simla, 8 June 1878.

FAMINE.

Read—Letter No. 955, dated 16th April 1878, from the Bombay Government, forwarding, with remarks, tables showing the results of the partial census taken on the 19th January 1878, in parts of five districts, where the famine of 1876-77 had been most severe.

Read—A table showing the results of the partial census taken on the 15th March in parts of 11 districts of the Madras Presidency, and over the whole of the district of Salem.

Read also—A memorandum by Lieutenant General Sir Michael Kennedy, K.C.S.I., Personal Assistant to his Grace the Governor of Madras, commenting on the results of the partial census in Madras.

RESOLUTION.

In order to ascertain how far the population of Southern India had been reduced by the famine of 1876–77, it was decided that a partial census should be taken of selected tracts in the districts where the pressure of the famine had been most severe. It was believed that the actual loss of population could not be known with certainty, until one or two favourable seasons had passed, until emigrants had returned, and until a simultaneous census of the whole country could be taken. But it was desirable to know what the present (and in part perhaps temporary) loss of population had been in the worst tracts.

2. In

2. In the Bombay Presidency nine districts had been afflicted more or less severely by famine. In each of the five districts which had suffered most severely, two talooks were selected; one of the two was the talook which had shown the highest death-rate during the year 1877, and the other was a talook which had shown a death-rate equal to the average of the district during that year. In these 10 talooks a census was taken on the 19th January 1878; no inquiry was made whether the missing people had died, or had emigrated, during the famine; the men, women, and children were counted, and the totals were compared with those of the regular census of February 1872. The results were as follows:—

DISTRICT.	Total Population as per Census of		Difference.	Percentage on Original Population.
	1872.	1878.		
Sholapore (2 talooks) - - - -	166,941	143,957	—22,984	minus 13
Sattara (2 „) - - - -	144,148	128,354	—15,794	„ 11
Kaladgi (2 „) - - - -	224,473	187,666	—36,807	„ ·16
Belgaum (2 „) - - - -	246,181	226,358	—19,823	„ 8
Dharwar (2 „) - - - -	152,602	148,537	— 4,065	„ 2
TOTAL (10 talooks) - - -	934,345	834,872	—99,473	„ 10⅔

The memoranda which accompany the Bombay census tables show that the apparent diminution of population has been much greater in the case of the male than in the case of the female population. In some talooks the decrease among the males was nearly double the decrease among females. It is known* that considerable migration took place from the Deccan and Southern Mahratta Country into the Konkan and into South Canara. It is conjectured that men and boys would emigrate in larger numbers than women and girls; and this excess diminution of the male population is held to contribute further evidence that a part of the diminution of population, ascertained at the recent census, must have been due to emigration.

3. The Bombay Government sums up the results of the partial census by saying, that the question of mortality from famine is still left very much in the same doubtful state as before; that the partial census of the worst or most distressed tracts shows some diminution in the population; that the diminution is partly apparent, as arising from emigration, and partly real, as arising from mortality; that the mortality arose partly from sickness, extending not only throughout the year 1877, but throughout the two previous years 1875 and 1876, and partly from famine; and that the mortality arising from famine itself cannot be exactly estimated.

4. The partial census in the famine districts of Madras was taken, on the 15th March 1878, in one talook out of each of the six severely stricken districts of Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Coimbatore, and Chingleput, and in all the nine talooks which constitute the district of Salem; a census was also taken in one talook out of each of the districts of Kistna, Trichinopoly and Tinnevelly, in parts of which some distress was felt, but in parts of which the crops were saved by irrigation, and in one talook of Tanjore, throughout almost the

* NOTE.—As an instance of the emigration which took place from the Deccan may be cited the case of the Indapore talook of Poona. An experienced survey officer, in November 1876, was deputed by the Government of Bombay to inquire into the condition of every village in this talook. The Bombay Government, when reviewing the report made by this officer, recorded that out of a total population of 66,937, as many as 40,289 had temporarily emigrated by the month of November 1876, that is to say, at the very beginning of the scarcity. It was explained that the emigrants had gone to the hill ranges of Poona, to Khandesh, and the Nizam's territory.

the whole of which the crops were saved by irrigation from the Cauvery river. The results of the census were as follows:—

In the	Population as per Census of		Difference.	Percentage of Difference on Original Population.
	November 1871.	March 1878.		
Six talooks of the six very distressed districts	859,132	739,989	— 119,143	minus 13
Nine talooks of the Salem district - -	1,977,034	1,559,896	— 417,138	„ 21
Three talooks of the three slightly distressed districts.	496,702	528,574	+ 31,872	plus 6
One talook of the Tanjore district - -	221,749	242,999	+ 21,250	„ 9

5. No review of these figures has yet been received from the Madras Government; but Sir Michael Kennedy has furnished the Government of India with remarks upon the results of the partial census. He considers that the diminution of the population must be due to the effect of migration, of increased mortality, of diminished births; or to a combination of all these three causes. No figures, even approximate, are available to show the extent to which emigration has taken place from the famine districts. The number of emigrants by sea from the Madras Presidency to Burmah, Ceylon, and elsewhere, is shown by the returns from sea-ports to have been 287,482 during the 14 months of famine, as compared with 156,143, the average number for a corresponding period in ordinary times; that is to say, the emigration by sea nearly doubled during the famine. But there is nothing to show how many of these emigrants came from the famine districts, or from the particular talooks in which the recent census was taken. Again, there is no available information regarding the great exodus of population from the famine districts to the neighbouring tracts in Malabar, Tanjore, Ganjam, and parts of Tinnevelly and Kistna, where drought had comparatively little effect. The figures of the recent census show that the diminution among the males of 10 years old and upwards has been considerably greater than among women of the same age. Sir Michael Kennedy points out that there was no reason why men should have died from famine more rapidly than women, while it is quite probable that men would migrate more readily than women. He considers that this excessive diminution among men tends to show that the total number of persons migrating from the famine tracts must have been very large, and that a part at any rate of the decrease of population must be due to emigration. He shows that a part of the diminution must be due to the decrease in births; for the returns (confessedly imperfect as yet) of births for the 15 famine talooks, in which the census has now been taken, give a decrease of 32,054 births as compared with the average of ordinary years. Further, he shows that, according to the monthly returns of mortality, a great part of the loss of population was due to unusual epidemics of cholera, small-pox, and fever, which swept off, in these 15 talooks, 149,053 persons, compared with an average mortality of 32,909 from these diseases as returned during the years 1870–75.

6. The table, cited in the preamble to this Resolution, regarding the results of the partial census in Madras, takes the normal increment of the population to be $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum; and some of the subsidiary statements forwarded by the Government of Bombay assume the normal increase of the population to be 1 per cent. per annum. If it be assumed that any such increase really occurred during the years 1872—75 before the distress began, then the actual loss of population attributable to famine will be proportionately larger. Sir Michael Kennedy, in his memorandum, shows that the excess of registered births over registered deaths, according to the returns published by the Madras Government, gave a normal increase of population at the rate of ·2 per cent. per annum in the 15 talooks during the period 1872—76; and he considers that there is no sufficient ground for the assumption that the population of the Madras

Madras Presidency increases at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum. It appears to the Government of India that no absolute certainty has yet been attained regarding the normal increase of population in India. The Madras Census Report of December 1873 shows (pp. 11—13) that, according to four censuses taken from 1851 to 1871, the annual rate of increase ranged from 0·74 per cent. during the earliest to 3·02 per cent. during the latest period. But the writer of the Report (Dr. Cornish) rejects these deduced rates of increase, and holds that the figures merely prove the earlier censuses to have been imperfect. In the North Western Provinces a detailed census has been taken on scientific principles more often than in other parts of India. The Report of the 1871 census for the North Western Provinces shows (page 2 of Vol. I. of the Report) the annual increase of population to have been 0·52 per cent., as compared with an increase in Great Britain of 0·56 during the 10 years, 1851—1861. The Census Report of the Bombay Presidency of January 1874 (pp. 72–74 and 236–237) shows the deduced rate of increase in the population to be 0·54 per cent. per annum. Probably, until the information on this subject is more complete, the normal increase of an Indian population might be taken at between 0·5 and 0·6 per cent. At this rate the population would double itself within 130 years. As pointed out by the Bombay Government, parts of the country were afflicted by epidemic diseases during 1875 and 1876, and during those years the supposed normal rate of increase may not have been maintained; but during the years 1872—1875, or four years, some increase of the population must, it may be believed, have occurred. And the apparent, as well as the actual loss of population, during these two sad years of famine, must be proportionately increased above the figures shown or suggested in the foregoing paragraphs of this Resolution.

7. His Excellency the Governor General in Council deduces from the figures now reviewed that there has been a lamentable decrease of the population, during the two past seasons, in the selected famine-stricken tracts where the partial census has recently been taken. But there is still much uncertainty as to the numbers who have migrated, and who may return to their homes. The figures for the several talooks, both in the Bombay and in the Madras Presidency, show remarkable differences between the per-centages of apparent loss of population; and it is not possible to say over what proportion of the famine country the higher, the medium, or the lower per-centages of decrease in the population extend. His Excellency the Viceroy in Council considers, therefore, that the Papers now before the Government of India do not furnish means for forming a correct estimate of the famine mortality in Southern India during 1876—78. Copies of all the Papers will be furnished to the Famine Commission for their consideration.

(True Extract.)

(signed) *C. Bernard,*
Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

COPY of the foregoing Resolution, together with the Papers read, forwarded to the Secretary to the famine Commission.

(signed) *C. Bernard,*
Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

From *J. H. Garstin*, Esq., Additional Secretary to the Government of Madras (Famine), to the Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department (Famine), (No. 1257), dated Ootacamund, the 1st June 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the returns of the trial census taken in accordance with the directions of the Government of India contained in your letter of the 17th October 1877, No. 944.

2. I am to point out that, although this Government in their letter of the

15th November 1877, No. 328, indicated doubts as to the value of any results to be so obtained, they determined to give the fullest effect to the wishes of the Government of India, and decided to select in addition to certain talooks in famine districts, one entire famine district and some talooks of districts the least affected by the famine pressure. They were of opinion that isolated talooks would be liable to be affected by so many special or local causes, that the results would be more than ordinarily unreliable.

* Bellary	Gooty.
Kurnool	Nandikotkur.
Cuddapah	Madanapalli.
Nellore	Gudur.
Coimbatore	Palladam.
Chingleput	Ponneri.
† Kistna	Gudivada.
Trichinopoly	Museri.
Tanjore	Magaveram.
Tinnevelly	Ambasamudrum.

3. The marginally noted six talooks* of the famine districts, and the marginally noted four talooks† in the districts least affected by scarcity and drought, and also the entire district of Salem, were accordingly selected for the trial census. The enclosed statement gives the result, showing the comparative numbers of houses and of population, and the per-centage of diminution and increase as compared with the census of 1871.

4. The accuracy of the registration is too open to doubt to allow of any safe opinion being formed as to the existence of any, and what, normal increase in the period between the census of 1871 and the close of 1875, but I am directed to enclose a statement showing the registration of births and deaths for that period in the talooks under reference and carried on to the end of February 1878. From this it will be seen that the registered deaths were in excess of the registered births in the remaining portion of 1871, subsequent to the census, in the talooks of—

Tripatore	Salem.
Uttengiri	
Madanapalli	Cuddapah.
Gudur	Nellore.
Palladam	Coimbatore.
Ambasamudrum	Tinnevelly.

In the year 1872 in—

Tripatore	Salem.
Gudur	Nellore.

In 1873 in—

Salem	Salem.
Namkal	
Trichengode	
Tripatore	
Uttengiri	
Nandikotkur	Kurnool.
Gudur	Nellore.
Ponneri	Chingleput.

In 1874 in—

Tripatore	Salem.
Uttengiri	
Nandikotkur	Kurnool.
Madnapalli	Cuddapah.
Gudur	Nellore.
Ponneri	Chingleput.

In 1875 in—

Oossoor	Salem.
Tripatore	
Uttengiri	
Madanapalli	Cuddapah.
Gudur	Nellore.
Palladum	Coimbatore.
Ambasamudrum	Tinnevelly.

while in 1873 the same was the case in the entire district of Salem by 5,843.

5. The statement also shows the large increase in the number of deaths registered in the famine period of 1876-77. Of the deaths which occurred during that period, 149,053 were returned in the year 1877 as due to cholera, small-pox

small-pox and fever, this detailed information not being available for 1876. It is, however, impossible to say how far cholera, fever, or many other ailments may have been influenced by the sufferings of famine, or by the use of unaccustomed or unwholesome food, arising from the famine pressure, and it is equally impossible to ascertain how far the loss of the population shown by the trial census in the selected talooks may be partly due to emigration, which by sea alone is known to have increased from about 98,000 in 1875-76 to 198,000 in 1876-77, or to migration which has been very extensive through all the affected districts.

6. The Government have referred these returns, together with a memorandum by Sir M. Kennedy, to the Sanitary Commissioner, and his report thereon will be forwarded.

STATEMENT showing the Results of the partial CENSUS of 1878 in the undermentioned selected Taluqs, as 1872 to 1876, and after certain necessary Additions and Deductions have been made (on account of the

DISTRICTS.	TALUQS.	NUMBER OF VILLAGES.			NUMBER OF HOUSES.				POPULATION		
		Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	TOTAL.	According to Census of 1878.	According to Census of 1871.	Difference between Columns 6 and 7.	Percentage of Increase or Decrease.	MALES. Above 10 Years of Age.	MALES. 10 Years of Age and under.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	
Salem	Salem	594	42	636	65,405	95,364	—29,959	— 31·4	106,805	48,395	1
	Athur	184	10	194	30,387	29,755	+ 632	+ 2·1	49,392	24,394	2
	Namkal	515	59	574	66,027	76,082	—10,055	— 13·2	72,004	35,226	3
	Trichengode	575	23	598	56,990	66,765	— 9,775	— 14·6	58,225	27,421	4
	Oossoor	768	172	940	39,773	45,257	— 5,484	— 12·1	48,134	18,728	5
	Kistnagiri	513	99	612	33,092	32,236	+ 856	+ 2·6	39,991	20,860	6
	Darampuri	558	182	740	36,024	42,771	— 6,747	— 15·7	46,087	22,807	7
	Tripatore	419	29	448	35,265	41,823	— 6,558	— 15·6	53,896	27,626	8
	Uttengiri	449	119	568	35,641	41,995	— 6,354	— 15·1	39,621	16,876	9
	TOTAL	4,575	735	5,310	398,604	472,048	—73,444	— 15·5	514,155	242,333	10
Bellary	Gooty	154	4	158	23,979	27,241	— 3,262	— 11·9	43,380	18,309	11
Kurnool	Nandikotkur	101		101	20,297	19,273	+ 1,024	+ 5·3	30,009	11,011	12
Cuddapah	Madanapalli	95	10	105	28,844	25,712	+ 3,132	+ 12·1	38,290	16,447	13
Nellore	Gudur	205	5	210	25,280	25,194	+ 86	+ ·3	44,471	16,760	14
Coimbatore	Palladam	191	3	194	59,006	60,429	— 1,423	— 2·3	67,955	33,591	15
Chingleput	Ponneri	242	17	259	16,910	16,537	+ 373	+ 2·4	34,257	16,860	16
Kistna	Gudivada	206	40	246	21,103	15,084	+ 6,019	+ 39·8	34,215	17,259	17
Trichinopoly	Museri	224	10	234	56,393	56,176	+ 217	+ ·4	87,650	42,948	18
Tanjore	Magaveram	344	7	351	42,486	39,853	+ 2,633	+ 6·6	83,317	37,179	19
Tinnevelly	Ambasamudrum	89	39	128	39,168	39,927	— 759	— 1·9	51,740	24,984	20
TOTAL of the Six Famine Taluqs, other than those of the District of Salem		988	39	1,027	174,316	174,386	— 70	— ·04	258,362	112,978	21
TOTAL of Salem		4,575	735	5,310	398,604	472,048	—73,444	—15·5	514,155	242,333	22
GRAND TOTAL of 15 Famine Taluqs		5,563	774	6,337	572,920	646,434	—73,514	—12·9	772,517	355,311	23

NOTE.

Athur.—One village has been added to Athur since 1871. The population of this village in 1871 is not ascertainable, as the village cannot be identified. The population now entered, has, therefore, been deducted from the totals in both Columns 16 and 17.

Tripatore.—To this taluq one village was added from North Arcot subsequently to 1871, and three were transferred from it to South Arcot. The necessary deductions have been made from the totals entered in Column 17.

Coimbatore.—Since the Census of 1871, two villages in the Palladam taluq were amalgamated into one, while two were added to the taluq (one from Collegal, and another from Darampuri), and one was transferred to Darampuri. In the Census figures of 1871, the populations of two villages were not included, their schedules not having been forthcoming. These have now been taken into account, and on this account, and on account of the transfer of villages above explained, the total given in Column 17 for this taluq does not coincide exactly with the total for the taluq as given in the published Census return for 1871.

compared with the CENSUS of 1871, plus an Increment of 1½ per Cent. per Annum, during the Five Years, from Transfer of certain Villages from one Taluq to another) in order to render the Comparison correct.

	ACCORDING TO CENSUS OF 1878.					POPULATION OF 1871, PLUS THE INCREMENT.			Difference between Columns 16 and 19.	Percentage of Increase or Decrease.	Difference between Columns 16 and 17.	Percentage of Increase or Decrease.
	Females.		Total.			Population according to Census of 1871.	Increment of 1½ per Cent. per Annum from 1872 to 1876.	Total.				
	Above 10 Years of Age.	10 Years of Age and under.	Males.	Females.	Total.							
	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.
1	114,735	47,521	155,200	162,256	317,456	403,892	31,218	435,110	—117,654	— 27·0	— 86,436	— 21·3
2	55,061	24,942	73,786	80,003	153,789	162,630	12,572	175,202	— 21,413	— 12·2	— 8,841	— 5·4
3	81,555	34,952	107,230	116,507	223,737	273,382	21,133	294,515	— 70,778	— 24·0	— 49,645	— 18·2
4	60,171	27,362	85,646	87,533	173,179	246,986	19,089	266,075	— 92,896	— 34·9	— 73,807	— 29·8
5	51,651	18,968	66,862	70,619	137,481	189,068	14,616	203,684	— 66,203	— 32·5	— 51,587	— 27·3
6	44,078	21,085	60,851	65,163	126,014	170,249	13,159	183,408	— 57,394	— 31·3	— 44,235	— 25·9
7	51,601	22,926	68,894	74,527	143,421	187,312	14,480	201,792	— 58,371	— 28·8	— 43,891	— 23·4
8	59,782	27,095	81,522	86,877	168,399	192,946	14,913	207,859	— 39,460	— 18·9	— 24,547	— 12·7
9	43,093	16,830	56,497	59,923	116,420	150,569	11,638	162,207	— 45,787	— 28·2	— 34,149	— 22·6
10	561,727	241,681	756,488	803,408	1,559,896	1,977,034	152,818	2,129,852	—569,956	— 26·8	—417,138	— 21·1
11	42,139	17,802	61,689	59,941	121,630	142,716	11,029	153,745	— 32,115	— 20·9	— 21,086	— 14·7
12	30,210	10,415	41,020	40,625	81,645	103,783	8,023	111,806	— 30,161	— 26·9	— 22,138	— 21·3
13	37,633	15,809	54,737	53,442	108,179	134,546	10,400	144,946	— 36,767	— 25·4	— 26,367	— 19·5
14	42,933	16,200	61,231	59,133	120,364	142,257	10,996	153,253	— 32,889	— 21·4	— 21,893	— 15·4
15	72,942	33,223	101,546	106,165	207,711	232,155	17,942	250,097	— 42,386	— 16·9	— 24,444	— 10·5
16	33,389	15,954	51,117	49,343	100,460	103,675	8,015	111,690	— 11,230	— 10·0	— 3,215	— 3·1
17	33,549	16,769	51,474	50,318	101,792	89,900	6,948	96,848	+ 4,944	+ 5·1	+ 11,892	+ 13·2
18	95,291	40,758	130,598	136,049	266,647	255,132	19,722	274,854	— 8,207	— 2·9	+ 11,515	+ 4·5
19	85,907	36,596	120,496	122,503	242,999	221,749	17,138	238,887	+ 4,112	+ 1·7	+ 21,250	+ 9·5
20	57,973	25,438	76,724	83,411	160,135	151,670	11,725	163,395	— 3,260	— 1·9	+ 8,465	+ 5·5
21	259,246	109,403	371,340	368,649	739,989	859,132	66,405	925,537	—185,548	— 20·6	—119,143	— 16·1
22	561,727	241,681	756,488	803,408	1,559,896	1,977,034	152,818	2,129,852	—569,956	— 26·8	—417,138	— 21·1
23	820,973	351,084	1,127,828	1,172,057	2,299,885	2,836,166	219,223	3,055,389	—755,504	— 32·8	—536,281	— 23·3

NOTE.

Chingleput.—Three villages were added to the Ponneri taluq from Trivellore subsequent to 1871. The population of these villages has been included in the figures given in Columns 16 and 17 for this taluq.

Tinnevelly.—Thirteen villages of the Ambasamudrum taluq were transferred to other taluqs, and one was added to it, since 1871. The population of the added village in 1871 is not ascertainable, as the village cannot be identified. The population now returned has therefore been deducted from the totals in both Columns 16 and 17.

Nellore.—One village was transferred from the Gudur to the Nellore taluq. The population of that village in 1871 has been deducted from the total in Column 17.

MEMORANDUM on the partial CENSUS in MADRAS DISTRICTS taken in March 1878.

THE partial census of 1878 was taken in the Madras Presidency over the whole of the nine taluqs of the district of Salem; in six taluqs of other districts, which have been afflicted with famine; and in four taluqs of districts, where failure of crops did not prevail, or only prevailed to a very limited extent.

2. The result has been that in Salem the returns show an apparent loss of population, as compared with the actual numbers of the census of 1871, of 417,138; in the other six famine taluqs, a loss of 119,143; and in the non-famine taluqs, the returns show a gain of 53,122. The total apparent loss for the 15* famine taluqs amounts, therefore, to 536,281.

* Nine of Salem and six others.

3. In recording the result of the census, an annual increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., or $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the five years ending 1876, has been allowed for, and this raises the apparent loss as follows:—

	Rs.
In Salem to - - - - - - - - - -	569,956
In the six other famine taluqs - - - - -	185,548
	755,504
While the four non-famine taluqs, instead of a gain show a loss of - - - - - - - - - -	2,411

4. This assumed increment has been termed the "normal annual increase," but it is not shown on what grounds it has been assumed.

5. As far as my judgment goes there has been no such increase, and my reasons for arriving at this conclusion are as follow:—

General Considerations.

6. Southern India has enjoyed peace and tranquillity for many years, during which the increase of population up to the limit of the sustaining power of the soil has been unchecked, except by occasional seasons of scarcity, more or less partial and localised, and by periodical outbreaks of epidemic diseases.

7. In the dry tracts, of which the 15 taluqs under reference form a part, the soil is generally poor. Under the most favourable conditions as to season, but also under a rude and primitive system of agriculture, it produces comparatively light crops of food grains, sufficient only for the bare subsistence of a limited number of persons whose wants are few, whose habits are simple, and whose life is passed in laboriously wringing from the soil its scanty produce. No large areas of arable land have, of late years, been available for increased cultivation; and, under the circumstances, it is probable that, in these tracts, so little favoured by nature, the limits of increase of production and of population have been reached, and that the land, under the rude system of cultivation prevailing, now supports, and has for some years past supported, as large a population as can draw a subsistence from it.

8. It is probable that there may have been some amount of aggregation in the larger towns and villages, and, to a trifling extent, emigration to more favoured districts may have taken place; but, as regards the great mass of the purely agricultural population of the famine tracts, the general considerations are, I think, opposed to any considerable increase, since the date of the last census in 1871.

Register of Births and Deaths.

9. The total number of births registered since the census of 1871, up to the end of 1876, was 404,392, while the total number of deaths during the same period was 375,212. This shows an apparent increment, in five years and two months, of 29,180 on a population of 2,836,166, or, in other words, the population appears to have been increasing at the very slow rate of ·2 per cent. per annum. This result is, however, subject to the reliability of the registering, the correctness of which is doubtful. The errors may be either way;

See Statements (A.) and (B.) accompanying (pages 18, 19).

way; but taking the figures as they stand, they lead to the inference that, under normal circumstances, and allowing for a similar increase in 1877, the population of the 15 famine taluqs in March 1878 might have been expected to be as below:—

2,836,166—Census population of 1871.
29,180—Actual difference between births and deaths to end of 1876.
6,000—Normal difference between births and deaths for 14 months (*i.e.*, 12 months of 1877 and two months of 1878).

2,871,346—Total.

Comparative Number of Houses.

10. A comparison of the number of houses shown by the census of 1871 and that of 1878 leads to the inference that the population of the 15 taluqs, so far from having increased, has actually diminished. There were found in 1878 * 73,514 fewer houses than were returned in 1871, and allowing four persons per house (the proportion shown by the census numbers), this would indicate a decrease in the population of 294,056. I do not desire to push this argument too far, or beyond what it may be worth; but it may be urged that an estimate of the increase or decrease of a population based upon the increase or decrease in the number of houses, would be roughly reliable; and it is a fact that, of the 15 taluqs, where a decrease of population is found, nine show a decrease of houses; while of the four taluqs, where there is an increase of population, three show also an increase of houses. Moreover, the social tendencies of the people, and the facilities afforded by law for the division of properties, are in favour of an increase of houses; and it may be fairly urged that, even with a stationary population, the number of separate houses would increase.

* *See* Census Return.

11. Without, therefore, insisting too much on the results indicated by the decrease in houses, it may be sufficient to observe that the apparent fact that they have decreased is directly opposed to the assumed increment in the number of the people.

12. For the above reasons, I think that there is no sufficient ground for assuming a "normal increase" of the population, since the census of 1871, amounting to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. There may have even been an actual decrease *since* 1871; but I will now proceed on the assumption (*see* paragraph 9 *ante*) that there has been an increase not exceeding ·2 per cent.

13. The population residing in the 15 taluqs being, according to the census of 1878, 2,299,885, instead of 2,871,346, as it should have been, on the assumptions made in paragraph 9, there is a difference of 571,461 to be accounted for.

14. This difference must be due to the effects of migration, of increased mortality, of diminished births, or to a combination of all these causes.

15. As regards the question of migration, it is greatly to be regretted that for the 15 taluqs under notice no figures even approximate are available.† Statements of emigration from the different ports‡ show that the emigrants were very much in excess of the numbers in ordinary years; but how many of these persons belonged to the coast districts, and how many to taluqs similarly situated to those under review, it is impossible to say, while there are no figures whatever showing the extent of inland migration. There can, however, be no doubt, for it is a well-recognised fact, that the migration from the famine to the more favoured districts was very large; how large it is impracticable to determine, but the following figures may throw some light on the subject:—

† Accompanying Statement (E). page 21.

‡ These returns for 14 months, viz., from 1st October 1876 to 30th November 1877, show an increase of 131,339 in the number of emigrants, the average being 156,143, and the actuals being 287,482. The number of emigrants, therefore, nearly doubled.

16. According to the census of 1878, the number of

Males of 10 years and under is - - -	355,311
Females of 10 years and under is - -	351,084

while the number of

Males above 10 years is - - - -	772,517
Females above 10 years is - - - -	820,973

It appears, therefore, that while the males under 10 years were 4,000 in excess of the females, the men were 48,000 less in number than the women. Now there appears to be no reason why more men than women should die from famine or other causes, but there are many obvious reasons why more men than women should migrate.

17. The conclusion is, therefore, fair, that whatever the number of migrants may be, the men exceed the women by at least 48,000.

18. It follows, then, that the number of migrants must be very large, or such an excess of men over women would be impossible; and, supposing the migrant boys and girls to be about equal in number, it would seem a very liberal estimate to assume that the migrant males are 33 per cent. in excess of the migrant females.

19. Under this assumption, the total number of migrants would be about 350,000, *i. e.*, males 200,000, and females 150,000.

20. Adding this number of probable absentees, most of whom may return, to the census population of 1878, we obtain a total of 2,649,885, leaving (*see* paragraph 9) 221,461 persons to be accounted for.

21. The birth and death returns* of the 15 taluqs since the commencement of the famine to the end of February 1878, show a mortality in excess of the average, amounting to 190,814, and a decreased birth-rate compared with the average, amounting to 32,025, that is to say, these returns would lead to the probability of a diminution in the population of 222,839, a result tallying with the numbers shown in the preceding paragraph as still to be accounted for.

* *See* Statement (D.).

	Excess Mortality.	Decrease of Births.
In 1876 - - - -	3,890	+ 57
In 1877 - - - -	181,027	— 26,394
In 1878 to end of February	5,897	— 5,688
TOTAL - -	190,814	— 32,025

22. As regards the excess death-rate of 190,814, shown by the Sanitary Commissioner's mortality returns, the greater part is, no doubt, due to the unfortunate prevalence of cholera, small-pox, and fever, which were by no means confined to the poorer classes, during the famine period. The death-rate in the 15 taluqs from these causes amounted to 149,053 in 1877 alone,† as compared with an average of 32,909 for the six years ending 1875. The excess deaths in 1877 from these causes may, therefore, be set down at 116,000, which, deducted from 181,000, the total excess deaths of that year, leaves 65,000 excess deaths due to other causes.

† *See* Statement (A.) and Abstract (C.), which show the deaths as below:—

	1877.	Average for 1870–71–72–73–74–75.
Cholera - - -	62,230	2,655
Small-pox - -	13,504	3,105
Fevers - - -	73,319	27,149
TOTAL - -	149,053	32,909

Figures for the comparison of the mortality from these causes in the famine months of 1876 and 1878 are not available; but the deaths were probably in much the same proportion.

23. These diseases, then, account for nearly two-thirds of the excess mortality shown by the returns.

24. As regards the diminution of births, part must, no doubt, be set down to the effect of the famine upon the reproductive powers of the community; but part, and by no means a small part, is certainly due to the migratory movements already discussed.

25. It would appear, therefore, that but for the prevalence of cholera, small-pox, and fever, the death-rate in the 15 taluqs under review would not have been very greatly in excess of the average. Assuming (*see* paragraph 23) that two-thirds of the excess deaths in 1876 and 1878 may be set down to these diseases, the whole number of excess deaths due to them will amount to 122,514, which, deducted from the total excess deaths since the commencement of the famine (190,814), will leave 68,290 to be accounted for. Regarding these, it may well be urged that a period remarkable for cholera was probably also remarkable for kindred diseases; but, taking the most unfavourable assumption, and supposing, which is scarcely possible, that all these excess deaths were due to famine, their number would amount to less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the population.

26. This result (and it is to be remembered that it is arrived at on the very unfavourable and most unlikely assumption that all the excess deaths, not due to cholera, small-pox, and fever, are due to famine), is, no doubt, greatly to be regretted; but, considering the vast areas and lengthened periods over which the

the famine has extended, and the helpless nature of a large portion of the population, it may be said that, on the whole, the substantial safety of the people was secured, so far as such a result was practically attainable.

27. To summarise, the conclusions arrived at in this memorandum are as follow:—

(1.) That looking to general considerations, to the records of births and deaths, and to the census results as to the number of existing houses, there has not been an increase of population since 1871 at the rate of 1½ per cent. per annum; that, in all probability, any increase that may have taken place does not exceed ·2 per cent. per annum; and that there may possibly have been a decrease of numbers.

(2.) That a large portion of the apparent loss of population shown by the last census is due to migration. What the number of absentee migrants actually was, it is not practicable to determine; but that, on a consideration of the actual number of resident males and females over 10 years of age, found in the districts, the number may fairly be assumed to be about 350,000.

(3.) That cholera, small-pox, and fever account for nearly two-thirds of the excess mortality during the period between the latter part of 1876 and the end of February 1878.

(4.) That the loss of population, not thus accounted for, amounts to about 68,290, or to less than 2½ per cent.; some; but, not all, of which loss may be attributable to the distress that has prevailed.

(signed) *M. K. Kennedy*,
Lieutenant General, R.E.

Ootacamund, 11 May 1878.

(A.)

STATEMENT furnished by the SANITARY COMMISSIONER, and showing the DEATHS from CHOLERA, SMALL-POX, and FEVER, since 1870; also the Annual Number of DEATHS and BIRTHS for the same Period in the 19 Taluqs in which the CENSUS of 1878 was taken.

NAME OF DISTRICT.	TALUQS.	1870.					1871.					1872.					1873.					1874.					1875.					1876.					1877.					1878. JANUARY.					1878. FEBRUARY.				
		Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Total Deaths.	Total Births.
Salem	Salem	822	19	2,922	6,316	6,580	645	45	2,925	6,192	6,669	357	571	3,302	5,674	7,005	–	1,976	3,723	7,972	7,282	–	549	3,871	6,846	6,939	1,075	102	4,124	7,367	8,570	2,412	76	2,939	8,632	9,005	9,808	1,719	3,640	30,514	4,494	86	208	489	1,208	170	26	117	427	836	143
	Attur	235	37	843	2,468	2,226	205	102	1,038	3,073	2,705	3	519	1,387	3,309	3,769	–	903	220	4,250	3,510	–	156	1,387	3,430	3,313	1,310	79	1,773	4,694	4,072	839	56	1,604	3,750	3,812	2,525	1,018	3,671	9,885	3,879	13	208	194	602	214	19	223	126	472	169
	Namkal	360	47	1,537	3,722	4,690	408	37	1,864	4,373	5,318	15	361	2,295	4,073	5,817	–	1,964	2,093	6,700	5,007	–	226	1,945	4,053	4,242	884	40	1,900	4,785	6,496	778	33	1,731	4,373	5,730	4,437	2,074	4,646	17,753	5,567	85	186	422	1,111	361	19	122	261	633	159
	Trichengode	365	18	1,923	3,910	5,117	980	50	2,429	4,170	5,497	8	602	2,322	4,259	5,943	–	1,561	2,983	5,983	5,529	–	503	2,243	4,377	6,961	988	192	2,648	4,513	7,710	1,598	28	2,275	5,469	7,152	5,529	1,867	3,183	23,476	3,689	–	76	215	733	94	61	58	270	536	82
Salem	Ossoor	278	16	2,652	4,967	5,487	42	18	2,339	3,796	3,911	143	271	1,568	825	993	–	291	1,971	4,518	4,302	–	194	2,147	4,263	4,530	513	49	3,430	5,445	5,852	1,745	26	2,231	5,743	3,831	7,463	1,922	6,391	23,775	1,350	2	17	543	1,096	69	–	26	476	824	56
	Kistnagiri	541	21	1,432	3,272	3,685	85	9	1,464	3,122	4,326	81	207	1,725	2,949	5,120	–	492	1,892	3,799	4,422	–	223	1,643	3,316	4,275	231	31	2,230	3,912	3,597	1,972	50	1,975	4,130	4,924	4,244	788	3,811	18,291	1,791	1	26	229	308	43	2	25	319	625	41
	Darumpuri	183	20	2,487	4,205	3,997	5	12	2,350	3,677	3,679	19	81	1,636	2,255	4,961	–	327	2,289	4,664	4,814	–	480	1,909	3,882	4,276	261	87	2,001	3,780	4,540	1,336	24	1,264	4,239	5,741	4,430	815	4,563	21,879	1,579	21	76	272	807	21	30	56	284	732	49
	Tripatore	598	25	925	2,554	4,206	229	11	1,813	3,819	4,562	265	243	2,405	4,729	4,962	–	840	4,083	6,106	5,686	–	288	3,078	4,808	4,000	882	53	2,264	5,535	5,495	1,485	80	1,717	4,722	4,196	5,577	1,177	4,544	15,256	2,338	16	129	262	564	117	2	43	182	341	88
	Uttengiri	124	13	980	2,231	2,658	43	26	1,578	3,235	3,472	4	138	1,402	2,770	3,245	–	307	2,257	4,108	3,556	–	290	2,551	4,446	3,849	218	72	2,573	4,309	3,972	928	47	1,419	3,673	4,282	3,967	1,313	3,077	14,926	1,959	–	107	168	504	32	2	160	127	314	50
	TOTAL	3,426	226	19,531	34,156	39,733	2,150	310	19,249	35,547	40,861	171	3,903	18,912	32,340	41,176	–	7,923	24,991	47,825	44,379	–	3,176	21,491	39,337	40,417	5,814	667	24,067	44,486	45,847	14,243	440	16,346	44,796	47,954	47,188	10,982	30,002	170,430	24,476	225	1,115	2,933	7,263	931	169	831	2,896	5,554	846
Bellary	Gooty	–	31	988	1,811	2,222	10	26	889	1,619	2,435	–	229	865	2,109	2,053	–	169	679	2,507	2,281	–	79	554	2,168	2,276	92	208	724	2,257	2,851	1,695	289	611	3,854	5,728	2,027	287	3,273	12,902	1,828	–	–	413	883	53	–	4	226	513	29
Kurnool	Nandikotkur	–	105	875	1,564	1,964	–	64	864	1,484	2,284	2	75	1,474	2,006	2,217	–	25	1,031	1,906	1,720	–	163	1,684	2,177	2,012	92	141	1,648	1,897	2,036	226	116	694	3,061	2,108	369	226	2,618	14,002	1,210	–	5	660	731	22	–	–	248	412	14
Cuddapah	Madanapalli	25	69	1,972	1,945	1,856	178	38	1,216	2,090	1,995	–	91	1,926	1,685	2,418	–	204	1,504	2,299	2,429	–	102	2,415	4,246	2,561	27	17	3,129	2,809	2,074	936	199	2,239	4,081	2,872	3,174	726	3,682	13,927	1,262	–	10	656	743	40	–	1	440	405	59
Nellore	Gudur	141	22	298	1,091	686	215	43	878	1,374	1,264	–	64	765	1,569	1,378	–	81	807	1,463	1,212	–	68	600	1,169	904	224	45	826	1,240	837	408	20	368	1,474	863	1,564	542	1,892	8,242	362	21	2	463	552	12	–	2	63	82	5
Coimbatore	Palladam	480	16	1,307	3,223	3,372	105	8	1,690	2,982	2,477	–	92	1,262	2,541	2,649	–	470	1,264	2,778	2,642	–	163	1,411	2,727	3,181	2,161	77	1,917	5,789	4,294	186	9	1,641	3,444	4,837	4,965	221	2,712	12,167	2,390	9	93	247	547	153	–	74	201	422	127
Chingleput	Punneri	42	7	499	1,022	1,093	122	46	997	1,790	1,905	–	78	554	1,559	1,702	–	156	642	1,804	1,715	–	220	635	1,019	1,826	113	101	648	2,009	2,047	178	67	568	3,156	1,786	343	499	1,319	6,669	908	–	9	126	291	26	–	5	94	207	23
	TOTAL	668	350	4,849	11,156	10,653	630	253	5,838	11,070	12,404	2	669	5,946	11,309	13,414	–	1,606	6,449	12,916	13,220	–	995	8,399	14,297	13,956	2,609	669	8,992	17,902	15,129	3,892	677	4,353	19,073	18,487	18,942	3,321	23,287	64,309	9,961	23	119	2,577	3,759	516	–	87	1,372	2,139	287
Kistna	Gudivada	422	6	599	1,751	1,439	204	32	884	1,418	1,959	6	141	491	1,491	1,879	–	117	372	1,404	1,518	–	104	397	1,443	1,624	1	13	361	2,031	2,891	620	19	545	2,048	2,004	317	47	446	2,262	2,400	96	29	26	239	217	8	41	12	121	126
Trichinopoly	Musuri	622	16	1,326	3,746	3,424	234	17	1,901	4,290	4,724	3	51	1,892	4,096	6,042	–	225	1,726	4,206	5,424	–	270	1,764	4,816	5,836	719	37	534	5,490	7,431	508	86	1,111	4,722	7,809	3,383	1,672	2,205	14,820	6,004	15	145	197	949	235	2	82	172	662	267
Tinnevelly	Ambasamudram	804	55	597	3,469	2,261	1,147	410	748	4,174	2,934	–	614	849	3,729	2,741	–	193	466	2,177	2,293	–	65	648	2,507	2,641	556	212	682	3,744	2,984	482	68	737	3,466	2,755	875	44	786	4,220	2,263	16	4	155	727	311	8	8	168	541	291
Tanjore	Mayaveram	253	62	598	2,693	1,613	19	200	721	1,493	2,186	10	314	642	1,932	2,843	–	402	502	1,461	1,122	–	242	201	1,428	1,471	1,020	202	505	7,434	2,264	579	189	582	3,741	1,926	781	748	729	7,861	1,247	73	77	86	675	314	12	81	47	498	421
	TOTAL	2,262	160	3,626	12,659	12,031	1,704	859	4,804	14,862	14,613	19	1,120	5,444	12,853	16,006	–	974	3,066	12,486	13,567	–	801	2,940	13,994	16,992	3,316	534	2,323	19,699	21,579	2,199	322	3,961	16,425	20,685	5,329	2,512	6,362	28,304	19,931	209	355	472	2,660	1,575	30	207	329	1,522	1,172
GRAND TOTAL		6,376	736	28,006	57,961	61,949	4,992	1,413	29,892	60,779	67,898	192	4,772	27,302	56,288	70,596	–	9,903	34,505	73,231	72,366	–	4,782	33,132	66,928	70,865	11,870	1,869	34,732	81,177	82,556	20,140	1,449	20,986	75,296	87,126	67,469	16,016	77,281	268,161	52,440	448	1,687	5,882	13,023	2,622	199	1,125	4,279	9,324	2,280

Ootacamund, 11 May 1878.

(B.)

STATEMENT (B.), abstracted from STATEMENT (A.), showing the Number of DEATHS and BIRTHS from 1870 to 1876, in the Fifteen Famine Taluqs in which the CENSUS of 1878 was taken.

DISTRICTS.	TALUQS.	DEATHS.								BIRTHS.								Difference.
		In 1870.	In 1871.	In 1872.	In 1873.	In 1874.	In 1875.	In 1876.	TOTAL.	In 1870.	In 1871.	In 1872.	In 1873.	In 1874.	In 1875.	In 1876.	TOTAL.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.
Salem	Salem	6,316	6,192	5,674	7,972	6,846	7,567	8,633	49,200	6,580	6,609	7,035	7,283	8,929	8,570	9,005	54,011	+ 4,811
	Athur	2,468	3,073	3,209	4,250	3,430	4,634	3,750	24,814	3,228	3,295	3,760	5,210	5,315	4,975	5,012	30,795	+ 5,981
	Namkal	3,722	4,273	4,572	6,700	4,053	4,785	4,375	32,480	4,690	5,338	5,817	5,007	6,242	6,496	5,720	39,310	+ 6,830
	Trichengode	3,910	4,170	4,239	5,988	4,377	4,513	5,469	32,666	5,107	5,497	5,943	5,520	6,981	7,310	7,133	43,491	+ 10,825
	Oossoor	4,367	3,796	853	4,218	4,269	5,445	5,745	28,693	3,487	3,911	933	4,902	4,550	3,882	3,851	25,516	— 3,177
	Kistnagiri	3,273	3,122	2,949	3,799	3,316	3,912	4,190	24,561	3,685	4,528	5,120	4,422	4,275	3,507	4,024	29,561	+ 5,000
	Darampuri	4,235	3,677	3,235	4,684	3,842	3,786	4,239	27,698	3,892	3,679	4,961	4,814	4,276	4,540	4,741	30,903	+ 3,205
	Tripatore	3,334	3,819	4,739	6,106	4,958	5,635	4,722	33,313	4,396	4,552	4,362	3,686	4,000	3,495	4,186	28,687	— 4,626
	Uttengiri	2,531	3,225	2,770	4,108	4,446	4,209	3,675	24,964	3,658	3,472	3,245	3,535	3,849	3,072	4,282	25,113	+ 149
	TOTAL	34,156	35,347	32,240	47,825	39,537	44,486	44,798	278,389	38,723	40,881	41,176	44,379	48,417	45,847	47,954	307,387	+ 28,998
Bellary	Gooty	1,811	1,619	2,109	2,507	2,168	3,237	3,854	17,305	2,222	2,435	3,053	3,281	3,276	3,851	5,728	23,846	+ 6,541
Kurnool	Nandikotkur	1,564	1,404	2,006	1,966	2,177	1,897	3,064	14,078	1,964	2,235	2,217	1,730	2,013	2,036	2,398	14,593	+ 515
Cuddapah	Madanapalli	1,945	2,090	1,685	2,399	4,246	3,809	4,081	20,255	1,536	1,995	2,415	2,439	2,563	2,074	2,875	15,897	— 4,358
Nellore	Gudur	1,001	1,374	1,509	1,462	1,169	1,240	1,474	9,229	698	1,264	1,378	1,212	994	837	863	7,246	— 1,983
Coimbatore	Palladam	3,223	2,883	2,341	2,778	2,727	5,789	3,444	23,185	2,372	2,477	2,649	2,843	3,181	4,294	4,837	22,653	— 532
Chingleput	Ponneri	1,622	1,700	1,559	1,804	1,910	2,020	2,156	12,771	1,693	1,998	1,702	1,715	1,829	2,047	1,786	12,770	— 1
	TOTAL	11,166	11,070	11,209	12,916	14,397	17,992	18,073	96,823	10,485	12,404	13,414	13,220	13,856	15,139	18,487	97,005	+ 182
	GRAND TOTAL	45,322	46,417	43,449	60,741	53,934	62,478	62,871	375,212	49,218	53,285	54,590	57,599	62,273	60,986	66,441	404,392	+ 29,180

Ootacamund, 11 May 1878.

(C.)

STATEMENT (C.), abstracted from STATEMENT (A.), and showing DEATHS from CHOLERA, SMALL-POX, and FEVERS, in the Fifteen Famine Taluqs in 1877, and in 1870 to 1875, both Years inclusive.

In 1877.			In 1870.			In 1871.			In 1872.			In 1873.			In 1874.			In 1875.			During the Six Years 1870 to 1875.		
Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fevers.
62,230	13,504	73,319	4,114	476	20,370	2,788	563	25,078	574	3,653	23,758	—	8,619	31,439	—	3,981	29,792	8,454	1,336	32,459	15,930	18,628	162,896
																		AVERAGE - - -			2,655	3,105	27,149

Octacamund, 11 May 1878.

(D.)

STATEMENT (D.), showing the Excess DEATHS and Diminished BIRTHS, in the Fifteen Famine Taluqs, in 1876-77 and 1878, compiled from the Tables furnished to Government by the Sanitary Commissioner.

District.	Taluqs.	Population according to Census of 1871.	Excess Deaths in 1876.	Excess Deaths in 1877.	Excess Deaths in 1878, up to the end of February.	Total Excess Deaths.	Diminished Births in 1876.	Diminished Births in 1877.	Diminished Births in 1878, up to the end of February.	Total Diminished Births.	Sum of all Excess Deaths and Diminished Births.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
Salem	Salem	393,805	1,289	24,201	530	26,020	+ 71	3,944	847	4,720	30,740
	Athur	164,006	— 14	5,531	330	5,847	+ 23	971	301	1,249	7,096
	Namkal	261,009	103	12,837	588	13,528	35	2,214	487	2,736	16,264
	Trichengode	249,678	429	20,500	35	20,964	+ 80	3,831	703	4,454	25,418
	Oossoor	193,037	— 67	19,031	1,093	20,057	176	2,535	459	3,170	23,227
	Kistnagiri	170,223	— 220	11,667	446	11,893	260	2,533	457	3,250	15,143
	Darampuri	190,626	674	17,081	629	18,384	154	3,039	605	3,798	22,182
	Tripatore	190,800	— 474	10,019	— 105	9,440	+ 59	1,075	307	1,323	10,763
	Uttengiri	153,801	— 13	13,086	172	13,245	+ 64	1,631	410	1,977	15,222
	TOTAL	1,966,995	1,707	133,953	3,718	139,378	328	21,773	4,578	26,677	166,055
Bellary	Gooty	144,568	1,574	10,169	641	12,384	+ 61	1,711	397	2,047	14,431
Kurnool	Nandikotkur	101,866	573	11,794	772	13,139	+ 111	869	221	979	14,118
Cuddapah	Madanapalli	135,468	135	10,684	478	11,297	+ 32	791	222	981	12,278
Nellore	Gudur	147,141	101	2,761	115	2,977	172	422	45	639	3,616
Coimbatore	Paladam	237,808	— 273	7,486	230	7,443	+ 492	10	13	+ 469	6,974
Chingleput	Ponneri	104,210	73	4,180	— 23	4,230	139	818	214	1,171	5,401
	TOTAL	2,838,056	3,890	181,027	5,931	190,848	+ 57	26,394	4,205	32,025	222,873

Octacamund, 11 May 1878.

(E.)

STATEMENT showing the Number of EMIGRANTS to *Ceylon*, &c., during August 1877.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Emigrants during the Month.									Average Number during the corresponding Period of the past Three Years.								
	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.
Ganjam	–	152	–	–	–	–	–	–	152	–	96	–	–	–	–	–	–	96
Vizagapatam	–	69	–	–	–	–	–	–	69	–	45	–	–	–	–	–	–	45
Godavery	–	217	–	–	–	–	–	–	217	–	301	–	–	–	–	–	–	301
Kistna	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nellore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madras	–	–	–	339	–	–	–	–	339	–	–	–	147	–	117	–	–	264
South Arcot	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	78	60	50	–	191
Tanjore	2,546	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,546	28	–	328	–	–	–	–	–	356
Madura	19,048	465	606	–	–	–	–	–	20,119	8,618	356	–	–	–	–	–	–	8,974
Tinnevelly	8,493	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8,493	3,199	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,199
South Canara	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malabar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	30,087	903	606	339	–	–	–	–	31,935	11,848	798	328	147	78	177	50	–	13,426

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STATEMENT showing the Number of PERSONS who returned from *Ceylon*, &c., during August 1877.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Persons who returned during the Month.									Average Number during the corresponding Period of the previous Three Years.								
	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.
Ganjam	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	5
Vizagapatam	–	284	–	–	–	–	–	–	284	–	147	–	–	–	–	–	–	147
Godavery	–	44	–	–	–	–	–	–	44	–	125	–	–	–	–	–	–	125
Kistna	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nellore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madras	–	–	–	–	–	393	–	–	393	–	–	–	9	–	–	–	128	137
South Arcot	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Tanjore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	11
Madura	2,262	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,262	6,137	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6,137
Tinnevelly	3,412	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,412	1,867	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,867
South Canara	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malabar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	5,676	328	–	–	–	393	–	–	6,397	8,018	277	–	9	–	–	–	128	8,432

STATEMENT showing the Number of EMIGRANTS to *Ceylon*, &c., during September 1877.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Emigrants during the Month.									Average Number during the corresponding Period of the previous Three Years.								
	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.
Ganjam	–	109	–	–	–	–	–	–	100	–	176	–	–	–	–	–	–	176
Vizagapatam	–	787	–	–	–	–	–	–	787	–	719	–	–	–	–	–	–	719
Godavery	–	2,090	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,090	–	3,711	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,711
Kistna	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nellore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madras	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	472	472	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
South Arcot	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	78	*55	50	–	185
Tanjore	1,308	–	30	–	–	–	–	–	1,338	25	–	434	–	–	–	–	–	459
Madura	8,722	1,010	166	–	–	–	–	–	9,898	8,735	718	1,165	–	–	–	–	–	10,618
Tinnevelly	9,285	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9,285	3,290	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,290
South Canara	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malabar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	19,315	3,996	196	–	–	–	–	472	23,979	12,522	5,324	1,599	–	78	55	50	–	19,158

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STATEMENT showing the Number of PERSONS who returned from *Ceylon*, &c., during September 1877.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Persons who returned during the Month.									Average Number during the corresponding Period of the previous Three Years.								
	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.
Ganjam	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30	–	–	–	–	–	–	30
Vizagapatam	–	104	–	–	–	–	–	–	104	–	101	–	–	–	–	–	–	101
Godavery	–	110	–	–	–	–	–	–	110	–	161	–	–	–	–	–	–	161
Kistna	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nellore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madras	–	–	–	145	–	–	–	–	145	–	–	–	103	69	–	–	57	229
South Arcot	9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
Tanjore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	10
Madura	2,330	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,330	5,557	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5,557
Tinnevelly	3,093	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,093	1,596	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,596
South Canara	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malabar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	5,432	214	–	145	–	–	–	–	5,791	7,167	292	–	103	69	–	–	57	7,688

STATEMENT showing the Number of EMIGRANTS to *Ceylon*, &c., during October 1877.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Emigrants during the Month.									Average Number during the corresponding period of the Past Three Years.								
	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.
Ganjam	–	100	–	–	–	–	–	–	100	–	167	–	–	–	–	–	–	167
Vizagapatam	–	38	–	–	–	–	–	–	38	–	23	–	–	–	–	–	–	23
Godavery	–	284	–	–	–	–	–	–	284	–	407	–	–	–	–	–	–	407
Kistna	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nellore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madras	–	–	–	365	–	382	–	498	1,245	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
South Arcot	–	–	18	–	–	*60	–	–	78	–	–	208	–	78	†55	50	–	391
Tanjore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madura	8,328	–	265	–	–	–	–	–	8,593	9,790	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	9,790
Tinnevelly	3,905	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,905	2,218	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,218
South Canara	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malabar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	12,233	422	283	365	–	442	–	498	14,376	12,008	597	208	–	78	55	50	–	12,996

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STATEMENT showing the Number of Persons who returned from *Ceylon*, &c., during October 1877.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Persons who returned during the Month.									Average Number during the corresponding Period of the previous Three Years.								
	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.
Ganjam	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vizagapatam	–	153	–	–	–	–	–	–	153	–	104	–	–	–	–	–	–	104
Godavery	–	89	–	–	–	–	–	–	89	–	100	–	–	–	–	–	–	100
Kistna	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nellore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madras	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16	16	–	–	–	119	28	–	–	100	247
South Arcot	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
Tanjore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Nil.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madura	2,371	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,371	4,754	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4,754
Tinnevelly	3,225	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,225	1,711	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,711
South Canara	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malabar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	5,596	242	–	–	–	–	–	16	5,854	6,471	204	–	119	28	–	–	100	6,922

STATEMENT showing the Number of EMIGRANTS to *Ceylon*, &c., during November 1877.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Emigrants during the Month.									Average Number during the corresponding Period of the past Three Years.								
	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.
Ganjam	–	572	–	–	–	–	–	–	572	–	273	–	–	–	–	–	–	273
Vizagapatam	–	71	–	–	–	–	–	–	71	–	435	–	–	–	–	–	–	435
Godavery	–	589	–	–	–	–	–	–	589	–	555	–	–	–	–	–	–	555
Kistna	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Nil.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nellore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Nil.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madras	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	215	215	–	–	–	–	–	405	–	–	405
South Arcot	–	–	35	–	–	–	–	–	35	1	–	–	–	78	* 55	50	–	184
Tanjore	110	–	496	–	–	–	–	–	606	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madura	5,339	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5,339	7,983	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7,983
Tinnevelly	2,002	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,002	2,612	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,612
South Canara	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Nil.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malabar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Nil.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	7,451	1,232	531	–	–	–	–	215	9,429	10,596	1,263	–	–	78	460	50	–	12,447

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STATEMENT showing the Number of PERSONS who returned from *Ceylon*, &c., during November 1877.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Persons who returned during the Month.									Average Number during the corresponding Period of the previous Three Years.								
	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Cayenne.	Natal.	TOTAL.
Ganjam	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vizagapatam	–	100	–	–	–	–	–	–	100	–	133	–	–	–	–	–	–	133
Godavery	–	59	–	–	–	–	–	–	59	–	77	–	–	–	–	–	–	77
Kistna	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Nil.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nellore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Nil.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madras	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	36	–	–	–	86	122
South Arcot	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tanjore	19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madura	3,973	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,973	2,590	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,590
Tinnevelly	3,216	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,216	1,711	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1,711
South Canara	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Nil.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malabar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Nil.	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	7,208	159	–	–	–	–	–	–	7,367	4,301	210	–	36	–	–	–	86	4,633

STATEMENT showing the Number of EMIGRANTS to *Ceylon*, &c., during the Ten Months ending 31st July 1877.

DISTRICTS.	Number of Emigrants during the Ten Months ending 31st July 1877.								Average Number during the corresponding Period of previous Three Years.							
	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Natal.	TOTAL.	Ceylon.	Burmah.	Straits Settlements.	Mauritius.	Réunion.	West Indies.	Natal.	TOTAL.
Ganjam	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,099	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,036
Vizagapatam	1	1,971	–	–	–	–	–	1,972	–	1,690	–	–	–	–	–	1,690
Godavery	–	1,735	–	–	–	–	–	1,735	–	1,958	–	–	–	–	–	1,958
Kistna	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nellore	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Madras	–	–	–	–	1,560	1,199	–	2,759	–	–	–	791	983	1,132.	–	2,906
South Arcot	26	–	–	–	–	–	–	26	16	–	118	–	–	–	–	134
Tanjore	–	–	2,506	–	–	–	–	2,506	–	–	1,776	–	–	–	–	1,776
Madura	156,973	–	–	–	–	–	–	156,973	66,744	–	–	–	–	–	–	66,744
Tinnevelly	38,693	–	–	–	–	–	–	38,693	20,872	–	–	–	–	–	–	20,872
South Canara	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Malabar	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	195,693	3,706	2,506	–	1,560	1,199	–	204,664	87,632	3,648	1,894	791	983	1,132	–	96,080
								3,099								2,036
								207,763								98,116

(No. 5 of 1878.)

From the Government of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India, London.

Public Works Department, Bombay Castle,
22 April 1878.

My Lord,

ADVERTING to paragraph 10 of Famine Statement No. LVII. for the week ending 22nd December 1877, we have now the honour to submit the results of the Census taken on the 19th January 1878.

2. We find that this new and partial Census leaves the question of mortality from famine very much in the same doubtful state as before; but, so far as we can judge, the following conclusions may be formed:—

1st. That the new Census taken in the Talukas or tracts of country selected as the worst or most distressed by the famine, does seem to show a diminution in the population.

2nd. That this diminution is in a considerable degree apparent only, as arising from migration, and partly real, as arising from mortality.

3rd. That the mortality arose partly from sickness other than famine—sickness extending not only throughout the year 1877, that is, the year of famine, but also throughout the two previous years 1876 and 1875, which were not years of famine—and partly also from famine.

4th. That the mortality arising from famine itself cannot be exactly estimated, but probably it was not considerable, or was, rather, comparatively inconsiderable.

We have, &c.

(signed) *Richard Temple.*
J. Gibbs.
L. R. Ashburner.

NOTE on the Census taken in January 1878 of certain TALUKAS within the Area affected by FAMINE in 1876 and 1877.

THE Census was taken on the 19th January 1878. The General Census of 1872 was taken on the 21st of February. The times of year selected on the two occasions correspond sufficiently to prevent any ordinary annual movement among the population from vitiating a comparison between the results of the two Censuses.

Selection of Districts.

2. Nine Collectorates were affected more or less severely by the famine, but it was not considered necessary to take a Census in all of these. The five districts in which, according to the returns received from the Sanitary Commissioner, the mortality had, during the nine months ending with September 1877, been highest, were chosen. These were, in order according to the height of the rate of mortality in each,

Kaladgi.	Satara.
Dharwar.	Sholapur.
Belgaum.	

The period of nine months mentioned above was taken, as January 1877 was considered to be the first month in which the death-rate could possibly have been affected by the scarcity, and as September was the last month for which returns were available. Had a selection of the five worst districts been made, not on the basis of the mortuary returns, but on the general information in the hands of Government, the only difference would have been that Poona would have been substituted for Satara.

3. Within

Selection of Talukas.

3. Within the five districts, talukas were selected in this wise: In order to know the worst, the taluka in which the death-rate appeared to have been highest was chosen, and in order to have an estimate of the effect of the famine on the whole population of the district, that taluka was chosen in which the death-rate had been most nearly identical with the death-rate of the district. The talukas in which the death-rate was shown as the highest in each district were,

Sangola in Sholapur.	Athni in Belgaum.
Man in Satara.	Ron in Dharwar.
Bagalkot in Kaladgi.	

and the talukas in which the rate of mortality most nearly agreed with that of the district were,

Madha in Sholapur.	Sampgaon in Belgaum.
Khatau in Satara.	Kod in Dharwar.
Badami in Kaladgi.	

The ascertained results for what purposes of calculation available.

4. Of these 10 talukas accordingly a census has been taken; and the method of selection having been as above described, it follows that it would be meaningless to combine, in the way of aggregation, the results pertaining to the first group of five talukas with those of the second group, or indeed to take the aggregate of the results belonging to the first five talukas at all. The returns of each of these talukas must be looked at individually: their purpose is to show how far the population of each district has been affected by the famine in that subdivision in which, as was conjectured, the effect of the famine was greatest; though, as is explained below, they cannot in all cases be accepted as indicating this. On the other hand, the second group of talukas having been selected each as the average representative of its district, the results in their case, it was expected, might have been combined to furnish an estimate of the effect of the famine on the whole population of the five districts. But though at the time of selecting the worst and the mean talukas, it was thought best to be guided by the mortuary returns, the results of the Census tend to show that those returns did not furnish the very best guide. In the cases of Sholapur and Kaladgi the talukas selected as average ones appear from the Census to have suffered much more than those supposed to be the worst. But it is to be noticed that in these two cases the selection of worst talukas made on the basis of the mortuary returns is not the same as would have been made if the recorded accounts of the condition of the talukas only had been considered, while in those cases in which the mortuary returns correspond with the general accounts of the talukas, the Census returns also are found to agree. Thus in the districts of Satara, Belgaum, and Dharwar, the talukas of Man, Athni, and Ron respectively are indicated as the worst as well by the accounts received of the failure of crops, &c., as by the mortuary returns. But in Sholapur it is the very taluka (Madha) selected by the mortuary returns, as an average one, that the reports at the close of 1876 showed to be the worst of all. Madha was the only taluka in Sholapur in which the outturn of both kharif and rabi crops was estimated as nothing. Of the talukas of Kaladgi worse accounts were given of three others than of either Bagalkot or Badami. The returns of the talukas of the second group therefore must be taken, like those of the first, each by itself. And in judging of the returns of the 10 talukas it can safely be assumed only in the case of Man, Athni, and Ron that the taluka in question is the worst of its district, though that is probably true also in the case of Madha. Of the other talukas Sangola may be taken as one of the worst three in Sholapur, Khatau as one of the worst four in Satara; Bagalkot was a little below the average, and Badami, except in the matter of prices, one of the best in Kaladgi; the accounts of Sampgaon are conflicting, as its crops were estimated to be among the best in the district, while as regards rainfall and prices, it was amongst the worst; Kod was one of the best districts in Dharwar.

Selection of particulars of enumeration.

5. The purpose of the Census being merely to ascertain to what extent the growth of the population had been checked by the famine, it was deemed unnecessary to make the Census meet all the requirements of the elaborate returns called for on the occasion of the general Census. Other reasons of

simplifying the work as much as possible were the long and trying labours the district officers and their subordinates had just undergone, and the wish to obtain the results of the Census while famine and famine policy were still prominent objects in the deliberations of the Indian Governments. Accordingly, those of the statements prescribed for the general Census of 1872 which are not addressed to matters liable to be immediately influenced by famine have been on this occasion omitted, and no classifications of the population have been made except those according to (1) sex, (2) age, (3) religion in so far as the divisions connote race, (4) condition as judged from the style of house dwelt in, and (5) occupation in so far as it is agricultural or not. As regards the classification according to ages, the same divisions of age have been observed as in 1872. As regards religion, the numbers of Buddhists and Christians in the districts in question were too small for it to be worth while to maintain them as separate classes; indeed it was only on account of the numbers of these classes in Burma and Madras that they were so distinguished in 1872, so only Hindus and Muhammadans have been shown separately, and the few others remaining counted together. As regards occupation a more particular classification would have been made, but that the previous Census would furnish no standard of comparison, Form No. VI. having been prepared in 1872 according to districts only and not according to talukas.

The returns prepared with additional lines comparing the figures of 1872 with those of 1878.

6. The results of the Census now taken are set forth in the accompanying Tables, and, to facilitate comparison, the corresponding figures of the Census of 1872 are set out in parallel lines throughout the Tables, the difference in each case being shown in a third line below. In some points—but fortunately points of less importance—no comparison is practicable as different standards have been adopted, or some of the instructions differently interpreted on the two occasions, and indeed in different districts and different talukas of the same district on the same occasion. Thus a comparison of the number of enclosures with the number of houses shows that the definition of enclosure has in some cases been misunderstood. A comparison of the number of houses of the better sort in 1872 with the number in 1878 shows that in some cases a different standard of quality has been taken. Again in both talukas of Belgaum and in Madha of Sholapur some classes not counted as Hindus in 1872 have obviously been counted as such in 1878. And lastly, the number given as the total agricultural population is, in many instances in the returns of 1872, and in the case of Kaladgi in 1878, obviously too small in comparison with the number of male agriculturists above 20 years of age. But these discrepancies do not interfere with the more important objects of the Census. The salient points indicated by the different Tables are considered in the following paragraphs.

No. I. General Statement of Area and Population. A. Abstract, p. 31.

7. The first Table shows that with the exception of the taluka of Kod in Dharwar where there is a slight increase, there has been a diminution in the population of every taluka since 1872. Of the population recorded in 1872 the per-centage of diminution for each taluka is given below:—

Sangola	3 per cent.	Badami	20 per cent.
Madha	19 „	Athni	13 „
Man	12 „	Sampgaon	4 „
Khatau	10 „	Ron	7 „
Bagalkot	11 „		

In Kod an increase of 1·7 is shown on the population of 1872.

This is briefly the result of the Census just taken, but an examination of the detailed returns is necessary to a proper understanding of its significance.

No. I. General Statement of Area and Population. B. Details of Population, p. 32.

8. In the second Table the people are classified (1) according as they live in houses of the better or of inferior sort, (2) according to sex, and (3) according as they are Hindus, Muhammadans, or of some other denomination.

That the poorer people should suffer from the scarcity more than those in better condition is axiomatic, but the Table furnishes no means of comparing the ratios of diminution of the two divisions, as the classification of houses has not been regular.

An

Sex.

An examination of columns 7 and 8 of this Table discloses that the number of males has diminished a great deal more than the number of females. This is true of every taluka except Kod, where there has been no diminution, and where such increase as there has been is more among males than females. The exception is important as indicating, so far as it goes, that the difference in the rates of diminution of males and females is really due to a cause relating to famine, the cause being found to bear its result in every taluka except that in which the influence of the famine was least. The per-centage of diminution in the numbers of each sex in each of the nine other talukas is shown below :—

DISTRICT.	TALUKA.	Per-centage of Diminution of the Population of 1872.	
		Males.	Females.
Sholapur	Sangola	4	2
	Madha	21	18
Satara	Man	13	10
	Khatau	11	9
Kaladgi	Bagalkot	13	10
	Badami	22	18
Belgaum	Athni	14	11
	Sampgaon	5	3
Dharwar	Ron	9	5

As there is no known reason why the male population should decrease much, if at all, faster than the female, whereas it is probable that men go further in search of occupation than women, the deduction to be drawn appears to be that part of the diminution of population the Census shows in this respect is due to migration only.

Race.

The columns from No. 9 to the end show the classification according to race. The same numbering of columns has been retained as in the Tables of the Census of 1872, and where one column now represents more than one of those of 1872, the numbers of the component columns are all entered and joined with the sign +. The population of these districts is in such preponderance Hindu that little is indicated by the Census as to the comparative effect of the famine on the different nationalities. In three only of the ten selected talukas is another class found large enough to form a basis of comparison with the other inhabitants. These are the Muhammadans of Athni and Sampgaon in Belgaum and of Bagalkot in Kaladgi. In the last-named taluka the diminution of the Muhammadan population has differed little from that of the other people, it being 12 per cent. in the case of the Muhammadans and nearly 12 per cent. in the case of the others. But in the two talukas of Belgaum the difference is very great, the Muhammadan population of Athni and Sampgaon being less respectively by 24 and 21 per cent. than in 1872, while the diminution in the people of other races is less only by 12 and 2 per cent. respectively.

No. II A. General Statement of Population according to Age, p. 34.

9. The third Table shows, separately for males and females, the population divided into nine classes according to age. Comparing the results with those of the Census of 1872 it will be seen that there is a very great diminution in the numbers of very young children, an increase in the numbers of older children and persons up to 20 years of age, a slight diminution in those between 20 and 40 years of age, a more considerable diminution of those above 40, and a great diminution in those above 60 years of age. Or, stating the results in greater detail, the diminution in the number of infants under one year of age varies from 23 per cent. in Kod to 73 per cent. in Badami; that in the children between one and six years of age from 13 per cent. in Man to 41 per cent. in Bagalkot. The number of children between 6 and 12 has increased in seven

out of the ten talukas. So also the persons between 12 and 20 years of age have increased in seven out of the ten talukas. But those between 20 and 30 are fewer in eight talukas; those between 30 and 40 fewer in seven talukas; those between 40 and 50 fewer in nine talukas, the per-centage of diminution rising to 21 per cent. in Man; those between 50 and 60 are fewer in eight talukas, the per-centage rising to 28 per cent. in Badami; and those above 60 years of age are fewer in eight out of the ten talukas, the per-centage of diminution amounting to 57 per cent. in the Man taluka.

Now, it is well known that in ordinary years the diminution among the very young and the very old is very much more than among those of intermediate ages; and in a year of famine, such diminution would be even much more marked than in ordinary years. The registration during 1877, the records of which are now complete, fully bears this out.

In 1872 it was computed that the death-rate amounted to 3·557 per cent. of the whole population of the Presidency of Bombay, whereas in 1877 it amounted to 3·876 per cent., and in the nine affected districts to 5·477 per cent. of the population of those districts, indicating large mortality; but, even assuming a death-rate based upon the loss of very young children, which is the most unfavourable view of the case, the census of 1878 most distinctly indicates very large migration from Madha and Badami, a fact borne out by the reports of the District Officers, considerable migration from Man, Khatau, Bagalkot, and Athni, and some migration into Kod.

10. It is impossible to state precisely what proportion of the loss exhibited by the Census of 1878 is due to excess deaths from 1872 to 1876, to excess deaths during 1877, and to migration out of the distressed districts, but an examination of the calculations and speculations given in the appendix to this note will tend to throw some light, at any rate, upon the subject.

No. IV. Statement of Population with reference to Land and Land Revenue, p. 36.

11. The materials for comparison are so incomplete in the case of the fourth Table that no deductions can be drawn from it.

C. J. Merriman, Colonel, R.E.,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Public Works Department,
Bombay, 30 March 1878.

No. 1.—GENERAL STATEMENT OF AREA AND POPULATION.

(A.)—Abstract.

Collectorates.	Talukas. 1.		Area in Square Miles. 2.	Number of Villages, Mauzas, or Townships. 3.	Number of Inclosures. 4.	Number of Houses. 5.	Total Population. 6.	Persons per Square Mile. 7.
Sholápur	Sángola	February 1872	647·93	77	11,430	11,430	62,960	97·17
		January 1878	647·93	76	9,218	9,308	60,640	93·59
		Difference	- -	— 1	— 2,212	— 2,122	— 2,320	— 3·58
	Mádha	February 1872	612·93	90	10,513	18,935	103,981	169·65
		January 1878	612·93	89	8,586	16,608	83,317	135·93
		Difference	- -	— 1	— 1,927	— 2,327	— 20,664	— 33·72
Satara	Mán	February 1872	627	77	9,474	10,392	62,198	99·20
		January 1878	640·25	78	9,229	10,224	54,686	85·
		Difference	- -	+ 1	— 245	— 168	— 7,512	— 14·20
	Khatau	February 1872	499·5	87	9,728	13,243	81,950	164·06
		January 1878	530	87	11,273	13,101	73,668	138·99
		Difference	- -	- -	+ 1,545	— 142	— 8,282	— 25·07
Kaládgi	Bágalkot	February 1872	684·05	175	21,780	21,780	110,185	161·08
		January 1878	682·22	174	22,670	23,274	97,177	142·44
		Difference	- -	— 1	+ 890	+ 1,494	— 13,008	— 18·64
	Bádámi (excluding the Gajendragad Jagir)	February 1872	611·44	174	1	21,472	114,288	186·93
		January 1878	610·92	182	22,376	22,396	90,489	148·11
		Difference	- -	+ 8	- * -	+ 924	— 23,799	— 38·82
Belgaum	Athni	February 1872	789	83	18,640	21,474	114,677	145·34
		January 1878	789	81	19,039	19,039	99,554	126
		Difference	- -	— 2	+ 399	— 2,435	— 15,123	— 19·34
	Sampgaon	February 1872	409	140	26,392	26,444	131,504	321·53
		January 1878	409	122	26,481	26,481	125,804	308
		Difference	- -	— 18	+ 89	+ 37	— 5,700	— 13·53
Dharwar	Ron	February 1872	369·35	59	14,589	14,589	73,503	199·01
		January 1878	369·35	59	14,680	14,680	68,065	187·1
		Difference	- -	- -	+ 91	+ 91	— 5,438	— 11·91
	Kod	February 1872	398·90	189	14,652	14,915	79,099	198·29
		January 1878	398·90	189	18,830	18,830	80,472	201·7
		Difference	- -	- -	+ 4,178	+ 3,915	+ 1,373	+ 3·41

* No comparison practicable; *see* paragraph 6 of the accompanying Note.

No. I.—GENERAL STATEMENT OF AREA AND POPULATION—*continued.*

(B.)—Details of Population.

Collectorates.	Talukas.		Total Population.	Houses: Of the Better Sort. Number of Houses.	Houses: Of the Better Sort. Number of their Inhabitants.	Houses: Of Inferior Sort. Number of Houses.	Houses: Of Inferior Sort. Number of their Inhabitants.	Details of Population. Total Males.	Total Females.	Hindus. Males.	Hindus. Females.	Hindus. Total.	Muhammadans. Males.	Muhammadans. Females.	Muhammadans. Total.	Others. Males.	Others. Females.	Others. Total.
1.			2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15+18+21.	16+19+22.	17+20+23.
Sholápur	Sángola	February 1872	62,960	1,383	8,509	10,047	54,451	32,194	30,766	31,201	29,762	60,963	942	955	1,897	51	49	100
		January 1878	60,640	842	5,395	8,220	55,245	30,654	29,986	29,615	28,947	58,562	1,016	1,007	2,023	23	32	55
		Difference	—2,320	—541	—3,114	—1,827	+794	—1,540	—780	—1,586	—815	—2,401	+74	+52	+126	—28	—17	—45
	Mádha	February 1872	103,981	569	3,918	18,366	100,063	53,466	50,515	49,848	47,177	97,025	2,615	2,402	5,017	1,003	936	1,939
		January 1878	83,317	1,190	7,027	15,418	76,290	41,925	41,392	40,046	39,655	79,701	1,867	1,729	3,596	12	8	20
		Difference	—20,664	+621	+3,109	—2,948	—23,773	—11,541	—9,123	—9,802	—7,522	—17,324	—748	—673	—1,421	—991	—928	—1,919
Satara	Mán	February 1872	62,198	1,429	7,187	8,963	55,011	31,932	30,266	31,120	29,480	60,600	694	677	1,371	118	109	227
		January 1878	54,686	2,108	13,254	8,116	41,432	27,578	27,108	27,012	26,522	53,534	558	582	1,140	8	4	12
		Difference	—7,512	+679	+6,067	—847	—13,579	—4,354	—3,158	—4,108	—2,958	—7,066	—136	—95	—231	—110	—105	—215
	Khatau	February 1872	81,950	360	2,572	12,883	79,378	41,733	40,217	40,354	38,981	79,335	1,074	1,025	2,099	305	211	516
		January 1878	73,668	619	4,887	12,482	68,781	37,078	36,590	36,263	35,728	71,991	815	862	1,677	—	—	—
		Difference	—8,282	+259	+2,315	—401	—10,597	—4,655	—3,627	—4,091	—3,253	—7,344	—259	—163	—422	—305	—211	—516

Kaládgi	Bágalkot	February 1872	110,185	45	106	21,735	110,079	56,183	54,002	50,506	48,532	99,038	5,561	5,362	10,923	116	108	224
		January 1878	97,177	140	957	23,134	96,220	48,676	48,501	43,885	43,639	87,524	4,737	4,836	9,573	54	26	80
		Difference	—13,008	+95	+851	+1,399	—13,859	—7,507	—5,501	—6,621	—4,893	—11,514	—824	—526	—1,350	—62	—82	—144
	Bádámi (excluding the Gajendragad jagir).	February 1872	114,288	3	65	21,469	114,216	58,365	55,923	54,672	52,529	107,201	3,661	3,345	7,006	40	41	81
		January 1878	90,489	1,138	4,859	21,258	85,630	45,180	45,309	42,229	42,511	84,740	2,726	2,642	5,368	225	156	381
		Difference	—23,799	+1,135	+4,794	—211	—28,586	—13,185	—10,614	—12,443	—10,018	—22,461	—935	—703	—1,638	+185	+115	—300
Belgaum	Athni	February 1872	114,677	4,212	25,959	17,262	88,718	58,582	56,095	46,426	44,435	90,861	5,645	5,464	11,109	6,511	6,196	12,707
		January 1878	99,554	434	2,888	18,605	96,666	49,969	49,585	45,734	45,328	91,062	4,208	4,230	8,438	27	27	54
		Difference	—15,123	—3,778	—23,071	+1,343	+7,948	—8,613	—6,510	—692	+893	+201	—1,437	—1,234	—2,671	—6,484	—6,169	—12,653
	Sampgaon	February 1872	131,504	70	80	26,374	131,424	66,691	64,813	59,367	57,696	117,063	5,634	5,508	11,142	1,690	1,609	3,299
		January 1878	125,804	73	123	26,408	125,681	63,176	62,628	58,777	58,203	116,980	4,359	4,400	8,759	40	25	65
		Difference	—5,700	+3	+43	+34	—5,743	—3,515	—2,185	—590	+507	—83	—1,275	—1,108	—2,383	—1,650	—1,584	—3,234
Dharwar	Ron	February 1872	73,503	181	1,513	14,408	71,990	37,273	36,230	34,226	33,367	67,593	3,015	2,831	5,846	32	32	64
		January 1878	68,065	2,458	15,970	12,222	52,095	33,688	34,377	31,254	31,893	63,147	2,401	2,454	4,855	33	30	63
		Difference	—5,438	+2,277	+14,457	—2,186	—19,895	—3,585	—1,853	—2,972	—1,474	—4,446	—614	—377	—991	+1	—2	—1
	Kod	February 1872	79,099	366	2,330	14,549	76,769	40,493	38,606	36,780	35,212	71,992	3,518	3,175	6,693	195	219	414
		January 1878	80,472	170	361	18,660	80,111	41,424	39,048	37,725	35,659	73,384	3,491	3,189	6,680	208	200	408
		Difference	+1,373	—196	—1,969	+4,111	+3,342	+931	+442	+945	+447	+1,392	—27	+14	—13	+13	—19	—6

No. II A.—GENERAL STATEMENT of POPULATION according to AGE.

Collectorates.	TALUKAS. 1.		Not exceeding 1 Year. 47.	Above 1 and not exceeding 6 Years. 48.	Above 6 and not exceeding 12 Years. 49.	Above 12 and not exceeding 20 Years. 50.	Above 20 and not exceeding 30 Years. 51.	Above 30 and not exceeding 40 Years. 52.	Above 40 and not exceeding 50 Years. 53.	Above 50 and not exceeding 60 Years. 54.	Above 60 Years. 55.
Sholápur	Sángola	Males — February 1872	984	6,311	5,475	4,272	5,962	3,913	2,811	1,748	718
		Males — January 1878	633	4,705	6,253	4,513	5,742	4,135	2,667	1,469	537
		Difference	— 351	— 1,606	+ 778	+ 241	— 220	+ 222	— 144	— 279	— 181
		Females — February 1872	931	6,063	4,338	4,650	6,155	3,893	2,545	1,548	643
		Females — January 1878	628	4,791	5,251	4,554	6,210	4,140	2,402	1,473	537
		Difference	— 303	— 1,272	+ 913	— 96	+ 55	+ 247	— 143	— 75	— 106
	Mádha	Males — February 1872	2,516	9,226	8,436	6,806	10,290	7,012	5,198	2,990	992
		Males — January 1878	1,134	5,998	7,832	6,089	8,243	5,771	3,913	2,157	788
		Difference	—1,382	— 3,228	— 604	— 717	— 2,047	— 1,241	— 1,285	— 833	— 204
		Females — February 1872	2,533	9,084	7,113	7,592	10,381	6,852	4,212	2,278	970
		Females — January 1878	1,116	5,903	7,271	6,265	8,803	5,263	3,783	2,224	764
		Difference	—1,417	— 3,181	+ 158	—1,327	—1,578	—1,089	— 429	— 54	— 206
Satara	Mán	Males — February 1872	1,154	5,331	5,130	3,912	5,002	4,342	3,226	1,982	1,853
		Males — January 1878	614	4,582	5,445	3,802	4,859	3,625	2,482	1,442	727
		Difference	— 540	— 749	+ 315	— 110	— 143	— 717	— 744	— 540	—1,126
		Females — February 1872	1,172	5,173	4,087	3,267	5,607	4,480	2,805	1,756	1,919
		Females — January 1878	601	4,453	4,632	3,774	5,384	3,631	2,261	1,501	871
		Difference	— 571	— 720	+ 545	+ 507	— 223	— 849	— 544	— 255	—1,048
	Khatau	Males — February 1872	916	7,633	7,165	5,477	6,571	5,500	3,832	2,670	1,969
		Males — January 1878	1,214	6,227	6,943	5,314	6,567	4,630	3,173	1,966	1,044
		Difference	+ 298	— 1,406	— 222	— 163	— 4	— 870	— 659	— 704	— 925
		Females — February 1872	840	7,262	5,633	5,073	7,905	5,635	3,584	2,419	1,866
		Females — January 1878	930	6,095	5,906	5,277	7,380	4,818	3,193	1,994	997
		Difference	+ 90	— 1,167	+ 273	+ 204	— 525	— 817	— 391	— 425	— 869

No. II A.—GENERAL STATEMENT of Population according to Age—*continued.*

Collectorates.	TALUKAS.			Not exceeding 1 Year.	Above 1 and not exceeding 6 Years.	Above 6 and not exceeding 12 Years.	Above 12 and not exceeding 20 Years.	Above 20 and not exceeding 30 Years.	Above 30 and not exceeding 40 Years.	Above 40 and not exceeding 50 Years.	Above 50 and not exceeding 60 Years.	Above 60 Years.
	1.			47.	48.	49.	50.	51.	52.	53.	54.	55.
Kaládgi	Bágalkot	Males	February 1872	1,153	10,453	8,649	7,213	10,218	8,379	5,974	2,680	1,464
			January 1878	493	6,011	7,880	8,140	8,774	7,252	5,339	3,799	973
			Difference -	— 660	— 4,442	— 769	+ 927	— 1,444	— 1,127	— 635	+ 1,119	— 491
		Females	February 1872	1,131	10,002	6,931	6,604	11,322	7,859	4,974	2,785	2,394
			January 1878	527	5,938	7,584	6,529	9,168	7,591	5,170	4,491	1,503
			Difference -	— 604	— 4,064	+ 653	— 75	— 2,154	— 268	+ 196	+ 1,706	— 891
	Bádámi (excluding the Gajendragad Jagir).	Males	February 1872	1,637	10,767	9,144	8,116	10,040	8,331	5,903	3,077	1,358
			January 1878	459	6,441	8,271	6,628	9,884	6,597	4,299	1,916	685
			Difference -	—1,178	— 4,326	— 873	— 1,488	— 156	— 1,734	— 1,604	— 1,161	— 673
		Females	February 1872	1,524	10,666	7,705	7,829	10,731	7,868	4,808	2,905	1,879
			January 1878	387	6,218	7,728	6,833	9,772	6,720	4,187	2,386	1,078
			Difference -	—1,137	— 4,448	+ 23	— 996	— 959	— 1,148	— 621	— 519	— 801
Belgaum	Athni	Males	February 1872	3,133	9,813	9,145	7,696	10,190	8,129	5,895	3,203	1,378
			January 1878	1,322	7,344	9,164	7,341	9,225	7,241	4,723	2,676	933
			Difference -	—1,811	— 2,469	+ 19	— 355	— 965	— 888	— 1,172	— 527	— 445
		Females	February 1872	3,146	9,091	7,584	7,771	10,887	7,706	4,962	3,351	1,597
			January 1878	1,405	7,083	8,302	7,043	9,623	7,045	4,675	3,090	1,319
			Difference -	—1,741	— 2,008	+ 718	— 728	— 1,264	— 661	— 287	— 261	— 278
	Sampgaon	Males	February 1872	3,118	11,137	11,821	9,881	11,530	8,320	5,830	3,285	1,669
			January 1878	2,122	9,502	11,511	10,445	11,349	8,415	5,385	2,895	1,552
			Difference -	— 996	— 1,635	— 310	+ 564	— 181	+ 95	— 445	— 490	— 117
		Females	February 1872	3,393	10,708	10,118	10,179	12,073	8,274	5,198	3,219	1,651
			January 1878	2,162	9,379	10,473	9,670	12,102	8,382	5,299	3,290	1,871
			Difference -	—1,231	— 1,329	+ 355	— 509	+ 29	+ 108	+ 101	+ 71	+ 220
Dharwar	Ron	Males	February 1872	873	5,798	5,654	5,407	5,932	4,498	3,926	2,985	2,200
			January 1878	402	4,311	5,577	5,896	6,325	4,562	3,009	2,255	1,351
			Difference -	— 471	— 1,487	— 77	+ 489	+ 393	+ 64	— 917	— 730	— 849
		Females	February 1872	858	5,514	5,207	4,683	6,139	5,061	3,699	2,595	2,474
			January 1878	347	4,225	5,520	4,972	6,707	4,768	3,450	2,539	1,759
			Difference -	— 511	— 1,289	+ 313	+ 289	+ 658	— 293	— 249	— 56	— 715
	Kod	Males	February 1872	1,042	6,811	7,038	6,337	7,108	5,455	3,583	2,238	881
			January 1878	762	5,291	6,770	7,347	7,281	5,935	3,976	3,116	946
			Difference -	— 280	— 1,520	— 268	+ 1,010	+ 173	+ 480	+ 393	+ 878	+ 65
		Females	February 1872	940	7,149	6,505	6,401	7,311	4,556	2,963	1,875	906
			January 1878	763	5,306	6,896	5,983	7,566	5,201	3,334	2,928	1,071
			Difference -	— 177	— 1,843	+ 391	— 418	+ 255	+ 645	+ 371	+ 1,053	+ 165

No. IV.—STATEMENT of POPULATION with reference to LAND and LAND REVENUE.

Collectorates.	TALUKAS. 1.		Total Population. 2.	Total Agricultural Population. 3.	Total Male Agriculturalists above 20 Years of Age. 4.
Sholápur	Sángola	February 1872	62,960	12,285	(Not obtainable.)
		January 1878	60,640	32,337	8,665
		Difference	— 2,320	*	*
	Mádha	February 1872	103,981	17,994	(Not obtainable.)
		January 1878	83,317	32,993	9,400
		Difference	— 20,664	*	*
Satara	Mán	February 1872	62,198	10,778	(Not obtainable.)
		January 1878	54,686	29,673	9,090
		Difference	— 7,512	*	*
	Khatau	February 1872	81,950	19,961	(Not obtainable.)
		January 1878	73,668	33,991	11,878
		Difference	— 8,282	*	*
Kaládgi	Bágalkot	February 1872	110,185	15,651	14,217
		January 1878	97,177	16,715	10,255
		Difference	— 13,008	*	— 3,962
	Bádámi (excluding Gajendragad).	February 1872	114,288	19,735	17,097
		January 1878	90,489	47,317	13,541
		Difference	— 23,799	*	— 3,556
Belgaum	Athni	February 1872	114,677	16,240	7,937
		January 1878	99,554	35,756	11,701
		Difference	— 15,123	*	*
	Sampgaon	February 1872	131,504	17,130	7,879
		January 1878	125,804	51,838	16,162
		Difference	— 5,700	*	*
Dharwar	Ron	February 1872	73,503	12,213	9,523
		January 1878	68,065	36,071	9,408
		Difference	— 5,438	*	— 115
	Kod	February 1872	79,099	16,280	11,607
		January 1878	80,472	53,672	12,838
		Difference	+ 1,373	*	+ 1,231

* No comparison practicable; *see* para. 6 of the accompanying Note.

APPENDIX,

With Tables (A.) to (G.).

The death-rate for the whole Presidency was, in 1877=38·76 per 1,000 of population.

The death-rate of each class was, during the same year,—

Infants under 1	149·43	per 1,000
Children 1 to 12	28·75	„
Adults 12 to 50	25·64	„
Old people above 50	125·72	„

Taking the ratio of increase as 1 per cent. per annum, the population at the beginning of 1878 ought to have been 6·15 per cent. greater than shown by the Census of 1872. Table (E.) shows the difference between the census returns of January 1878, and the population of 1872 raised 6·15 per cent.

Calling this difference *loss*, Table (F.) shows the loss per 1,000 of each class in each taluka, and the question comes what proportion of this loss, if any, is due to migration?

It may be reasonably supposed that whatever portion of the loss is due to death, in such portion the respective losses of each class would approximate to that shown above, and that the special conditions giving rise to increased mortality in 1877 would tend rather to raise than to lower the loss of infants and old people, as compared with the loss of children and adults.

Table (G.) is obtained by dividing the loss per 1,000 of each class by the figures given above. Where the figures under the columns children and adults exceed the figures under the columns infants and old people, we must either suppose that the special conditions above referred to caused increased mortality among children and adults as compared with infants and old people, or what is more reasonable that a portion of the loss was due to migration of children and adults, and the greater the difference between the figures the greater such migration.

Referring to Table (G.) it will be seen that the figures under children and adults exceed those under infants and old people in greatest proportion in the talukas of Bádámi and Mádha, indicating that a large portion of the loss of population of those two talukas was due to migration. Bádámi shows the highest loss rate for children, and nearly the highest loss rate for old people, indicating a large mortality as well as much migration. More or less migration is also indicated from the following talukas:—Mán, Khatau, Bágalkot and Athni. No migration is indicated from Sángola; here the loss is probably due to mortality, what proportion in 1877, and what in previous years, it is impossible to say. The same remarks apply to Ron. On the other hand, the figures indicate migration into Kod, hence the indications are—

Large migration from Bádámi and Mádha.
Less migration from Mán, Khatau, Bágalkot, and Athni.
No migration indicated Sángola and Ron.*
Migration into Kod.

If the talukas are placed in order of their loss rate, we have—

1st. Bádámi, 254·11; Mádha, 245·15.

2nd. Athni, 187·10; Mán, 171·72; Bágalkot, 169·29; Khatau, 153·14.

3rd. Ron, 127·64; Sampgaon, 98·78; Sángola, 92·66.

4th. Kod, 41·58.

As a speculation, as to the amount of migration from each taluka, we may proceed as follows:—Assuming that the loss rate of children and adults, in excess of that for infants and old people, represents migration, we find that in the six talukas named this amounted to,—

Mádha -	12,091	individuals=loss	per	1,000	of population	of the taluka, 110·95
Bádámi -	10,081	„	„	„	„	83·09
Bágalkot	8,351	„	„	„	„	71·39
Khatau -	4,211	„	„	„	„	48·40
Athni -	5,010	„	„	„	„	41·15
Mán -	1,785	„	„	„	„	26·71

These

* *See* Note to Table (G.).

These figures are obtained by taking from Table (G.) the highest of the two figures under infants and old people, *i. e.*, the figure under infants in every taluka except Khatau, and deducting it from the figures under children and adults, the remainders multiplied by 28·75 and 25·64 respectively, give loss per 1,000 of children and adults due to migration, and these, calculated on the numbers of each class, give the loss of individuals.

But it is fair to suppose that the actual migration was higher than the numbers shown above for the following reasons:—

1st. The migration rate is calculated above on the presumption that the special causes prevailing in 1877 caused increased mortality of all classes alike. Now Table (G.) shows that in every taluka except one (Khatau), and one (Mán) where the losses are equal, the loss of old people was less than that of infants, from which it may be presumed that, of the two classes (infants and old people) likely to suffer most, the infants suffered in greater proportion than the old people.

2nd. Migration of children and adults would, in all probability, be accompanied by migration of infants and old people, of which no notice has been taken in the calculation.

We may attempt to eliminate the error from the first of these two causes by repeating the calculation just made, employing the mean of the figures in Table (G.) under infants and old people in place of the highest of the two figures; modifying the calculation in this way, we get the following migration rates:—

Mádha	-	14,802	individuals = loss per 1,000,	134·10
Bádámi	-	12,952	,, ,,	106·76
Bágalkot	-	13,696	,, ,,	117·09
Khatau	-	8,131	,, ,,	93·46
Athni	-	8,261	,, ,,	67·86
Mán	-	1,785	,, ,,	26·71
Sampgaon		4,921	,, ,,	35·25

The recorded death-rate during 1877, in the nine affected districts, was 54·77 per 1,000, and the death-rate of each class in the same districts was—

Infants under 1	- - - - -	173·16 per 1,000
Children 1 to 12	- - - - -	42·91 ,,
Adults 12 to 50	- - - - -	35·85 ,,
Old people over 50	- - - -	176·16 ,,

Repeating the last calculation, employing these figures instead of the figures for the whole Presidency, we get the following migration rates:—

Mádha, loss per 1,000	- - - -	122·79
Bádámi ,,	- - - -	91·82
Bágalkot ,,	- - - -	115·82
Khatau ,,	- - - -	95·46
Athni ,,	- - - -	56·67
Mán ,,	- - - -	22·76
Sampgaon ,,	- - - -	27·98

It will be noticed that in two cases, Bágalkot and Sampgaon, these estimated migration rates, if deducted from the total loss-rate, give figures below the recorded death-rate in the taluka. But the migration rates deducted from the loss rates, only give the excess loss which has taken place in each taluka during the six years ending January 1878, over and above that due to the loss by average mortality during the same period. Three causes may have been in operation to produce this excess loss,—

1st. Migration of infants and old people accompanying migrating children and adults, of which, in the previous calculations, no notice has been taken.

2nd. Excess mortality during the five years ending January 1877.

3rd. Excess mortality during the year ending January 1878.

What proportion of the excess loss is attributable to each of these heads it is not possible to say.

TABLE (A.)—POPULATION of 1872.

TALUKAS.	Population of 1872.	Infants under 1.	Children 1 to 12.	Adults 12 to 50.	Old People over 50.
Sángola - - -	62,960	1,915	22,187	34,201	4,657
Mádha - - -	103,981	5,049	33,859	57,843	7,230
Mán - - - -	62,198	2,326	19,721	32,641	7,510
Khatau - - -	81,950	1,756	27,693	43,577	8,924
Bágalkot - - -	110,185	2,284	36,035	62,543	9,323
Bádámi - - -	114,288	3,161	38,282	63,626	9,219
Athni - - - -	114,677	6,279	35,633	63,236	9,529
Sampgaon - - -	131,504	6,511	43,784	71,285	9,924
Ron - - - -	73,503	1,731	22,173	39,345	10,254
Kod - - - -	79,099	1,982	27,503	43,714	5,900

TABLE (B.)—LOSSES since 1872.

TALUKAS.	TOTAL.	Infants under 1.	Children 1 to 12.	Adults 12 to 50.	Old People over 50.
Sángola - - -	2,320	654	1,187	+ 162	641
Mádha - - -	20,664	2,799	6,855	9,713	1,297
Mán - - - -	7,512	1,111	609	2,823	2,969
Khatau - - -	8,282	+ 388	2,522	3,225	2,923
Bágalkot - - -	13,023	1,264	8,622	4,580	+ 1,443
Bádámi - - -	23,799	2,315	9,624	8,706	3,154
Athni - - - -	15,123	3,552	3,740	6,320	1,511
Sampgaon - - -	5,700	2,227	2,919	238	316
Ron - - - -	5,438	982	2,540	+ 434	2,350
Kod - - - -	+ 1,373	457	3,240	+ 2,909	+ 2,161

TABLE (C.)—6·152 per Cent. on TOTALS of A.

TALUKAS.	TOTAL.	Infants under 1.	Children 1 to 12.	Adults 12 to 50.	Old People over 50.
Sángola - - -	3,873	117	1,364	2,104	286
Mádha - - -	6,395	310	2,083	3,558	444
Mán - - - -	3,826	143	1,213	2,008	462
Khatau - - -	5,040	118	1,693	2,680	549
Bágalkot - - -	6,773	140	2,216	3,847	573
Bádámi - - -	7,030	194	2,355	3,914	567
Athni - - - -	7,054	386	2,192	3,890	586
Sampgaon - - -	8,089	400	2,693	4,385	610
Ron - - - -	4,521	106	1,364	2,420	630
Kod - - - -	4,865	121	1,691	2,689	362

TABLE (D.)—ASSUMED POPULATION of 1878 = A. + C.

TALUKAS.	TOTAL.	Infants under 1.	Children 1 to 12.	Adults 12 to 50.	Old People over 50.
Sángola - - -	66,833	2,032	23,551	36,305	4,943
Mádha - - - -	110,376	5,359	35,942	61,401	7,674
Mán - - - -	66,024	2,469	20,934	34,649	7,972
Khatau - - -	86,990	1,874	29,386	46,257	9,473
Bágalkot - - -	116,963	2,424	38,251	66,390	9,896
Bádámi - - -	121,318	3,355	40,637	67,540	9,786
Athni - - - -	121,731	6,665	37,825	67,126	10,115
Sampgaon - - -	139,593	6,911	46,477	75,670	10,534
Ron - - - -	78,024	1,837	23,537	41,765	10,884
Kod - - - -	83,964	2,103	29,194	46,403	6,262

TABLE (E.)—ASSUMED LOSS since 1872 = B. + C.

TALUKAS.	TOTAL.	Infants under 1.	Children 1 to 12.	Adults 12 to 50.	Old People over 50.
Sángola - - -	6,193	771	2,551	1,942	927
Mádha - - - -	27,059	3,109	8,938	13,271	1,741
Mán - - - -	11,338	1,254	1,822	4,831	3,431
Khatau - - -	13,322	+ 270	4,215	5,905	3,472
Bágalkot - - -	19,801	1,404	10,838	8,427	+ 870
Bádámi - - -	30,829	2,509	11,979	12,620	3,721
Athni - - - -	22,177	3,938	5,932	10,210	2,097
Sampgaon - - -	13,789	2,627	5,612	4,623	926
Ron - - - -	9,959	1,088	3,904	1,986	2,980
Kod - - - -	3,492	578	4,931	+ 220	+ 1,799

TABLE (F.)—LOSS per 1,000 of each CLASS per 1,000 of E. on D.

TALAKUS.	TOTAL.	Infants under 1.	Children 1 to 12.	Adults 12 to 50.	Old People over 50.
Sángola - - -	92·663	379·429	108·318	53·491	187·537
Mádha - - - -	245·152	580·145	248·678	216·136	226·869
Mán - - - -	171·725	507·897 (gain.)	87·035	139·426	430·381
Khatau - - -	153·144	144·076	143·435	127·656	366·515 (gain.)
Bágalkot - - -	169·292	579·207	283·338	126·931	87·914
Bádámi - - -	254·117	747·839	294·780	186·852	380·237
Athni - - - -	187·109	590·847	156·827	152·102	207·315
Sampgaon - - -	98·780	380·118	120·747	61·094	87·905
Ron - - - -	127·640	592·270	165·866	47·571 (gain.)	273·796 (gain.)
Kod - - - -	41·589	274·845	168·904	4·741	287·288

TABLE (G.)—PROPORTION LOSS per 1,000 of each CLASS bears to DEATH-RATE of same CLASS for 1877.

TALUKAS.	Infants under 1.	Children 1 to 12.	Adults 12 to 50.	Old People over 50.	Loss per 1,000 of Population.	Recorded Deaths per 1,000.
Sángola - - -	2·54	3·76	2·08	1·49	92·66	66·66
Mádha - - - -	3·88	8·65	8·43	1·80	255·15	41·80
Mán - - - -	3·46	3·02	5·43	3·42	171·72	65·25
Khatau - - - -	+·97	4·98	4·97	2·91	153·14	50·62
Bágalkot - - -	3·87	9·86	4·95	+·69	169·29	95·72
Bádámi - - -	5·00	10·25	7·28	3·02	254·11	104·31
Athni - - - -	3·95	5·46	5·93	1·64	187·10	75·72
Sampgaon - - -	2·54	4·20	2·38	·69	98·78	70·92
Ron - - - -	3·96	5·77	1·85	2·17	127·64	106·79
Kod - - - -	1·84	5·87	+·18	+2·28	41·58	70·46

Note.—In the case of Ron, it is possible that the figures may be explained by a migration of children and adults *out of* the taluka in one period, and of adults *into the* taluka at another. In the case of Kod, the same remarks apply, except that the figures show migration of old people as well as adults *into the* talukas.

THE NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES.

EXTRACT from a DESPATCH from the Government of India to the Secretary of State for India (No. 49), dated 3rd June 1878.

Para. 9.—THE returns of mortality for the North Western Provinces show that during the past months the death-rate has been very much higher than usual. The average death-rate for the whole of the North Western Provinces and Oudh has been, during—

November 1877 - -	1·99	per mille, as compared with a rate per mille in the previous year of—	1·79
December „ - -	2·77		1·59
January 1878 - -	3·27		1·20
February „ - -	3·30		1·05
March „ - -	3·36		1·46

The Lieutenant Governor, when remarking on this mortality, considered that many who had been reduced by want must have succumbed to the cold and damp of the present unusual season. He deplored the unreadiness of the people to come to the relief works, which are open or are ready for them. This difficulty has been felt in other Provinces, where relief works are really supervised, and a fair tale of work is exacted at low rates of wage from the relief labourers. If, unhappily, distress in parts of the North Western Provinces should deepen into famine, it will be necessary to organise arrangements for hunting up the distressed people in their villages.

10. Though high prices and want must have had their share in causing the increased rate of mortality in the North Western Provinces, there is ground for believing that the season has been unhealthy in parts of India not affected by the scarcity. In 22 towns of the Central Provinces, where the registration of deaths is held by our Sanitary Commissioner to be comparatively well done, the death-rate of the past season has been abnormally high; thus the death-rate was, during—

January 1878 - -	2·52	per mille, as compared with a rate per mille in the preceding year of—	2·2
February „ - -	2·40		2·1
March „ - -	3·80		2·3

In the Central Provinces, though prices were high, there was no scarcity of food; and the late Sanitary Commissioner, Dr. S. C. Townsend, has pointed out that the mortality from fever, which usually falls almost to zero in February, has this year continued extraordinarily high.

EAST INDIA (FAMINE).

COPY of PAPERS relating to the PARTIAL CENSUS in the FAMINE-STRICKEN DISTRICTS of INDIA.

(*Mr. Edward Stanhope.*)

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